

St. Lawrence River Research and Education Fund  
Annual Report 2014

The St. Lawrence River Research and Education Fund (SLRREF) was established as part of the Comprehensive Relicensing Settlement Agreement (Agreement) which was reached during the licensing of the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project operated by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) in Massena, New York. The purpose of this fund is to provide financial support for environmental research and environmental education projects relating to the ecology of the St. Lawrence River and its surrounding environs.

The fund is managed by a Board which consists of representatives from NYPA, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Save the River, the St. Lawrence-Lewis Board of Cooperative Educational Services, St. Lawrence County Planning Office; St. Lawrence Audubon, and a representative from a local municipality.

## 2014 Activities

The Board met on March 11, 2014 and reviewed five proposals; three proposals totaling \$25,671 were approved and two proposals were rejected. Total matching funds for the approved proposals were \$34,758.

## Projects approved in 2014

Clarkson University proposed to sample caddisfly diversity and abundance at four sites, use DNA barcoding methods to accurately identify species, compare species diversity at each site to assess water quality along each river, and use results to suggest whether action is necessary to improve water quality. SLRREF contribution - \$16,606; matching funds - \$15,719.

Save the River proposed to continue expanding the Riverkeeping Monitoring Program in St. Lawrence County and create and launch an interactive web-based map which shows the incidents reported by volunteers. SLRREF contribution - \$5,445; matching funds - \$16,012.

The Research Foundation for SUNY at College at Brockport proposed to determine abundance and species richness of obligate grassland bird species, determine nesting success of grassland breeding birds, evaluate pre- and post-treatment effect of the Galop Island HIP on grassland vegetation and breeding birds, recommend management strategies for enhancing populations of sensitive grassland bird species in the St. Lawrence River Plain during upcoming restoration efforts. This is a multi-year project. SLRREF contribution - \$3,620; matching funds - \$3,027.

## Financial Review

The SLRREF was established by providing the principal sum of \$1,008,000 into an account with Wachovia Bank in 2003 after a new license for the Project was accepted. The income and principal amount was to be used to fund the operation of the SLRREF including all expenses, grants and other disbursements. At the March 11, 2014 meeting, the Board changed their guidelines to limit grant submissions to once a year on January 1, to ensure funding throughout the remaining life of the license.

### 2014 Expenditures

Approved Projects in 2014	\$25,671
Fund Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$964,545
Funds committed	\$49,688*
Uncommitted funds	\$914,857

\* Reflects funds approved for previous years projects that have not yet been disbursed to the project applicant.

### Planned 2015 Expenditures

By January 1, 2015, four proposals were received. The Board will evaluate these proposals and select the projects to be funded.