

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

**MEMO:** Agenda Item #8  
**DATE:** December 8, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Extension of Availability of Appropriation  
ML 2016 2(k), Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation, Phase 4 (\$1,208,000)  
**PRESENTER:** Wiley Buck, Great River Greening

---

### **Suggested Motion:**

Motion by Councilmember X to approve/deny the legislative extension of appropriation availability for ML 2016 2(k), Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation, Phase 4 until June 30, 2022, to be included in the ML 2021 OHF recommendations bill.

### **Background Information** (provided by Project Manager)

#### Crane Meadows NWR

Delayed a year already, the implementation of this inter-seeding project requires extensive controlled burns as the fundamental part of the in-kind site prep, requiring permits by both DNR and USFWS, favorable weather, and available burn crews all trying to catch up on the Minnesota backlog. USFWS has generally been more restrictive than DNR on burning and crew activities during the pandemic.

#### Rum River Floodplain

With current low Rum River water levels, 2021 will likely afford a rare opportunity for additional planting in the fall.

#### Wild Rice

Even with maximum seeding rates in the past two years, we managed to come in under budget. An extension through Fall 2021 would allow us to complete a second seeding (bmp) on 80 acres near Little Falls at a waterbody that is outside of our stated project boundaries in subsequent phases of ASP.

After speaking with the manager, there will be about \$115,000 left of the appropriation to spend during the extension of time.

The C-19 Extension language did not affect the ML 16 programs except to grant an extra 1 year to close on acquisitions.

**Language for the appropriation bill:**

Subd X. Carryforwards

- (a) The availability of the appropriation in Laws 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2, paragraph (k) for Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation, Phase 4 is extended to June 30, 2022.