

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Meeting
Meeting Summary
October 6, 2015**

Members Present

Bob Anderson, Chair
Julie Blackburn
David Hartwell
Jane Kingston

Rep. Leon Lillie
Rep. Denny McNamara
Susan Olson
Sen. Tom Saxhaug

Ron Schara
Barry Tilley
Elizabeth Wilkens

Members Absent: Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen

Call to Order: Call to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum was present.

Review and Approve Agenda

Motion by Ms. Kingston to approve the agenda for October 6, 2015 as presented. Motion adopted.

Review and Approve Minutes – September 1-2, 2015

Motion by Sen. Saxhaug to approve the minutes. Motion adopted.

Conflicts of Interest:

No new conflicts were noted.

(00:04:54) Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mark Johnson reviewed the 2016 Council draft calendar, followed by the proposed agenda for the Council's November 5, 2015 meeting to be held in Spicer, Minnesota. Assistant Director Joe Pavelko provided members with an overview of the habitat tour that will take place prior to the Council meeting on November 5. Mr. Johnson called the Council's attention to a letter regarding ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(b), Mississippi Northwoods Habitat Complex Protection from Crow Wing County. Members discussed the appropriation. Mr. Johnson provided status update on work on the Land Acquisition Report mandated by ML 2015, First Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Subd. 6(d). Members discussed the report.

(00:56:23) Restoration Evaluations and potential inclusion of Enhancement Evaluations

Wade Johnson, MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR), reviewed a proposal to include enhancement evaluations in the Outdoor Heritage Fund project evaluation process, in addition to restoration evaluations. Members discussed the issue.

(01:06:15) Amendment to Council Operating Procedures

Mr. Pavelko reviewed proposed changes to the language in the Council operating procedures regarding a Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Liaison. Members discussed potential changes.

(01:14:48) Motion by Ms. Blackburn to adopt language option #2 presented by staff with the following changes: Remove the word "May" and appoint one single liaison:

The Chair:

1. Appoints a council member to serve as liaison to the administrator of the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (CPL).

- a. The liaison meets on a regular basis with CPL staff and provides the council's perspective on the program.
- b. The liaison reviews funded CPL projects to ensure consistency with the Council's priorities and vision.
- c. The liaison provides council with periodic updates on substantive issues regarding the CPL program.
- d. In coordination with LSOHC staff, the liaison arranges requests CPL testimony before the council, as appropriate.
- e. ~~The liaison invites other council members to evaluate CPL program, as needed.~~ The liaison position is concurrent with the Chair's term of office.

Members discussed the issue further.

(01:22:20) Motion adopted.

(01:23:30) Mr. Pavelko reviewed proposed changes to Council operating procedures regarding land conversion and conveyance.

(01:27:09) Motion by Sen. Saxhaug to amend the Council operating procedures as presented and require all approved minor conversion or conveyance requests be reported at the most immediate council meeting following the approval. Motion adopted.

(01:28:22) Action: Accomplishment Plan Amendment ML 2014, Ch. 256, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(k), Evaluate the Effectiveness of Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Strategies Don Hickman, Vice President for Community & Economic Development, Initiative Foundation and Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates presented the amendment to the Council. Members discussed the amendment and requested Mr. Hickman provide an updated project budget.

(01:38:19) Motion by Mr. Hartwell to approve the accomplishment plan amendment as presented. Motion adopted.

(02:00:30) Presentation: Trails on Public Lands

Grant Wilson, MN DNR, provided information about M.S. 86A and State land unit types to the Council. Members discussed trails and the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

(02:34:58) Action: Allocation Selection

Ms. Blackburn reviewed the Minnesota Management and Budget Office (MMB) forecast for the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Members discussed the forecast.

(02:49:17) Motion by Mr. Hartwell to establish the total funding amount to allocate for FY 2017 at \$111,500,000. Motion adopted.

Members discussed the allocations, making recommendations for or against various proposals and land uses such as food plots and planting non-genetically modified seed.

(03:06:10) Motion by Ms. Olson to move the cut-off line from the chair's proposal up to include only those projects receiving funding recommendations from nine or more members. Members discussed the motion.

(03:22:28) Motion adopted.

(03:24:32) Motion by Rep. McNamara to move \$1,015,000 from proposal FA09, Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the Wild Rice River Watershed and fully fund the project at \$2,188,000 under proposal PA01, DNR Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) Acquisition, Phase VIII. The total

funding level for PA01 would become \$4,265,000. \$2,188,000 would be earmarked to acquire the FA09 parcels for a DNR State Recreation Area (SRA). Members discussed the motion.

(03:51:56) Bill Haas, representing the White Earth Tribal Nation, provided testimony in response to the members' discussion.

(04:06:45) A roll call vote was requested.

Roll call vote on the motion:

Bob Anderson, Chair - Yes	Rep. Leon Lillie - No	Ron Schara - Yes
Julie Blackburn - No	Rep. Denny McNamara - Yes	Barry Tilley - No
David Hartwell - No	Susan Olson - No	Elizabeth Wilkens - No
Jane Kingston - No	Sen. Tom Saxhaug - No	

Motion failed (3-yes, 8-no).

(04:08:13) Motion by Ms. Kingston to allocate \$1,000,000 to proposal PA03, Martin County/Fox Lake DNR WMA Acquisition. Members discussed the motion. Doug Hartke, Fox Lake Conservation League, provided testimony on their proposed parcels and funding requirements. Motion adopted.

(04:14:00) Motion by Mr. Schara to allocate \$1,200,000 to proposal HRE06, Shell Rock River Habitat Restoration Program, Phase V. Members discussed the motion. Motion adopted.

(04:19:30) Motion by Ms. Wilkens to allocate \$1,000,000 for FA08, Forest Habitat Protection Revolving Account. Motion adopted.

(04:24:14) Motion by Mr. Hartwell to allocate \$1,666,000 to FA04, Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration (bringing the total funding recommendation to \$5,000,000), Phase IV and allocate \$911,000 to HA02, Metro Big Rivers Habitat, Phase VII (bringing the total funding recommendation to \$4,000,000). Division requested.

- a. \$1,666,000 to FA04, Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration, Phase IV. Motion adopted.
- b. \$911,000 to HA02, Metro Big Rivers Habitat, Phase VII. Motion adopted.

(04:29:40) Motion by Ms. Olson to allocate \$1,073,000 to FA09, Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the Wild Rice River Watershed (bringing the total funding recommendation to \$2,188,000). Roll call requested.

Roll call vote on the motion:

Bob Anderson, Chair - No	Rep. Leon Lillie - Yes	Ron Schara - No
Julie Blackburn - No	Rep. Denny McNamara - No	Barry Tilley - Yes
David Hartwell - Yes	Susan Olson - Yes	Elizabeth Wilkens - Yes
Jane Kingston - Yes	Sen. Tom Saxhaug - Yes	

Motion adopted (7-yes, 4-no).

(04:31:22) Motion by Mr. Hartwell to allocate \$160,000 to proposal O2, Restoration Evaluations with \$111,500 for restoration evaluations and \$48,500 for enhancement evaluations. Motion failed.

(04:37:10) Motion by Sen. Saxhaug to allocate \$500,000 to FA06, Protect (Acquire) Key Forest Habitat Lands in Cass County. Members discussed the motion. Motion adopted.

(04:39:22) Motion by Rep. McNamara to allocate \$1,100,000 to proposal HRE07, Restoring the Northern Gateway. Members discussed the motion. Todd Tuominen and Bill Haas, representing the City of Champlin, and Rep. Mark Uglen provided testimony in response to the members' discussion. Motion failed.

(05:00:40) Motion by Rep. Lillie to allocate \$1,500,000 to proposal FA03, Camp Ripley ACUB, Phase VI. Bill Penning, Board of Soil and Water Resources, provided testimony to the Council. Members discussed the motion. Motion adopted.

(05:05:40) Motion by Sen. Saxhaug to allocate \$1,000,000 to proposal FA07, State Forest Acquisition, Phase III. Motion adopted.

(05:07:20) Motion by Sen. Saxhaug to allocate \$5,000,000 to proposal WA03, RIM Wetlands, Phase VII (bringing the total funding recommendation to \$13,808,000). Members discussed the motion. Mr. Penning provided testimony regarding federal fund matching for the two BWSR proposals, WA03 and PA07. Motion adopted.

(05:15:30) Motion by Ms. Kingston to allocate \$25,000 to proposal O2, Restoration Evaluations (bringing the total funding recommendation to \$125,000). Motion adopted.

(05:16:26) Motion by Mr. Tilley to allocate \$385,000 to proposal WA02, Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection Program, Phase V (bringing the total funding recommendation to \$5,801,000). Motion adopted.

(05:17:35) Motion by Mr. Hartwell to restrict proposal FA01, Young Forest Conservation, Phase II to restoration activities only, no acquisition. Motion adopted.

(05:19:33) Ms. Blackburn opened a discussion regarding the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA) and the Mississippi Headwaters Board's capacity to execute their proposed programs. Members discussed the proposals. Craig Engwall, Executive Director, MDHA, provided testimony in response to the discussion.

(05:39:20) Motion by Sen. Saxhaug to approve the allocation recommendation package of \$111,500,000 as amended by the Council. Motion adopted.

Opportunity for Public to Address the Council

No public comment was heard.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVED:



Bob Anderson, Chair

12/3/2015

Date:



David Hartwell, Secretary

12/3/15

Date: