

MINUTES
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)
August 31, 2020
Remote Meeting via Zoom, pursuant to MS 13D.021 and MS 13D.04

Call to Order: Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

Members Present

David Hartwell (Chair)
Ron Schara (Vice Chair)
Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn
Kristin Eggerling
Rep. Dan Fabian
Mark Holsten
Sen. Andrew Lang
Denny McNamara
Ashley Peters
Tom Saxhaug
Jamie Swenson
Sen. David Tomassoni

Members Absent

NONE

A quorum was present.

- 1. Review and Approve Agenda:** Councilmember Peters made a motion to approve the agenda – **Motion Prevailed**
- 2. Review and Approve Minutes:** Councilmember McNamara made a motion to approve the minutes from August 5, 2020 – **Motion Prevailed**
- 3. Conflicts of Interest Reported:** Chair Hartwell and Councilmember Peters reported two conflicts of interest each regarding the current ML 2021/FY 2022 proposals to the Council.
- 4. Report of Written Public Comments:** Commission Assistant Amanda Schnabel reported that, to date, there had been no written public comments submitted to the Council regarding the ML 2021/FY 2022 Hearings.
- 5. Discussion of Target Amount for Allocation Recommendations ML 2021/FY 2022:** Executive Director Mark Johnson provided an overview of the current budget forecast and staff recommended benchmark figure for allocations.
 - Mr. Johnson stated that LSOHC staff and Council Treasurer Jamie Swenson, in agreement with both House and Senate fiscal staff, recommended a 10% reserve be held back in order to help balance any shifts in the upcoming December and February budget forecasts, and that staff recommended adopting the benchmark of \$109,824,000 per the memo provided to the Council.

- Mr. Johnson further clarified that the recommended benchmark included the \$910,000 LSOHC operating budget, meaning that the total amount available for allocations with the operating budget removed would be \$108,914,000.

After some discussion, there was Council consensus that the staff recommended benchmark should be used for ML 2021/FY 2022 allocations.

6. Hearings for Funding Requests: Members heard the following proposals.

O1 – DNR Roving Crew: \$9,064,000
Greg Hoch, MN DNR

PRE01b – DNR Grassland Phase XIII: \$7,104,000
Greg Hoch, MN DNR

WRE01b – Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements Phase 13: \$4,256,000
Ricky Lien, MN DNR

PA01 – DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition, Phase XIII: \$4,500,000
Jay Johnson, MN DNR; Molly Roske, MN DNR

PA02 – Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program – Phase XIII: \$13,876,100
Sabin Adams, Pheasants Forever; Fred Bengtson, MN DNR

PA03 – MN Prairie Recovery Project – Phase 11: \$6,627,700
Neal Feeken, The Nature Conservancy

PA04 – Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge – Phase XII: \$8,129,800
Ruth Thornton, The Nature Conservancy; Scott Simmons, US Fish and Wildlife Service

PA05 – Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program – Phase 10: \$5,137,900
Kristi Pursell, Cannon River Watershed Partnership; Brad Gordon, Great River Greening; DJ Forbes, The Trust for Public Land

PA06 – Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection – Phase VIII: \$1,500,000
Judy Schulte, MN DNR

PA07 – RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water – Phase IX: \$10,000,000
Sharon Doucette, MN BWSR

PA08 – Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley – Phase VII: \$9,995,600
Sabin Adams, Pheasants Forever; Doug Wells, MN Prairie Chicken Society

PA10 – Martin County WMA Acquisition Phase 5: \$9,335,600
Doug Hartke, Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc.; Emilee Nelson, The Conservation Fund; John Lindstrom, Ducks Unlimited

PA09 – Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program – Phase III: \$9,996,000
Jon Schneider, Ducks Unlimited; Eran Sandquist, Pheasants Forever; Tom Kerr, US Fish and Wildlife Service

PA11 – RIM Grassland Reserve – Phase III: \$8,000,000
John Voz, MN BWSR; Sharon Doucette, MN BWSR

Council discussion followed. Staff was directed to:

- Pursue the possibility of moving some of the Wednesday proposal presentations to Tuesday, as the Council was running ahead of schedule.
- Place a discussion of proposal DSS amount guidelines on a future meeting agenda.
- Reach out to DNR regarding their use of partner organizations, and invite them to a future meeting to give the Council a more in depth understanding of how, why, and when the DNR chooses to work with these organizations.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29am.

APPROVED:

David Hartwell, Chair

Date

Denny McNamara, Secretary

Date