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Form 990-EZ

Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form, as it may be made public.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990EZ for instructions and the latest information. 2012

OMB No 1545-0047

2020

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

A For the 2020 calendar year, or tax year beginning , 2020, and ending , 20

B Check if applicable
- ☐ Address change
- ☐ Name change
- ☐ Initial return
- ☐ Final return/terminated
- ☐ Amended return
- ☐ Application pending

C Name of organization: Fish and Waters Conservation Fund

Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address): 740 Carla Lane

Room/suite:

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code: Little Canada, MN 55109 03

D Employer identification number: 82-1196944

E Telephone number: 651-482-9763

F Group Exemption Number ▶

G Accounting Method: ☒ Cash ☐ Accrual Other (specify) ▶

I Website: ▶ fishandwaterconservationfund.org

J Tax-exempt status (check only one) – ☒ 501(c)(3) ☐ 501(c) ( ) ◀ (insert no.) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527

H Check ▶ ☐ if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF)

K Form of organization: ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other

L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are $200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, column (B)) are $500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ ▶ $ 33,341.60

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (see the instructions for Part I)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I ☒

Revenue	1	Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received		1	33,341.60
	2	Program service revenue including government fees and contracts		2	0
	3	Membership dues and assessments		3	0
	4	Investment income		4	0
	5a	Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a 0		
	b	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b 0		
	c	Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (subtract line 5b from line 5a)		5c	0
	6	Gaming and fundraising events:			
	a	Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than $15,000)	6a 0		
	b	Gross income from fundraising events (not including $ ____ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds $15,000)	6b 0		
	c	Less: direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events	6c 0		
	d	Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c)		6d	0
	7a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a 0		
	b	Less: cost of goods sold	7b 0		
	c	Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (subtract line 7b from line 7a)		7c	0
	8	Other revenue (describe in Schedule O)		8	0
	9	**Total revenue.** Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8 ▶		9	33,341.60
Expenses	10	Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O)		10	0
	11	Benefits paid to or for members		11	0
	12	Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits		12	0
	13	Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors		13	0
	14	Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance		14	0
	15	Printing, publications, postage, and shipping		15	887.50
	16	Other expenses (describe in Schedule O)		16	37,814.21
	17	**Total expenses.** Add lines 10 through 16 ▶		17	38,701.71
Net Assets	18	Excess or (deficit) for the year (subtract line 17 from line 9)		18	(5,360.11)
	19	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)		19	23,681.24
	20	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)		20	0
	21	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20 ▶		21	18,321.13

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions. Cat. No 10642I Form 990-EZ (2020)

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Part II Balance Sheets (see the instructions for Part II)
Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part II ☐

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
22	Cash, savings, and investments	23,681.24	22	18,321.13
23	Land and buildings	0	23	0
24	Other assets (describe in Schedule O)	0	24	0
25	**Total assets**	23,681.24	25	18,321.13
26	**Total liabilities** (describe in Schedule O)	0	26	0
27	**Net assets or fund balances** (line 27 of column (B) **must** agree with line 21)	23,681.24	27	18,321.13

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (see the instructions for Part III)
Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part III ☒

Expenses (Required for section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations, optional for others)

What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? See Schedule O

Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, and other relevant information for each program title.

28 Local Lake & Watershed Assistance Program - assist Ashlwan, Gervais, Spoon & Keller Save Our Lakes Initiative in improving the lakes' ecosystem for the benefit of all Minnesotans

(Grants $) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ▶ ☐ 28a 33,116.44

29

(Grants $) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ▶ ☐ 29a

30

(Grants $) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ▶ ☐ 30a

31 Other program services (describe in Schedule O)

(Grants $) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ▶ ☐ 31a

32 **Total program service expenses** (add lines 28a through 31a) ▶ 32 33,116.44

Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees (list each one even if not compensated—see the instructions for Part IV)
Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part IV ☒

(a) Name and title	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC) (if not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
Judith Corrigan, Director & Sec'y	1	0	0	0
Jeffery E. Forester, Director & Pres.	1	0	0	0
Michael H. Hoff, Director & VP	1	0	0	0
John P. Jones, Director & Treas.	5	0	0	0

Part V **Other Information** (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V.) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part V . X

			Yes	No
33	Did the organization engage in any significant activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," provide a detailed description of each activity in Schedule O	33	X	
34	Were any significant changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the amended documents if they reflect a change to the organization's name. Otherwise, explain the change on Schedule O. See instructions	34		X
35a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of $1,000 or more during the year from business activities (such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a, among others)?	35a		X
b	If "Yes" to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	35b		
c	Was the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III	35c		X
36	Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N	36		X
37a	Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions ▶ 37a 0			
b	Did the organization file **Form 1120-POL** for this year?	37b		X
38a	Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee, or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the tax year covered by this return?	38a		X
b	If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II, and enter the total amount involved 38b			
39	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:			
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9 39a			
b	Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities 39b			
40a	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911 ▶ 0 ; section 4912 ▶ 0 ; section 4955 ▶ 0			
b	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year, or did it engage in an excess benefit transaction in a prior year that has not been reported on any of its prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	40b		X
c	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958 ▶ 0			
d	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization ▶ N/A			
e	All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T	40e		X
41	List the states with which a copy of this return is filed ▶ Minnesota			
42a	The organization's books are in care of ▶ Judith Corrigan Telephone no. ▶ 952-854-1317			
	Located at ▶ 2509 Hayes Drive, Burnsville, MN ZIP + 4 ▶ 55337-1060			
b	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country ▶ See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).	42b		X
c	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside the United States? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country ▶	42c		X
43	Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of **Form 1041**—Check here ▶ ☐ and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year ▶ 43			

			Yes	No
44a	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44a		X
b	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44b		X
c	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?	44c		X
d	If "Yes" to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	44d		
45a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	45a		X
b	Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 and Schedule R may need to be completed instead of Form 990-EZ. See instructions	45b		X

		Yes	No
46	Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I	46	X

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) Organizations Only

All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47–49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI X

			Yes	No
47	Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II	47		X
48	Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	48		X
49a	Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?	49a	X	
b	If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?	49b		X

50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees, and key employees) who each received more than $100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and title of each employee	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
None				

f Total number of other employees paid over $100,000 . . . . ▶

51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than $100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None"

(a) Name and business address of each independent contractor	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
None		

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over $100,000 . . ▶

52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? **Note:** All section 501(c)(3) organizations must attach a completed Schedule A . . . . . ▶ X Yes ☐ No

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge

Sign Here	▶ Signature of officer: John P. James	Date: May 6, 2021
	▶ Type or print name and title: John P. James, Treasurer	

Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date	Check ☐ if self-employed	PTIN
	Firm's name ▶			Firm's EIN ▶	
	Firm's address ▶			Phone no	

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions . . . . . ▶ ☐ Yes ☐ No

SCHEDULE A (Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

▶ Go to *www.irs.gov/Form990* for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

2020

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization: Fish and Waters Conservation Fund

Employer identification number: 82-1196944

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status. (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 12, check only one box.)

1 ☐ A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).**

2 ☐ A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).** (Attach Schedule E (Form 990 or 990-EZ).)

3 ☐ A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).** 07

4 ☐ A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).** Enter the hospital's name, city, and state:

5 ☐ An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv).** (Complete Part II.)

6 ☐ A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).**

7 ☒ An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)

8 ☐ A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)

9 ☐ An agricultural research organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ix)** operated in conjunction with a land-grant college or university or a non-land-grant college of agriculture (see instructions). Enter the name, city, and state of the college or university:

10 ☐ An organization that normally receives (1) more than 33⅓% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions, subject to certain exceptions; and (2) no more than 33⅓% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2).** (Complete Part III.)

11 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4).**

12 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2).** See **section 509(a)(3).** Check the box in lines 12a through 12d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 12e, 12f, and 12g.

a ☐ **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization. **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**

b ☐ **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**

c ☐ **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**

d ☐ **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated. The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**

e ☐ Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization.

f Enter the number of supported organizations . . . . . ☐

g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1–10 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document? Yes	(iv) No	(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
(A)						
(B)						
(C)						
(D)						
(E)						
Total						

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2016	(b) 2017	(c) 2018	(d) 2019	(e) 2020	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	N/A	12,627	3,500	24,546	33,342	74,015
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
4 **Total.** Add lines 1 through 3	N/A	12,627	3,500	24,546	33,342	74,015
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						6,758
6 **Public support.** Subtract line 5 from line 4						67,257

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2016	(b) 2017	(c) 2018	(d) 2019	(e) 2020	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	N/A	12,627	3,500	24,546	33,342	74,015
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
11 **Total support.** Add lines 7 through 10						74,015

12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions) 12 0

13 **First 5 years.** If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here** . . . . . ▶ ☒

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2020 (line 6, column (f), divided by line 11, column (f)) . . . . 14 %

15 Public support percentage from 2019 Schedule A, Part II, line 14 . . . . . 15 %

16a **33⅓% support test—2020.** If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33⅓% or more, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization . . . . . ▶ ☐

b **33⅓% support test—2019.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33⅓% or more, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization . . . . . ▶ ☐

17a **10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2020.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and **stop here.** Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization . . . . . ▶ ☐

b **10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2019.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and **stop here.** Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization . . . . . ▶ ☐

18 **Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions . . . . . ▶ ☐

SCHEDULE O (Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Go to *www.irs.gov/Form990* for the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

2020

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization: Fish and Waters Conservation Fund

Employer identification number: 82-1196944

Part I Line 16 Other Expenses

Aquatic plant management	$30,389.94
Boat inspections	1,950.00
2019 services by MLR-see Part IV below	3,058.67
Website	1,290.00
Bank fees	304.75
Telephone & telecommunications	132.00
Data acquisition & seminar	163.85
Business registration	25.00
Total for Line 16	$37,314.21

Part III Primary Exempt Purpose

Scientific, educational & charitable purposes related to the ecological, economic & social values of freshwater ecosystems & their fisheries.

Part IV Officers & Directors

Hoff is a volunteer who provides input on policy decisions.
James is a volunteer and spends substantial time on the Local Lake & Watershed Assistance Program.
Corrigan & Forester are employees of affiliated 501(c)(4) Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates, with which FWCF contracts for services. They are compensated by MLR. In 2020, FWCF paid MLR $3,058.67 for their 2019 services. In 2021, FWCF will pay MLR $5,355.25 for their 2020 services.

Name of the organization: Fish and Waters Conservation Fund | Employer identification number: 82-1196944

Part V, Question 33, New Significant Activity

FWCF began actively working on its Stop Starry Stonewort Program. Starry stonewort is an invasive species that is a serious threat to water quality in and recreation on Minnesota lakes. FWCF will work with other organizations and the public to try to stop it from spreading to additional lakes. Contributions of $6,650 were received in 2020. Expense of $50 to upload data was incurred. Substantial time was devoted to this program by Forester and Corrigan. Of the $5,355.25 for 2020 services that FWCF will pay MLR in 2021, $3975.38 relates to the Stop Starry Stonewort Program.

Part VI Question 49a Transfer to Related Organization

As described in the answer to Part IV above FWCF paid affiliated 501(c)(4) organization Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates $3,058.67 for 2019 services in 2020 and will pay $5,355.25 for 2020 services in 2021.