

From: [Sandy Smith](#)
Subject: LSOHC Hearing Information Follow-up #2
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 2:00:06 PM
Attachments: [LSOHC parcel prioritization.pdf](#)

During the LSOHC hearings last week there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. Attached (49 pages) are responses from project managers of acquisition programs who were asked to prioritize a list of parcels.

Sandy Smith
Lessard -Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Room 95, State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-297-7141
www.lsohc.leg.mn

Heather Koop

From: Koehler, Tim (BWSR) [Tim.Koehler@state.mn.us]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 2:05 PM
To: Heather Koop
Cc: Strommen, Sarah (BWSR); Penning, Bill (BWSR); Garms, Jason (DNR); Steward, Dan (BWSR); Hoek, Tabor (BWSR); McLennan, Helen - NRCS-CD, Little Falls, MN (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdnet.net); Koehler, Tim (BWSR)
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Heather:

Thanks for speaking to Sarah and me earlier today related to this information request. As we discussed, I am forwarding information regarding each of the 5 RIM proposals. In each of the proposals that include RIM funding we have already explained our parcel prioritization or have included a listing of parcels. This includes:

- 1A1 RIM-WRP – No parcel list was attached. Sign-ups that generate eligible applicants are utilized. The Minnesota Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet (attached to the proposal) is then utilized to score each application with the highest scoring applications providing the maximum wildlife habitat.
- 1A7 MN Buffers – No parcel list was attached. Sign-ups that generate eligible applicants are utilized. The RIM Buffers for Wildlife & Water Scoring Form (attached to the proposal) is then utilized to score each application with the highest scoring applications providing the maximum wildlife habitat.
- 1A6 RIM-NPB - No parcel list was attached. Sign-ups that generate eligible applicants will be utilized. Local Technical Teams and priority landscapes will then be used to score and rank each applicant.
- 1A3 Wild Rice – A parcel list was submitted that included Wild Rice Lakes as a focus for easements and parcels associated with priority pieces for each listed WMA. Sign-ups that generate eligible applicants are utilized. The local technical team then reviews each applicant to determine priority of funding order based on criteria developed.
- 1A3 Camp Ripley/ACUB – “Protect Parcel List” is attached for each county.

Let me know if you need additional information related to how RIM applicants are prioritized to attain the highest wildlife benefits possible.

Tim Koehler

RIM Program Coordinator
Board of Water Soil Resources
651-296-6745

From: Heather Koop [mailto:heather.koop@sohc.leg.mn]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM
To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); Nerbonne, Brian A (DNR); Steward, Dan (BWSR); Schuller, Dave (DNR); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdnet.net); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us); Garms, Jason (DNR); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; ' (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us)'; (nfeeken@tnc.org); Frohnauer, Nick (DNR); Rivers, Pat (DNR); (westcom@brainerd.net); (rich_johnson@tnc.org);

(rbiske@tnc.org); Peterson, Richard F (DNR); Hoek, Tabor (BWSR); (thomashowes@fdlrez.com); Koehler, Tim (BWSR); (wjulien@peoplepc.com); (bds wd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)

Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker

Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Importance: High

All,

During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

Heather Koop

From: Rivers, Pat (DNR) [Pat.Rivers@state.mn.us]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 12:09 PM
To: Heather Koop
Cc: Booth, Peggy (DNR)
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Attachments: ML 14 WMA SNA parcel list.xlsx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning Heather,

Attached is a priority list for WMAs and SNAs. Our proposal seeks \$5M for WMAs and \$2M for SNAs, and I prioritized each list separately.

Thanks for our conversation today.

Pat

From: Heather Koop [mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM
To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); Nerbonne, Brian A (DNR); Steward, Dan (BWSR); Schuller, Dave (DNR); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdnet.net); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us); Garms, Jason (DNR); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; ' (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us)'; (nfeeken@tnc.org); Frohnauer, Nick (DNR); Rivers, Pat (DNR); (westcom@brainerd.net); (rich_johnson@tnc.org); (rbiske@tnc.org); Peterson, Richard F (DNR); Hoek, Tabor (BWSR); (thomashowes@fdlrez.com); Koehler, Tim (BWSR); (wjulien@peoplepc.com); (bds wd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker
Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Importance: High

All,

During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

| Parcel Name | County | Township | Range | Direction | Section | T10S | # of Acres | Budgeting Estimated Cost | Description | Activity | Existing Protection? | Open to hunting per State of Minnesota Regulations? | Open to fishing per State of Minnesota Regulations? | # of Buildings/ Improvements | Buildings / Improvements Description | Value of Buildings / Improvements | Disposition of Improvements |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------|-------|------------|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Talbot Lake WMA | Murray | 130 | 29 | 2 24 | 15029224 | 160 | | \$1,120,000.00 | Contains 10 acres of native prairie and a deer wintering area. Adjacent to Talbot Lake WMA. This potential acquisition is located in the Prairie Core Area which is a priority area in the MN DNR Prairie Plan. The majority of the cropland would be seeded down for nesting cover and some of the non highly erodible cropland would be farmed as a food plot for wintering deer, migrating waterfowl and dove hunting. The existing grove could be expanded with a tree planting to provide winter cover. This tract has a large building site with many old buildings. The area is dominated by old flood plain forest with maple, ash, cottonwood and elm trees. These two pieces will offer excellent quality turkey and deer hunting opportunities. The Chippewa River corridor is a major deer wintering area. Several species of muskies, including black sandhill, creek headsitter, and muskie have been found in the Chippewa River near this area. A canoe access could also be considered at this site. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 1 | An old one room log cabin, located on the eastern parcel | Minimal, if any | Remove |
| Chair Rollings WMA | Swift | 121 | 40 | 2 13 | 12140213 | 41 | | \$123,000.00 | Opportunity to capture a piece of the puzzle. Native hill prairie with seeps. Adjacent to existing WMA and within approved project area. Preserve and protects native plant communities. This parcel includes part of a partially drained wetland basin of which the other part is already in State ownership. The parcel also includes an upland buffer around said wetland. Acquisition of this tract will facilitate the restoration of this basin and provide valuable nesting cover and upland hunting opportunities. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Lake du Prairie WMA | Chippewa | 118 | 41 | 2 16 | 11841216 | 37.57 | | \$73,000.00 | This tract contains native prairie, floodplain, turtle and is in the Tophia philer habitat corridor, a federally listed endangered species. This property would increase available nesting cover and provide additional recreational opportunity next to the existing Altona WMA. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Rolling Hills WMA | Lyon | 111 | 40 | 2 6 | 1114026 | 19.3 | | \$135,000.00 | The entire 18 acre parcel contains a rare native prairie pasture that is located just south of the existing WMA. This unit would be an excellent producer of pheasants, blue-winged teal, and other waterfowl. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Beaver Falls WMA | Remille | 113 | 35 | 2 23 | 1133523 | 30 | | \$40,000.00 | This parcel contains calcareous fens, Bandulows turtles and is in the Tophia philer habitat corridor, a federally listed endangered species. This property would increase available nesting cover and provide additional recreational opportunity next to the existing Altona WMA. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Altona WMA | Lincoln | 109 | 46 | 2 36 | 10946236 | 40 | | \$100,000.00 | The entire 18 acre parcel contains a rare native prairie pasture that is located just south of the existing WMA. This unit would be an excellent producer of pheasants, blue-winged teal, and other waterfowl. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Elton WMA | Pipestone | 105 | 47 | 2 24 | 10547224 | 18 | | \$90,000.00 | This is an holding on the Rolling Hills WMA and would add important nesting cover for ducks and pheasants and other grassland birds, hunting opportunities for pheasants, improve water quality and reduce surface runoff. It is also needed for full restoration of the partially drained wetland on the WMA. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Rolling Hills WMA | Lyon | 111 | 40 | 2 6 | 1114026 | 19.3 | | \$135,000.00 | This tract is close to Oakfield and is very popular with hunters. Tract 9 is 62 acres without buildings. Tract 18 is farmste. Owner indicated he can sell farmste to private party. Nesting habitat for upland and game birds as well as waterfowl. Initial WMA habitat development is already completed via the CRP program which this parcel is still enrolled in. A 5 acre wetland basin has been reserved on site as well as 38 acres of upland prairie restoration. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | 4 to 6 | \$30,000 Sell | |
| Snake WMA | Yellow Medicine | 115 | 41 | 2 20 | 11541220 | 68.9 | | \$309,000.00 | Tract 1 of proposed new WMA (412 acres). This parcel contains 52 CRP acres needed to a former cropland area and 98 acres of native prairie and 31 acres of forest with. The area is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Snow Lake WMA (Oakleaf Unit) | Neefield | 110 | 27 | 2 26 | 1102726 | 25 | | \$250,000.00 | Tract 1 of proposed new WMA (412 acres). This parcel contains 52 CRP acres needed to a former cropland area and 98 acres of native prairie and 31 acres of forest with. The area is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Hawick State WMA | Kandiyohi | 122 | 33 | 2 23 | 1223323 | 90 | | \$162,500.00 | Tract 1 of proposed new WMA (412 acres). This parcel contains 52 CRP acres needed to a former cropland area and 98 acres of native prairie and 31 acres of forest with. The area is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Hendrickson Estate WMA | Meeker | 121 | 32 | 2 29 | 12132229 | 240 | | \$800,000.00 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Big Woods Forest WMA- CRP Co | Rice | 111 | 21 | 2 16 | 11121216 | 170 | | \$600,000.00 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Murrah Wren | Steele | 106 | 19 | 2 12 | 10619212 | 15 | | \$79,000.00 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Phelps Lake WMA | Rice | 111 | 22 | 2 6 | 1112226 | 166 | | \$885,000.00 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Lamberton WMA | Redwood | 109 | 36 | 2 17 | 10936217 | 160 | | \$800,000.00 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Traverse Creek WMA | Nicollet | 110 | 30 | 2 6 | 1103026 | 54.7 | | \$212,000.00 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Glacial Ridge | Polk | 149 | 45 | 2 31 | 14945231 | 300 | | \$360,000 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Glacial Lakes & Moraine | Pope | 123 | 36 | 2 31 | 12336231 | 300 | | \$518,000 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Fulton Prairie SMA | Clay | 141 | 45 | 2 04 | 14145204 | 400 | | \$1,070,000 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Lake Traverse Prairie | Traverse | 127 | 45 | 2 33 | 12745233 | 100 | | \$400,000 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Shia addition | Yellow Medicine | 113 | 46 | 2 33 | 11346233 | 100 | | \$318,000 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Cedar Rock SMA addition | Redwood | 114 | 36 | 2 32 | 11436232 | 80 | | \$308,000 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Upper Beaver Creek | Wabasha | 108 | 10 | 2 24 | 10810224 | 280 | | \$980,000 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Drake Woods | Fairbairn | 101 | 27 | 2 07 | 10127207 | 300 | | \$1,300,000 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Phelps Creek | Murray | 108 | 44 | 2 33 | 10844233 | 200 | | \$800,000 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |
| Phelps Creek SMA addition | Pinecone | 108 | 44 | 2 33 | 10844233 | 200 | | \$800,000 | This tract is a good wildlife habitat and readily accessible to the public. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | N/A | N/A | |

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PA3

Heather Koop

From: Neal Feeken [nfeeken@TNC.ORG]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 1:00 PM
To: Heather Koop
Cc: Isis A. Stark
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Attachments: Parcel prioritization criteria.pdf

Hi Heather,

Consistent with past phases of the Prairie Recovery Project we have not specifically identified individual parcels in our Phase 5 proposal. As you know, our approach to the Prairie Recovery Project has been as a Program and not as a collection of individual projects. Such an approach helps to assure our focus is placed on the highest priority parcel types and activities that are identified in our proposal, while maintaining flexibility and allowing us to respond quickly and efficiently to opportunities that arise during the course of implementation. Further, there are a number of factors that inherently make identification of discrete parcels difficult for this and other landscape scale protection Programs. Included in those factors are:

- Conservation sellers who might be identified at time of application are typically unable or unwilling to wait the 12 months + for funding to arrive (or not).
- Upfront identification of parcels with estimated purchase prices may complicate future negotiations
- By practice, TNC strives to protect confidentiality of landowners with whom we are working on acquisition projects
- Changing circumstances in the lives or businesses of sellers move them in and out of the market very unpredictably, meaning that opportunity plays a strong role in the parcels we select for acquisition
- In lieu of a pre-identified parcel list we employ a robust set of prioritization criteria to screen potential acquisition opportunities as they arise. These criteria are attached and have been thoroughly tested over the first four phases of our project.

We believe our past performance, using previously established processes, have been very successful while maintaining a high level of transparency and accountability to the Council and the Legislature. We hope the Council agrees and that we be allowed to continue with those processes which include:

1. Seeking LSOHC staff, or Council as appropriate, input and approval for parcel inclusion into the Accomplishment Plan prior to final negotiations with landowners
2. Pursuing only parcels that coincide with the priority geographies identified in our proposal, the MN Prairie Conservation Plan, and our approved Accomplishment Plan
3. Adhering to the criteria for prioritization that has been provided to the Council (attached here)

Again, we believe that the above described process has been highly effective at protecting critical prairie parcels while maintaining a high level of accountability and providing the Council an opportunity to accept or reject proposed parcels before completing a deal. We hope you concur and will allow us to continue with this proven model. I'm happy to discuss any questions or suggestions at your convenience, please feel free to give me a call at any time. Thanks again for your consideration. -Neal

Neal Feeken

Prairie Recovery Project Coordinator
MN, ND, SD

(612) 331-0738 (Phone)
(651) 357-2161 (Cell)
nfeeken@tnc.org

The Nature Conservancy

1101 West River Parkway
Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55415



From: Heather Koop [<mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn>]

Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM

To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); (brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us); (dan.steward@state.mn.us); (david.schuller@state.mn.us); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdn.net); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us); (jason.garms@state.mn.us); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; ' (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us)'; Neal Feeken; (nick.frohnauer@state.mn.us); (pat.rivers@state.mn.us); (westcom@brainerd.net); Rich Johnson; Richard Biske; (richard.f.peterson@state.mn.us); (tabor.hoek@state.mn.us); (thomashowes@fdlrez.com); (tim.koehler@state.mn.us); (wjulien@peoplepc.com); (bds wd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)

Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker

Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Importance: High

All,

During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

**Parcel Selection Criteria used by The Nature Conservancy for
the Minnesota Prairie Recovery project funded by the Outdoor Heritage Fund**

The purpose of the Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project is to accelerate and coordinate conservation activities in the prairie regions of Minnesota, and to ensure that the remaining 200,000 acres of remnant native prairie are protected, that restorations complement these remnants and provide critical buffers and corridors, and that all remnant habitats are effectively enhanced with proper use of prescribed fire and control of undesirable species.

To accomplish this purpose, The Nature Conservancy proposes to acquire in fee key tracts of prairies and associated lands to provide maximum protection and opportunity for restoration and enhancement. In looking at restoring prairie functions at a landscape scale, the following criteria will be considered in our identification of appropriate parcels for acquisition:

1. **Native prairie on all or most of tract, or adjacency to existing native prairie.** Emphasis of the project is protecting and enhancing native prairie, as identified by DNR County Biological Survey or site inspection by trained biologist. Protecting native prairie includes the need to buffer and connect native remnants via restoration of non-native lands. We will identify and work with private landowners to acquire tracts that further our goal of native prairie conservation, and in particular, those that meet the other criteria listed below.
2. **Within core area boundary or in critical corridors between core areas.** The project will attempt to build "functioning landscapes" by concentrating in areas with a good core of existing native prairie. We are using the DNR County Biological Survey as a starting point for identifying these core areas. While CBS has identified 38 possible core areas, we will focus within or adjacent to one of 5 areas including: Tallgrass Aspen Parkland, northern Agassiz Beach Ridge, upper Minnesota River Valley, Ordway-Glacial Lakes area, or the Prairie Coteau. Priority will be given to those parcels that are within core areas or that help form critical corridors to maintain landscape function. Selection of tracts will also be guided by the strategies and objectives outlined in TNC's ecoregional conservation action plans.
3. **Near existing protected lands.** Building larger protected complexes is preferred to simplify and reduce overall management costs. In general, larger protected blocks are more effective at conserving the full array of wildlife species and biological diversity. Tracts near existing protected lands will be prioritized higher than those that are isolated.
4. **Greater habitat and species diversity, or host to unique species.** Parcels that host a rare habitat or a continuum of habitats, such as interconnected upland, wetland, riparian, and stream features, will be recognized as having added ecological value and given greater priority. Tracts with underrepresented, small-scale features (e.g., threatened species), will also be prioritized.
5. **Suitability for ultimate assumption by DNR (WMA or SNA).** The Conservancy is proposing to hold these lands for an indefinite period of time. However, we recognize that public ownership of some or all of the acquired properties may be preferable in the future. In order to facilitate this, we will consult with the DNR prior to acquisition regarding the suitability of proposed acquisition tracts for future consideration as a Wildlife Management Area or Scientific and Natural Area.
6. **No buildings or CRP issues.** Existing buildings pose a challenge because they may not be eligible for Outdoor Heritage Fund use and they require additional effort to demolish or sell. Similarly, lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program can complicate the appraisal and

acquisition process. We will give priority to those parcels that have neither buildings nor existing long term CRP leases.

7. **Suitable for grazing.** A principal element of this proposal is to use conservation grazing as a way to meet ecological objectives and to generate income. Lands that are suitable for grazing, or that have recently been used for grazing, will be prioritized.
8. **Willing seller.** We will only work with willing sellers, and those that can abide by the statutory process laid out for use of public funds.
9. **Suitability for public recreation.** Constitutional language requires that these lands be open to public taking of fish and game. We will prioritize those parcels that can foster those public uses.
10. **Additional restrictions or conditions** as specified by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, public laws and rules, and program policies that direct acquisition priorities.

Heather Koop

From: Rich Johnson [rich_johnson@TNC.ORG]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 1:49 PM
To: Heather Koop
Cc: Sandy Smith
Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions - NTP NWR
Attachments: NTP NWR Parcel Prioritization Criteria.docx

Heather,

Consistent with the earlier phases of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition proposal, our Phase 5 proposal does not identify specific parcels. This project is a partnership between the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy). The partners approach the Northern Tallgrass Prairie project as a Program, not as a collection of individual projects.

Such an approach helps to assure our focus is placed on the highest priority parcel types and activities identified in our proposal, while maintaining flexibility and allowing us to respond quickly and efficiently to opportunities that arise during the course of implementation. Further, there are a number of factors that make identification of discrete parcels difficult for this and other landscape scale protection Programs. Included in those factors are:

- Conservation sellers who might be identified at time of application are typically unable or unwilling to wait the 12 months+ for funding to arrive (or not).
- Upfront identification of parcels with estimated purchase prices may complicate future negotiations
- By practice, the Service and Conservancy strive to protect confidentiality of landowners with whom we are working on acquisition projects
- Changing circumstances in the lives or businesses of sellers move them in and out of the market very unpredictably, meaning that opportunity plays a strong role in the parcels we select for acquisition
- In lieu of a pre-identified parcel list we employ a robust set of prioritization criteria to screen potential acquisition opportunities as they arise. These criteria are attached and have been thoroughly tested over the first four phases of our project.

Both the Service and Conservancy have used this approach for other programs, such as the Prairie Recovery Project, with great success, and while maintaining a high level of transparency and accountability to the Council and the Legislature. Acquisition work for this specific program only began in March of 2013, but we have already protected 7 properties, totaling 889 acres. We hope the Council agrees that this approach is working and that we be allowed to continue with the processes that are in place, including:

- Seeking LSOHC staff, or Council as appropriate, input and approval for parcel inclusion into the Accomplishment Plan prior to final negotiations with landowners
- Pursuing only parcels that coincide with the priority geographies identified in our proposal and our approved Accomplishment Plan. The selection of parcels is guided by the 2010 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan and the Service's 2007 plan for focusing the Refuge's conservation efforts.
- Adhering to the criteria for prioritization that we are providing to the Council. See the attached document.

Again, we believe that the above described process has been highly effective at protecting critical prairie parcels while maintaining a high level of accountability and providing the Council an opportunity to accept or reject proposed parcels before completing a deal. We hope you concur and will allow us to continue with this proven model. I'm happy to discuss any questions or suggestions at your convenience, please feel free to give me a call at any time.

Thanks again for your consideration!

Rich Johnson

Rich Johnson | Conservation Information Manager | The Nature Conservancy in MN/ND/SD | 612) 331-0790 | rich_johnson@tnc.org

From: Heather Koop [<mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn>]

Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM

To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); (brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us); (dan.steward@state.mn.us); (david.schuller@state.mn.us); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdnet.net); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us); (jason.garms@state.mn.us); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; ' (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us)'; Neal Feeken; (nick.frohnauer@state.mn.us); (pat.rivers@state.mn.us); (westcom@brainerd.net); Rich Johnson; Richard Biske; (richard.f.peterson@state.mn.us); (tabor.hoek@state.mn.us); (thomashowes@fdlrez.com); (tim.koehler@state.mn.us); (wjulien@peoplepc.com); (bds wd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)

Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker

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Importance: High

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During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

Parcel Selection Criteria used by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy for the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition Program

The purpose of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Protection National Wildlife Refuge Program is to accelerate progress towards the US Fish & Wildlife Service's (Service) goal of permanently protecting and enhancing 77,000 acres of prairie remnants across the broad area originally covered by the Northern Tallgrass Prairie. The Land Acquisition Program supports the acquisition of fee title or conservation easements in the 48 western Minnesota counties included in the refuge boundary. The Service and The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy) are partners in this Program.

Parcels are reviewed by both the Service and Conservancy to ensure that they meet the priorities of both partners. They are then submitted to LSOHC staff for final review/approval. This review is based on the following criteria:

1. **Native prairie on all or most of tract, or adjacency to existing native prairie.** The emphasis of this Program is protecting and enhancing native prairie, as identified by DNR Biological Survey or site inspection by trained biologist. Protecting native prairie includes the need to buffer and connect native remnants via restoration of non-native lands. The partners will identify and work with private landowners to acquire tracts that further our shared goal of native prairie conservation, and in particular, those that meet the other criteria listed below.
2. **Within core area boundary or in critical corridors between core areas.** This Program will assist with building "functioning landscapes" by focusing in areas with concentrations of existing native prairie. The 2010 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan identified 35 prairie cores and corridors within the Refuge. The partners will give priority to those parcels that are within these core areas or that help form critical corridors to maintain landscape function.
3. **Near existing protected lands.** Building larger protected complexes is preferred to simplify and reduce overall management costs and travel time. In general, larger protected blocks are more effective at conserving the full array of wildlife species and biological diversity. The partners will strategically identify properties that are in areas where the Service already has a presence and prioritize these higher than those that are isolated.
4. **Greater habitat and species diversity, or host to unique species.** Parcels that host a rare habitat or a continuum of habitats, such as interconnected upland, wetland, riparian, and stream features, will be recognized as having added ecological value and given greater priority. Tracts with underrepresented, small-scale features (e.g. threatened species), will also be prioritized.
5. **Suitability for public recreation.** Constitutional language requires that the lands purchased in fee title be open to the public taking of fish and game. Fee title lands purchased with this grant will be opened. Lands especially suited to these uses will be given a higher priority. Conservation easements purchased with Outdoor Heritage Fund support will only be open to hunting if the landowner allows it to be.

6. **Willing Seller.** We will only work with willing sellers, and those that can abide by the statutory process laid out for use of public funds. We strive to work with landowners to ensure that they are comfortable with the Program and how it will affect their property.
7. **Avoid buildings.** Existing buildings pose a challenge because they may not be eligible for Outdoor Heritage Fund use and they require additional effort to demolish or sell. Properties with structures are carefully reviewed to ensure that they do not place an undue burden on the Service or Conservancy.

Heather Koop

From: Bob McGillivray [Bob.McGillivray@tpl.org]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 4:31 PM
To: Heather Koop
Cc: Danielle Salus; Susan Schmidt
Subject: Re: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Heather:

Here is The Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex Phase IV acquisition parcel list in priority order:

1. Caron Lake WMA (tracts 4-8)
2. Le Tamaracque WMA (tract 28)
3. Dora Lake WMA (tract 2)
4. Dora Lake WMA (tract 5)
5. Boyd Sartell WMA (tract 3)
6. Koester Prairie WMA (tract 1)
7. Boyd Sartell WMA (tract 5)

Let me know if you have any questions.

Bob

Robert J. McGillivray
 Senior Project Manager
 Minnesota State Office
 The Trust for Public Land
 2610 University Ave., Suite 300
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55114

phone 651-999-5307
 fax 651-917-2248

Bob.McGillivray@tpl.org or
rjm@tpl.org

Conserving Land for People - an average of 350 acres of parks and open space each and every day. On the Web at <http://www.tpl.org>

>>> Heather Koop <heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn> 9/6/2013 1:03 PM >>>

All,

During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

Heather Koop

From: Garms, Jason (DNR) [jason.garms@state.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 1:59 PM
To: Heather Koop
Cc: Penning, Bill (BWSR); Koehler, Tim (BWSR); Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Attachments: npb_evaluation_form_guide.pdf; Prairie_Plan_focus_areas.jpg

Heather,

Just to follow up on Tim's message below. . .

As Tim states below, the RIM-NPB proposal (PA-6) does not include a parcel list. Although, attached to the proposal was a scoring sheet for Native Prairie Bank easements. I've attached to this email the most current version of the Native Prairie Bank scoring sheet. In addition I've attached a map of the MN Prairie Plan focus areas, which represent the priority landscapes mentioned in the explanation below.

Thanks,

Jason Garms

Prairie Biologist
MN DNR - Scientific and Natural Areas Program
500 Lafayette Rd Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-259-5130
jason.garms@state.mn.us

From: Koehler, Tim (BWSR)
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 2:05 PM
To: Heather Koop
Cc: Strommen, Sarah (BWSR); Penning, Bill (BWSR); Garms, Jason (DNR); Steward, Dan (BWSR); Hoek, Tabor (BWSR); McLennan, Helen - NRCS-CD, Little Falls, MN (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdnet.net); Koehler, Tim (BWSR)
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Heather:

Thanks for speaking to Sarah and me earlier today related to this information request. As we discussed, I am forwarding information regarding each of the 5 RIM proposals. In each of the proposals that include RIM funding we have already explained our parcel prioritization or have included a listing of parcels. This includes:

RIM-WRP – No parcel list was attached. Sign-ups that generate eligible applicants are utilized. The Minnesota Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet (attached to the proposal) is then utilized to score each application with the highest scoring applications providing the maximum wildlife habitat.

MN Buffers – No parcel list was attached. Sign-ups that generate eligible applicants are utilized. The RIM Buffers for Wildlife & Water Scoring Form (attached to the proposal) is then utilized to score each application with the highest scoring applications providing the maximum wildlife habitat.

RIM-NPB - No parcel list was attached. Sign-ups that generate eligible applicants will be utilized. Local Technical Teams and priority landscapes will then be used to score and rank each applicant.

Wild Rice – A parcel list was submitted that included Wild Rice Lakes as a focus for easements and parcels associated with priority pieces for each listed WMA. Sign-ups that generate eligible applicants are utilized. The local technical team then reviews each applicant to determine priority of funding order based on criteria developed.

Camp Ripley/ACUB – “Protect Parcel List” is attached for each county.

Let me know if you need additional information related to how RIM applicants are prioritized to attain the highest wildlife benefits possible.

Tim Koehler

RIM Program Coordinator
Board of Water Soil Resources
651-296-6745

From: Heather Koop [<mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn>]

Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM

To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); Nerbonne, Brian A (DNR); Steward, Dan (BWSR); Schuller, Dave (DNR); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdnet.net); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us); Garms, Jason (DNR); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; ' (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us)'; (nfeeken@tnc.org); Frohnauer, Nick (DNR); Rivers, Pat (DNR); (westcom@brainerd.net); (rich_johnson@tnc.org); (rbiske@tnc.org); Peterson, Richard F (DNR); Hoek, Tabor (BWSR); (thomashowes@fdlrez.com); Koehler, Tim (BWSR); (wjulien@peoplepc.com); (bds wd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)

Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker

Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Importance: High

All,

During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather



Native Prairie Bank Evaluation Form

Date: _____

Site Name _____ County _____
 Township _____ Range _____ Section(s) _____
 Acres _____ Landowner Name(s) _____

| EVALUATION FACTORS | NOTES | POINTS |
|--|-------|--|
| <i>Diversity and quality of native prairie habitat</i> | | <input type="text"/> |
| <i>Size of prairie</i> | | <input type="text"/> |
| <i>Occurrence of, or suitable habitat for, rare species</i> | | <input type="text"/> |
| <i>Location relative to other native prairie and/or public lands</i> | | <input type="text"/> |
| <i>Potential for long-term management and enhancement</i> | | <input type="text"/> |
| <i>Additional factors (include as appropriate)</i> | | <input type="text"/> |
| OVERALL SITE EVALUATION | | Total Points <input type="text"/> |

Native Prairie Bank Evaluation Guidelines

| EVALUATION FACTORS | NOTES | POINTS |
|--|--|-------------|
| <i>Diversity and quality of native prairie habitat</i> | <p>30 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of a native plant community with A, B, or B/C element occurrence (EO) ranking based on DNR Natural Heritage Database and Minnesota Biological Survey protocols; and/or • At least 75% of the project site's native prairie communities are C rank or higher based on DNR Natural Heritage Database, Minnesota Biological Survey protocols; and/or • Site identified as Minnesota Biological Survey site of Outstanding Biodiversity Significance; and/or • Presence of regionally significant prairie community type (e.g. wet prairie communities in predominately drained regions of the state); and/or • Locally documented high biodiversity despite a previous low Minnesota Biological Survey ranking – must be confirmed by DNR staff using Minnesota Biological Survey protocols. <p>25 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 50% of the project site's native prairie communities are C rank or higher based on DNR Natural Heritage Database, Minnesota Biological Survey protocols; and/or • Site identified as Minnesota Biological Survey site of High Biodiversity Significance. <p>15 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 25% of the project site's native prairie communities are C rank or higher based on DNR Natural Heritage Database, Minnesota Biological Survey protocols; and/or • Site identified as Minnesota Biological Survey site of Moderate Biodiversity Significance. <p>5 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only native prairie present on site has a D ranking based on DNR Natural Heritage Database, Minnesota Biological Survey protocols. | 5-30 |
| | <p>15 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prairie is regionally significant in size. Example: a 20-acre bluffland prairie in Southeastern or along the Minnesota River is regionally significant, but a 20-acre site in the Agassiz Beach Ridge is not regionally significant. <p>10 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate sized prairie remnant relative to other prairies in the area. <p>0-3 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small prairie remnant relative to other prairies in the area. | 0-15 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| <i>Size of prairie</i> | | |

Native Prairie Bank Evaluation Guidelines

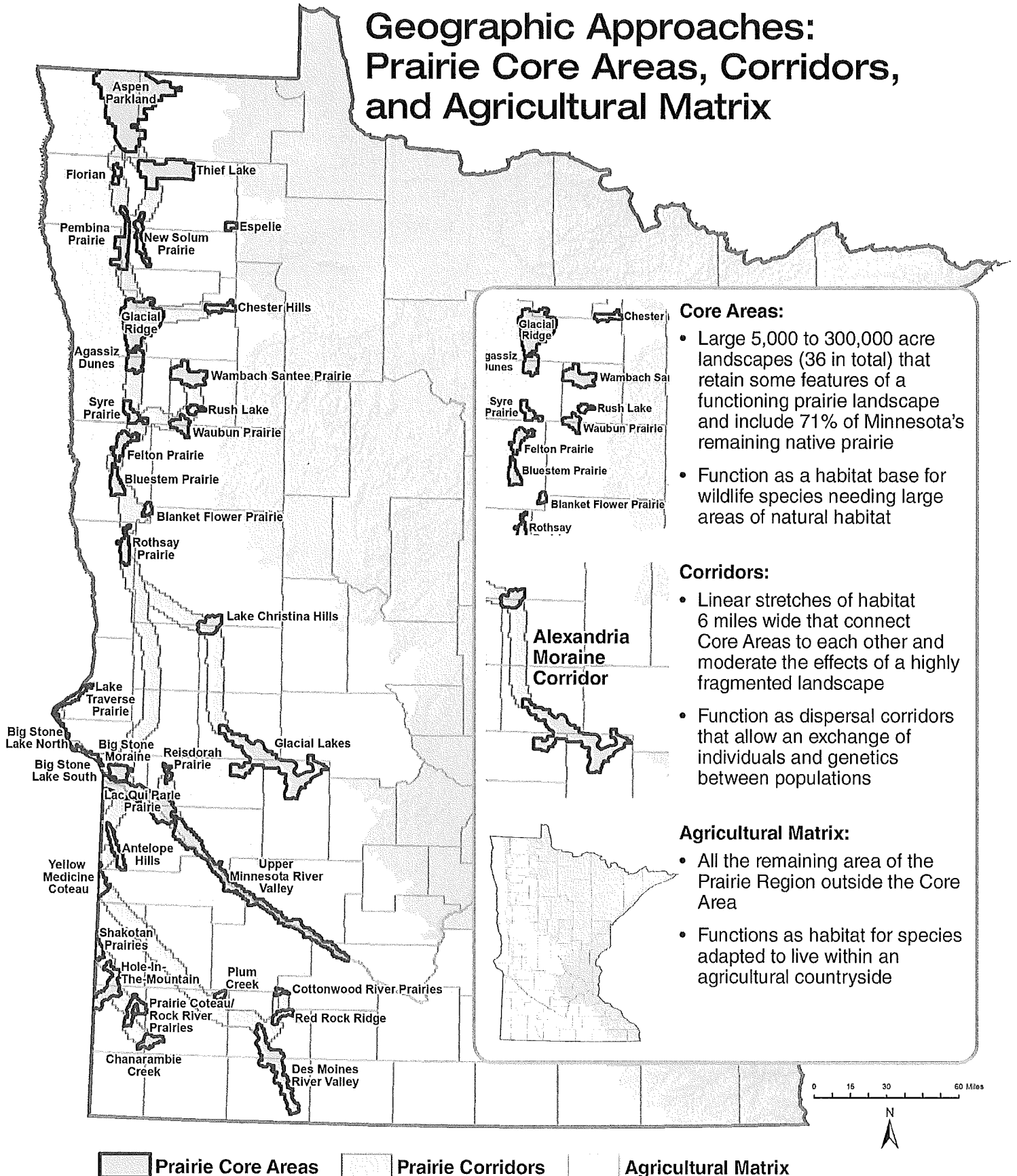
| EVALUATION FACTORS | NOTES | POINTS |
|--|---|-------------|
| <i>Occurrence of, or suitable habitat for, rare species</i> | <p>20 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of, or habitat for, a federally listed rare species; and/or • Presence of one or more state endangered or threatened species with an A, B or B/C element occurrence (EO) rank. <p>15 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable habitat for rare species; species found within ½ mile. • Five or more Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) as determined by Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare: Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. • An unranked occurrence of a state endangered or threatened species. <p>10 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of one or more special concern species with a C/D or D element occurrence (EO) rank. <p>0 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No rare species on site or within 2 miles. | 0-20 |
| <i>Location relative to other native prairie and/or public lands</i> | <p>15 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a Core Area of the Prairie Plan or within a relatively high concentration of native prairie remnants and rare species occurrences; and/or • Near or adjacent to other permanently protected conservation lands; particularly units with prairie/grassland habitat. <p>10 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a Prairie Plan Corridor. <p>0-5 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolated parcel. Other prairie habitat or conservation lands within 2 miles = 5 points; greater than 10 miles = 0 points. | 0-15 |
| <i>Potential for long-term management and enhancement</i> | <p>10 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves management options for larger, contiguous area (e.g. prescribed fire, invasive species control). • Direct access from a public road (property borders road). <p>8 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major limitations to management • Access route from a public road to the property that landowner is willing to designate as legal access. <p>0-3 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant limitations to management (e.g. surrounding residential development, invasive species control issues). • Poor or non-existent access. May include needing permission from neighboring parcel to access, or crossing other privately-owned parcel(s) to access. | 0-10 |

Native Prairie Bank Evaluation Guidelines

| EVALUATION FACTORS | NOTES | POINTS |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Additional factors (include as appropriate) | <p>10 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeopardy of losing prairie because site is in an area experiencing development pressure due to gravel mining, cropland conversion, housing, or other imminent threats. • Landowner is willing to donate significant acreage and donation would contribute to prairie conservation goals. <p>5 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation and a recommendation for protection by local staff familiar with the site. May be staff from DNR, USFWS, NRCS, SWCD, or researchers. | 5-10 |
| OVERALL SITE EVALUATION | <p>Overall summary for enrollment based on evaluation criteria. Write a succinct statement describing your evaluation of the site. This is very helpful for developing the fact sheet and for future reports.</p> | Total Points |



Geographic Approaches: Prairie Core Areas, Corridors, and Agricultural Matrix



Heather Koop

From: Brad Cobb [1231tlc@charter.net]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 9:53 AM
To: Heather Koop; Sandy Smith
Cc: Bill Becker; 'Pat Dingels'
Subject: FY15 (ML14) Requested GC prioritized parcel list - Proposal PA #8
Attachments: GC FY15 Prioritized Parcel Request.xls

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

LSOHC Staff

Attached is what we would call our current **prioritized parcel list** for our FY15 OHF proposal from the original parcel list submitted with our original proposal. As is the case with these parcels list they can and will change. In fact we are now learning (in the last week or so) that other significant tracts might become available which are NOT on our current proposal list. This priority list is ONLY using those parcels from our original proposal.

Finally, as I mentioned in our proposal presentation we intend to add or request 5 additional listed counties for our proposal: Renville, Nicollet, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, and Chippewa. It appears that in the online proposal system it used the listed counties from the parcel list to populate the "County Locations" from the first page of the proposal.

Thank you
Brad Cobb

From: Heather Koop [mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 9:19 AM
To: 'Brad Cobb'; Sandy Smith
Cc: Bill Becker; Pat Dingels
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Brad,
You can use any excel sheet you wish.
Heather

From: Brad Cobb [mailto:1231tlc@charter.net]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 7:17 AM
To: Heather Koop; Sandy Smith
Cc: Bill Becker; Pat Dingels
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Heather

Do you have a specific doc or spreadsheet you want this parcel list created in - could you email me that template? I need to do this today because I will be out of office on Tuesday and Wednesday - Thanks.
Brad Cobb

From: Heather Koop [mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM
To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); (brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us); (dan.steward@state.mn.us); (david.schuller@state.mn.us); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdnet.net); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us);

(jason.garms@state.mn.us); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; '
(josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us)'; (nfeeken@tnc.org); (nick.frohnauer@state.mn.us); (pat.rivers@state.mn.us);
(westcom@brainerd.net); (rich_johnson@tnc.org); (rbiske@tnc.org); (richard.f.peterson@state.mn.us);
(tabor.hoek@state.mn.us); (thomashowes@fdlrez.com); (tim.koehler@state.mn.us); (wjulien@peoplepc.com);
(bdswd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)

Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker

Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Importance: High

All,

During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

Attachment D. Parcel List

Program Title: FY15 (ML14) Requested Prioritized Parcel List - Top to Bottom Priority

| Parcel Name | County | Township | Range | Direction | Section | TRDS | # of acres | Estimated Cost to OHF |
|---------------------|------------|----------|-------|-----------|---------|----------|------------|-----------------------|
| Mound Creek WMA new | Cottonwood | 108 | 36 | 2 | 35 | 10836235 | 160 | \$1,100,000 |
| Bashaw WMA | Brown | 108 | 34 | 2 | 15 | 10834215 | 150 | \$150,000 |
| Lamberton WMA | Redwood | 109 | 37 | 2 | 14 | 10937214 | 45 | \$295,000 |
| Devils Run WMA | Murray | 107 | 39 | 2 | 32 | 10739232 | 75 | \$295,000 |
| Irruption WMA #5 | Murray | 106 | 39 | 2 | 20 | 10639220 | 80 | \$360,000 |
| Lamberton WMA | Redwood | 109 | 36 | 2 | 17 | 10936217 | 160 | \$1,100,000 |

Heather Koop

From: Wayne Ostlie [wostlie@greatrivergreening.org]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 10:11 AM
To: Heather Koop
Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker
Subject: RE: Follow-up questions from LSOHC meeting
Attachments: Priority Rank by Site by Submitting Organization.xls

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Heather:

I hope this finds you well. I have heard from all of the partners and have attached (via Excel spreadsheet) a breakdown of priorities by participating partner. Included in that is a rank order by site, site description (as in the proposal), and funding amount. Please let me know if this format works or if you'd like me to recast in any way.

In addition, I am supplying text from the USFWS related to the potential use of bee hives on refuge property, as submitted by Steve Karel, refuge manager for Sherburne and Crane Meadows NWRs. I am inserting the full text of that email below, including an inserted text from Steve Karel.

Again, please let me know if you would like additional information.

Best,

Wayne

Wayne, please pass the following information on to the council members in response to the question about bee hives. If there was a request for any particular refuge to have bee hives, It first would have to be approved by the refuge manager and then go out for public comment through the "compatibility determination" process and finally be approved by the Regional Chief.

I have seen bee hives placed in visitor centers for educational purposes but I am doubtful that refuge managers would want to promote pollination of invasive plant species as the following information states. This response is from Cindy Kane in the Washington office. She can provide literature citations if requested.

Steve Karel
Project Leader
Sherburne/Crane Meadows/Rice Lake NWR Complex
17076 293rd Ave.
Zimmerman, MN 55398-6000
Office 763-389-3323 ext.11
Cell- 763-244-0060
Fax-763-389-3493

In response to the question posed by email on April 24, 2013 to the Federal IPM Coordinating Committee members: "Can managed honey bees be placed on the lands that your Federal agency manages," in general the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service (Service) does not allow managed, or commercial, beekeeping on National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) lands, as it is an activity that is generally not compatible with a refuge mission. The Service has had few requests for this use of NWRS land.

The Service's departmental manual Compatibility policy (603 FW 2) requires that the Service undertake a review for compatibility of all proposed and existing uses of national wildlife refuge lands in light of the establishing purposes of the particular refuge. Beekeeping activities, as a potential use, (as well as many other activities) would be reviewed under this policy. Often, a refuge mission includes the conservation of native species and their habitats. Conducting the compatibility analysis of a requested use (such as beekeeping) is the responsibility of the Refuge Manager in concurrence with a regional Refuge Chief. If a proposed use is determined to be compatible with a refuge mission, goals, and objectives, the proposed use would be authorized by a special use permit issued by the refuge.

Literature indicates that the non-native honey bees often preferentially contribute to pollination of non-native (European) plants, often these are invasive species that we may be actively trying to control or eradicate as they degrade or diminish the quality of the native habitat. Honeybees are not native to North America and are not needed for pollination of any native plant. Evidence indicates that non-native honey bees visiting a nectar source can leave behind disease in the nectar, and that can then be transferred to native bees visiting the same nectar source.

Many native North American bees are solitary. Many native plant species have adapted to attract a specific native bee. Native plants are not often adapted to receive honey bees visits, which usually come in large numbers, depleting the food source the native plants provide to native pollinators, and potentially contributing to plant extinction by not having its specific pollinator.

Cindy Kane
National Integrated Pest Management Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 657
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Office: 1 703/358-1831
cell: 1 703/283-6635
Fax: 1 703/358-1800

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

--

Wayne Ostlie

Director of Conservation Programs: Great River Greening

p. 651.665.9500 x19 | c. 651.894.3870 | wostlie@greatrivergreening.org | www.greatrivergreening.org

Follow Great River Greening on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#)

From: Heather Koop [<mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn>]

Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 11:10 AM

To: Wayne Ostlie

Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker

Subject: RE: Follow-up questions from LSOHC meeting

Wayne,

Thanks much. You indeed have provided the cost information, but if you wouldn't mind putting the cost and priority together, I'd greatly appreciate it, along with FWS formal response.

Heather

From: Wayne Ostlie [<mailto:wostlie@greatrivergreening.org>]

Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 11:10 AM

To: Heather Koop

Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker

Subject: RE: Follow-up questions from LSOHC meeting

Heather:

Thank you for the reminder.

Related to request #1 (pages 2-4), my confusion as to this request, both at the hearing itself and now, is that these costs are detailed in the attached parcel list (pages 13 and 14). I will ask partners to identify priorities among their respective sites and provide that, but wonder whether we haven't already addressed the first part of the request. Please advise accordingly.

I will ask Steve Karel for a formal response to the question of bees, but he did answer that question at the hearing. Due to FWS regs, beekeeping is not allowed on the refuge.

Stay tuned.

Wayne

Wayne Ostlie

Director of Conservation Programs

Great River Greening

35 W Water Street, Suite 201

St. Paul, MN 55107

651 894-3870 (cell)

651 665-9500 x19 (office)

-----Original Message-----

From: Heather Koop [<mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn>]
Sent: Fri 9/6/2013 10:36 AM
To: Wayne Ostlie
Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker
Subject: Follow-up questions from LSOHC meeting

Hi, Wayne,

During your presentation of Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Restoration and Enhancement, Ph. III proposa, Council members requested that you provide additional information.

* Pages 2 and 3 list a series of activities to be undertaken by the partners. Please send us the list with cost and priority of projects, by entity.

* A question was posed as to whether the Refuge would allow private bee hives on Refuge land. Please confirm whether this activity would be allowed.

Please respond no later than 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

| Organization Priority Rank/Site Name | Description | Funding Request |
|---|---|-----------------|
| Great River Greening | | |
| 1. Sand Dunes State Forest | <p>The new SDSF <i>Operational Plan</i> (2013), developed to bring balance between economic and ecological assets of the Forest, identifies 630 acres of the 5,700-acre forest for immediate action to address imperiled native plant communities and rare species. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 375 acres of priority habitat through pine removal, prescribed burning, and invasive species control.</p> <p>This 30,700-acre refuge was created to protect/restore habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife, with a focus on oak savanna, wetlands and Big Woods habitat. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 2,400 acres of wetland/meadow and oak savanna habitat through prescribed fire, herbicide cattail control, and initiation of a grazing regime (with construction of a 9.5 mile fence).</p> | \$ 420,300 |
| 2. Sherburne NWR | <p>This 569-acre WMA includes forest interspersed with wetlands, offering diverse recreational opportunities ranging from hunting/fishing to skiing. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 322 acres of mixed forest and wetland habitat through woody invasive species control.</p> | \$ 454,600 |
| 3. BenLacs WMA | <p>This 228-acre WMA of high-quality floodplain forest, oak woodland and restored prairie, lies along the Mississippi River and is home to more than 30 SGCN. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 200 acres of oak woodland and savanna through woody invasive species control.</p> | \$ 189,400 |
| 4. McDougal WMA | <p>Crane Meadows was established to preserve the state's largest sedge meadow wetland complex and associated breeding sandhill crane population, and includes a diverse mix of native prairie, savanna, and wetlands. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 480 acres of habitat through woody thinning/control, seeding, and tree planting.</p> | \$ 105,300 |
| 5. Crane Meadows NWR | <p>This 700-acre WMA is characterized by prairie and aspen/oak woodland, and is the first designated Environmental Education Area in the state, providing strong connections to local schools/colleges. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 62 acres of oak woodland through invasive species control.</p> | \$ 150,790 |
| 6. Sand Prairie WMA | <p>This 718-acre WMA is a mosaic of marsh, brushland, prairie and hardwood forest that provides habitat for game and non-game species alike. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 88 acres of hardwood forest through woody invasive species control.</p> | \$ 56,300 |
| 7. Mud Lake WMA | <p>Situated on Round Lake, the park's woodlands and restored prairies provide habitat for many species ranging from waterfowl and songbirds to Blanding's turtles. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 35 acres of Big Woods forest through invasive species control and planting.</p> | \$ 68,400 |
| 8. Kelsey Round Lake Park | | \$ 57,400 |
| Anoka Conservation District | | |

| | | | |
|---|--|----|---------|
| 1. Rum River Riparian Restoration, Cedar Creek Nature Reserve and Rum River Central Regional Park | One mile of eroding riverbank has been identified along Anoka County's Rum River on public park lands, impacting habitat for fish species. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 850 feet of riparian and instream habitat through installation of weirs, cedar revetments, and willow staking. | \$ | 170,000 |
| 2. Anoka Nature Preserve | On the banks of the Rum River, this 200-acre forest/wetland preserve provides habitat for a diversity of species. <u>Actions:</u> Restoration of 55 acres of old field into prairie. | \$ | 40,195 |
| 3. Buckthorn Clean Sweep | Anoka County supports over 3,000 acres of high quality (MCBS mapped) natural habitat on public lands, <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 760 acres of MCBS forest habitat on public lands through buckthorn control. | \$ | 33,000 |

Isanti County Parks

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|----|--------|
| 1. Vegsund County Park | This 80-acre park consists of oak woodland, restored prairies, wetlands, along 1/2 mile of Lake Seventeen's undeveloped shoreline, an attractive fishery. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 18 acres of woodland through removal of woody invasive species and prescribed burning. | \$ | 12,303 |
| 2. Cambridge City Park | This 151-acre park protects floodplain forest situated along 1.5 miles of the Wild & Scenic Rum River. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 67 acres of floodplain forest through woody invasive control. | \$ | 95,088 |
| 3. Springvale County Park | This 211-acre park is situated on Johnny's Lake and lies on rolling eskers of prairie, woodlands and wetlands. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 34 acres of oak woodland through removal of woody invasive control and prescribed burning. | \$ | 15,530 |
| 4. Anderson County Park | The 1/4-acre park lies adjacent to Horseshoe and Horse Leg lakes, and consists of wetlands, prairie and oak savanna/woodland in the process of restoration. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of 18 acres of oak woodland through removal of woody invasive control and prescribed fire. | \$ | 9,350 |

Stearns SWCD

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----|---------|
| 1. Mississippi River County Park | This 340-acre park contains 1.3 miles of Mississippi River frontage, and 80 acres of upland forest and restored prairie managed in their natural state. <u>Actions:</u> Enhancement of forest through invasive species control; restoration of 630 feet of river shoreline. | \$ | 118,000 |
|----------------------------------|---|----|---------|

Heather Koop

From: George Fenwick [gfenwick@abcbirds.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 2:06 PM
To: Heather Koop
Subject: FA-1 Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Importance: High

Dear Heather,

The prioritized list of proposals in the American Bird Conservancy proposal FA-1 are as follows:

Tamarac #1

Tamarac #2

Mille Lacs #1

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Tamarac #1 | 14039210 | 300 | \$540,000 | No | Full | |
| Tamarac #2 | 14039216 | 200 | \$360,000 | No | Full | |

Mille Lacs

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|---------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Mille Lacs #1 | 04027232 | 560 | \$600,000 | No | Full | |

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

George Fenwick
 American Bird Conservancy

From: Heather Koop [mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn]
 Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 2:04 PM
 To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us<mailto:al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us>); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org<mailto:bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org>); (1231TLC@charter.net<mailto:1231TLC@charter.net>); (brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us<mailto:brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us>); (dan.steward@state.mn.us<mailto:dan.steward@state.mn.us>); (david.schuller@state.mn.us<mailto:david.schuller@state.mn.us>); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org<mailto:DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org>); George Fenwick; (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdnet.net<mailto:helen.mclennan@mn.nacdnet.net>); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us<mailto:Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us>); (jason.garms@state.mn.us<mailto:jason.garms@state.mn.us>); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org<mailto:jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org>); (jshneider@visi.com<mailto:jshneider@visi.com>); Jon Schneider; (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us<mailto:josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us>); (nfeeken@tnc.org<mailto:nfeeken@tnc.org>); (nick.frohnauer@state.mn.us<mailto:nick.frohnauer@state.mn.us>); (pat.rivers@state.mn.us<mailto:pat.rivers@state.mn.us>); (westcom@brainerd.net<mailto:westcom@brainerd.net>); (rich_johnson@tnc.org<mailto:rich_johnson@tnc.org>); (rbiske@tnc.org<mailto:rbiske@tnc.org>); (richard.f.peterson@state.mn.us<mailto:richard.f.peterson@state.mn.us>);

(tabor.hoek@state.mn.us<<mailto:tabor.hoek@state.mn.us>>);
(thomashowes@fdlrez.com<<mailto:thomashowes@fdlrez.com>>);
(tim.koehler@state.mn.us<<mailto:tim.koehler@state.mn.us>>);
(wjulien@peoplepc.com<<mailto:wjulien@peoplepc.com>>); (bds wd@frontiernet.net<<mailto:bds wd@frontiernet.net>>);
Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker
Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Importance: High

All,

During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

Heather Koop

From: Thomas Howes [thomashowes@fdlrez.com]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 9:35 AM
To: Heather Koop
Cc: R. Reid LeBeau; Chris Knopf; Reginald DeFoe
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

FA 2

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Heather,

For the Fond du Lac proposal, our "priority" parcels are the 440 acre property that surrounds Chi-wizo zaaga'iganing, and the 236 acres of St. Louis River Frontage. The remaining 280 acres identified in our proposal are not being actively marketed for sale, but we intended on attempting to purchase as many of the parcels as possible if the landowners were willing to sell.

Thanks,

Thomas Howes
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Natural Resources Program Manager
1720 Big Lake Road
Cloquet, MN 55720
Office- (218) 878-7163
Mobile-(218) 591-2687

From: Heather Koop [mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM
To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); (brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us); (dan.steward@state.mn.us); (david.schuller@state.mn.us); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdnet.net); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us); (jason.garms@state.mn.us); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; ' (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us)'; (nfeeken@tnc.org); (nick.frohnauer@state.mn.us); (pat.rivers@state.mn.us); (westcom@brainerd.net); (rich_johnson@tnc.org); (rbiske@tnc.org); (richard.f.peterson@state.mn.us); (tabor.hoek@state.mn.us); Thomas Howes; (tim.koehler@state.mn.us); (wjulien@peoplepc.com); (bdswd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker
Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Importance: High

All,

During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

Heather Koop

From: Josh Stevenson [josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 4:33 PM
To: Heather Koop
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Heather,

Please see the criteria for property acquisitions below. We have not prioritized the list provided with our proposal as most parcels meet multiple criteria for acquisition.

- The local unit of government (township or city) supports the acquisition.
- No developed recreation (boat landings, campgrounds, parks).
- Acquisition of parcels that provide access to existing County and State managed lands by existing forest access roads that have been developed and used for management access in the past.
- Acquisition of parcels that provide outstanding potential to maintain or increase the presence of pine on the landscape (often currently owned by private industrial land holders).
- Acquisition of parcels that are adjacent to existing state or federal lands that when acquired will increase habitat connectivity.
- Acquisition of parcels where the opportunity may be lost if we do not take immediate action.
- Parcels meeting multiple criteria are the highest priority.

Feel free to contact our office with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Joshua Stevenson
 Cass County Land Commissioner
 218 East Washburn Ave (Pine Mt. Bldg.)
 P.O. Box 25
 Backus, MN 56435-0025
 Ph. 218-947-7501
 Fax 218-947-3230
 E-mail josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us

From: Heather Koop [<mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn>]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM
To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); (brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us); (dan.steward@state.mn.us); (david.schuller@state.mn.us); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdnet.net); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us); (jason.garms@state.mn.us); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; ' (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us)'; (nfeeken@tnc.org); (nick.frohnauer@state.mn.us); (pat.rivers@state.mn.us); (westcom@brainerd.net); (rich_johnson@tnc.org); (rbiske@tnc.org); (richard.f.peterson@state.mn.us); (tabor.hoek@state.mn.us); (thomashowes@fdlrez.com); (tim.koehler@state.mn.us); (wjulien@peoplepc.com); (bdswd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker
Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Importance: High

All,

During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

Heather Koop

From: Schuller, Dave (DNR) [david.schuller@state.mn.us]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 8:16 AM
To: Heather Koop
Cc: Wilson, Grant (DNR); Jacobson, Keith L (DNR)
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Attachments: FY15 OHF Proposal FA07 - Acquisition Priority List - State Forest.pdf

FA-07

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Heather,

Thank you and the council for considering our proposal FA-07. Attached is the acquisition parcel list by priority as requested. I added a running total column next to the anticipated budget to assist with funding allocation. Let me know if there is anything else you need.

Dave Schuller
Lands Program Coordinator
Minnesota DNR-Forestry Division
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-0044
(651) 259-5255
FAX (651) 296-5954
David.Schuller@state.mn.us

From: Heather Koop [<mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn>]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM
To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); Nerbonne, Brian A (DNR); Steward, Dan (BWSR); Schuller, Dave (DNR); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdn.net); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us); Garms, Jason (DNR); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; ' (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us)'; (nfeeken@tnc.org); Frohnauer, Nick (DNR); Rivers, Pat (DNR); (westcom@brainerd.net); (rich.johnson@tnc.org); (rbiske@tnc.org); Peterson, Richard F (DNR); Hoek, Tabor (BWSR); (thomashowes@fdlrez.com); Koehler, Tim (BWSR); (wjulien@peoplepc.com); (bds wd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker
Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Importance: High

All,

During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

FA07 - State Forest Acquisition - Phase 2 - RJ Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest - Prioritized Parcel List

| Priority | Parcel Name | County | Township | Range | Direction | Section | TRDS | # of Acres | Budgeting Estimated Cost | Running Total by Priority | Description | Activity | Existing Protection? | Open to hunting per State of Minnesota Regulations? | Open to fishing per State of Minnesota Regulations? |
|----------|-----------------|----------|----------|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Reno | Houston | 102 | 04 | 02 | 21 | 102040221 | 240 | \$900,000 | \$900,000 | Forested land consolidates existing state forest reducing boundaries by 1 mile and provides critical access. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Full |
| 2 | W Reno | Houston | 102 | 04 | 02 | 17 | 102040217 | 2 | \$10,000 | \$910,000 | Permanent easement provides access to 1000 ac of existing state forest | Protect in Easement | No | Full | Full |
| 3 | Minneiska | Winona | 108 | 09 | 02 | 01 | 108090201 | 125 | \$500,000 | \$1,410,000 | Forested land surrounded by state forest, consolidates, reducing boundary by 2 miles | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Full |
| 4 | Benson Creek | Houston | 102 | 04 | 02 | 18 | 102040218 | 53 | \$200,000 | \$1,610,000 | Forested hillsides provide access to over 200 acres of state forest | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Full |
| 5 | Pine Creek2 | Winona | 105 | 09 | 02 | 34 | 105090234 | 11 | \$60,000 | \$1,670,000 | Forested land surrounded by state forest, reduces boundary by 3/4 mile, protects 1/4 mile of hemmingway crk | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Full |
| 6 | Pine Creek | Winona | 105 | 09 | 02 | 34 | 105090234 | 10 | \$60,000 | \$1,730,000 | Forested land surrounded by state forest, reduces boundary by 3/4 mile | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Full |
| 7 | Preston Valley | Winona | 108 | 09 | 02 | 25 | 108090225 | 5 | \$30,000 | \$1,760,000 | Forested land surrounded by state forest land, reduces boundaries by 1/2 mile and provides access. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Full |
| 8 | Trout Valley | Winona | 108 | 09 | 02 | 04 | 108090204 | 39 | \$150,000 | \$1,910,000 | Forested land protects 1/2 mile of creek and provides critical access to existing state forest | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Full |
| 9 | Torkelson Creek | Fillmore | 104 | 10 | 02 | 36 | 104100236 | 49 | \$180,000 | \$2,090,000 | Protects forested Mississippi River bluff | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Full |
| 10 | Richmond | Winona | 106 | 05 | 02 | 16 | 106050216 | 62 | \$100,000 | \$2,190,000 | Forested land protects 1/4 mile of creek and provides critical access to existing state forest | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Full |
| 11 | Wells Creek | Goodhue | 112 | 14 | 02 | 24 | 112140224 | 40 | \$160,000 | \$2,350,000 | Forested land consolidates existing state forest reducing boundaries to a natural boundary. | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Full |
| 12 | Oak Ridge | Houston | 103 | 07 | 02 | 24 | 103070224 | 83 | \$250,000 | \$2,600,000 | Forested land, consolidates state forest and reduces boundaries by 1/4 mile | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Full |
| 13 | Jefferson | Houston | 101 | 04 | 02 | 34 | 101040234 | 60 | \$200,000 | \$2,800,000 | Forested land connecting two forested units providing habitat continuity and public access | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Full |
| 14 | Money Creek | Houston | 104 | 07 | 02 | 21 | 104070221 | 50 | \$200,000 | \$3,000,000 | | | No | Full | Full |

Heather Koop

From: Richard Biske [rbiske@TNC.ORG]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 3:19 PM
To: Heather Koop
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Attachments: SEMN_parcel_prioritization.docx

Heather,

The parcel list included in the proposal is intended to illustrate some of the properties considered to be currently available and serve as examples of potential projects that support the larger Protection and Restoration in Southeast MN Program. The parcels listed in the proposal meet our program criteria and were included because the landowners either expressed interest in selling to a DNR partner, TNC or MLT in the past or they are a sought after tract that TNC is cultivating a willing seller. Unfortunately, these parcels may not be available by the time funds to protect them become available. The landowner may have changed their mind, sold to another entity or some other unforeseen circumstances. Due to the uncertainty of follow through with pre-identified parcels, we employ a robust set of prioritization criteria to screen potential acquisition opportunities as they arise. These criteria are attached and have been developed through regional planning involving multiple conservation stakeholders.

Restoration parcels are chosen based on resource value of the site with consideration of the landscape in which it resides. All sites are within Conservation Opportunity Areas, identified by regional planning. Each site contains fire dependent communities, a regional priority, and can be managed as a component of the larger functioning landscape.

The Protection and Restoration of Southeast MN Phase II, just as Phase I, is to function as a program, not simply a collection of individual protection and restoration projects. We believe our past performance in the Prairie Recovery and Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition Programs, using previously established processes, have been very successful while maintaining a high level of transparency and accountability to the Council and the Legislature. We hope the Council agrees and that we be allowed to continue with those processes for the Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase II which include:

1. Seeking LSOHC staff, or Council as appropriate, input and approval for parcel inclusion into the Accomplishment Plan prior to final negotiations with landowners
2. Pursuing only parcels that coincide with the priority geographies identified in our proposal, Landscape Stewardship Plans, Sites of High Biodiversity Significance, and our approved Accomplishment Plan
3. Adhering to the criteria for prioritization that has been provided to the Council (attached here)

Again, we believe that the above described process has been highly effective at protecting and restoring critical Bluffland habitat parcels and has served the Prairie Recovery Program and NTP NWR, while maintaining a high level of accountability and providing the Council an opportunity to accept or reject proposed parcels before completing a deal. We hope you concur and will allow us to continue with this proven model. I'm happy to discuss any questions or suggestions at your convenience, please feel free to give me a call at any time.

Thank you,
Rich

Rich Biske
Southeast MN Conservation Coordinator
rbiske@tnc.org
(507) 765-2450 (Phone)
(651) 564-0591 (Mobile)

The Nature Conservancy
Southeast Minnesota Office
PO Box 405
136 St. Anthony Street
Preston, MN 55965

(507) 765-2451 (Fax)

nature.org

From: Heather Koop [<mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn>]

Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM

To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); (brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us); (dan.steward@state.mn.us); (david.schuller@state.mn.us); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdn.net); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us); (jason.garms@state.mn.us); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; ' (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us)'; Neal Feeken; (nick.frohnauer@state.mn.us); (pat.rivers@state.mn.us); (westcom@brainerd.net); Rich Johnson; Richard Biske; (richard.f.peterson@state.mn.us); (tabor.hoek@state.mn.us); (thomashowes@fdlrez.com); (tim.koehler@state.mn.us); (wjulien@peoplepc.com); (bdswd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)

Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker

Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Importance: High

All,

During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase II – FA – 8

Parcels are reviewed by both a Division of MN DNR and Conservancy to ensure that they meet the priorities of both partners.

Criteria for identification of key conservation parcels.

State-owned properties represent significant blocks of ownership in Conservation Opportunity Areas(COA) in Southeast Minnesota as identified by Landscape Stewardship Plans and present opportunities for targeted stewardship. Where landscape stewardship plans and identified Conservation Opportunity Areas do not exist, core areas are identified by the Areas of Significant Native Biodiversity Significance. State-owned lands containing mapped native plant communities were selected as a starting point. Additional management acreage and contiguous land cover were increased by selecting adjoining parcels of private land that met certain criteria. This initial private parcel selection was made using the following criteria, with each parcel satisfying all points (Figure 1):

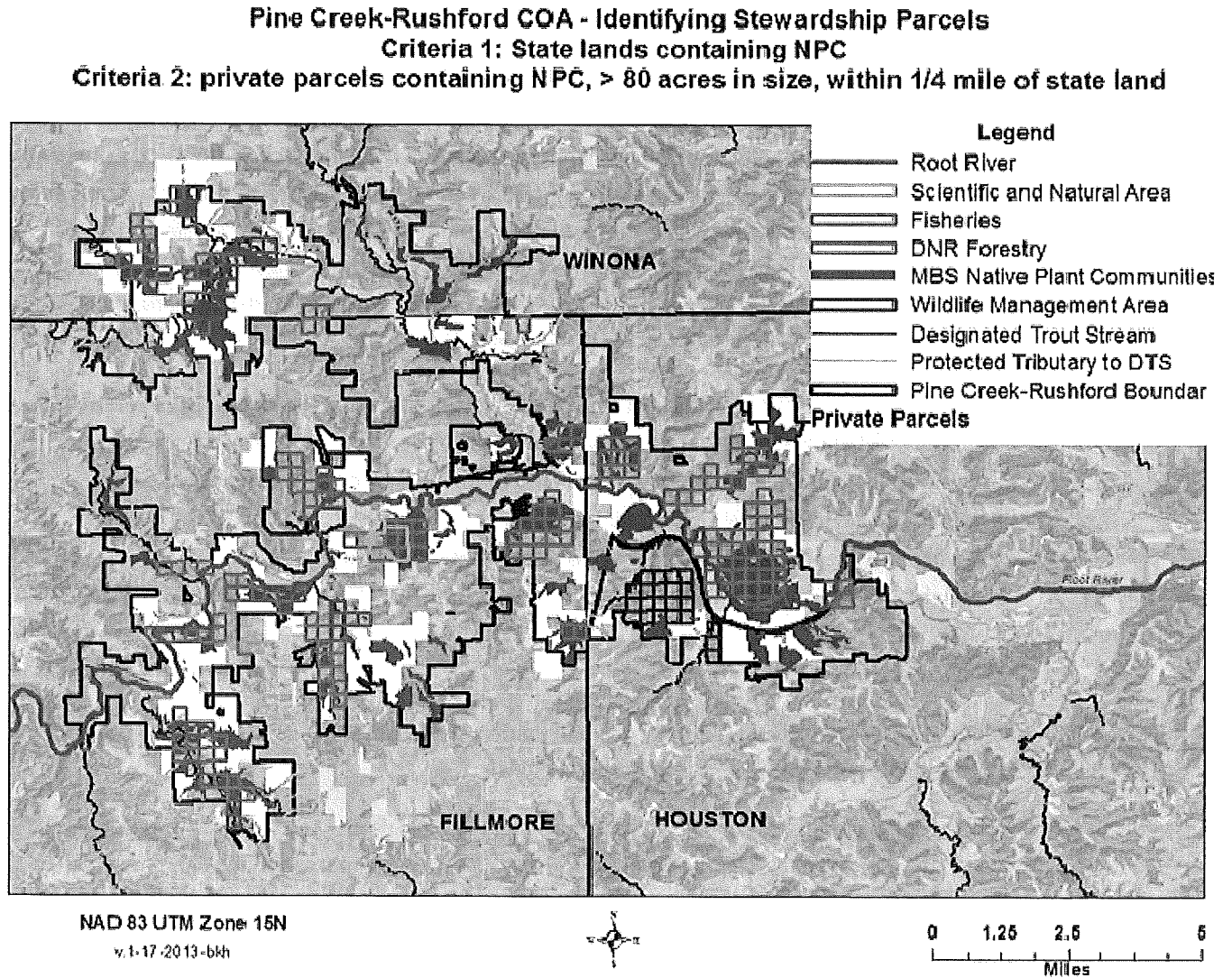
- Parcel is within Conservation Opportunity Area or Area of Significant Native Biodiversity (allows for large landscape management and management efficiencies, i.e. large scale Rx fire)
- Parcel contains an Minnesota Biological Survey mapped native plant community
- Parcel was equal to or greater than 80 acres in size
- Parcel property line began within ¼ mile of a state-owned parcel
- A Conservation Partner is willing to accept the property/meets partner objectives (SNA, WMA, Forestry)
- Willing seller

Some land parcels were selected for stewardship activities, while others were chosen for potential acquisition or conservation easement purchase.

Where multiple units of conservation lands exist within a COA , habitat corridors may need to be established to support the larger landscape and identified core areas. Parcels within an identified corridor should meet the following criteria:

- Between 2 conservation land units
- Within ½ mile of existing conservation land unit
- Contain more than 50% habitat

Figure 1. Example of parcels identified for stewardship activities in Pine Creek/Rushford Conservation Opportunity Area. The selected private parcels meet criteria and are considered for acquisition, easement, or management.



Heather Koop

From: Rivers, Pat (DNR) [Pat.Rivers@state.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 8:42 AM
To: Heather Koop
Cc: Nerbonne, Brian A (DNR); Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Subject: FW: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Attachments: OHC 2014 AMA Parcel list09092013.xlsx

HA-01

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Heather,

Here is the DNR's prioritized AMA parcel list for fee title acquisitions.

From: Rivers, Pat (DNR)
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 2:53 PM
To: Nerbonne, Brian A (DNR)
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Brian,

Attached is the priority list for fee title acquisitions. We do not provide a list of proposed easements.

Pat

From: Nerbonne, Brian A (DNR)
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:32 PM
To: Rivers, Pat (DNR)
Subject: FW: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Importance: High

Pat,

I'm in Mankato at Rosgen training all of next week, but will put together responses to send to Heather on Monday night via email. Please send me a prioritized list of our acquisition parcels for both easements and fee title by the end of the day Monday.

Brian

From: Heather Koop [<mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn>]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM
To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); Nerbonne, Brian A (DNR); Steward, Dan (BWSR); Schuller, Dave (DNR); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdn.net); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us); Garms, Jason (DNR); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; ' (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us)'; (nfeeken@tnc.org); Frohnauer, Nick (DNR); Rivers, Pat (DNR); (westcom@brainerd.net); (rich_johnson@tnc.org); (rbiske@tnc.org); Peterson, Richard F (DNR); Hoek, Tabor (BWSR); (thomashowes@fdlrez.com); Koehler, Tim (BWSR); (wjulien@peoplepc.com); (bds wd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker
Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Importance: High

All,

During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

Five parcels - map - from the Review.

| Parcel Name | County | Towns | Range | Direction | Section | TRDS | # of Acres | Budgeting Estimated Cost | Description | Activity | Existing Protection? | Open to hunting per State of Minnesota Regulations? | Open to fishing per State of Minnesota Regulations? | Status | # of Buildings/ Improvements | Buildings / Improvements Description | Value of Buildings / Improvements | Disposition of Improvements |
|--------------------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|----------|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|----------|---------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Grace Lake | Beltrami | 146 | 32 | 2 | 32 | 14632232 | 12.5 | \$ 65,000 | 650 shoreline feet wetlands | Protect in Fee with PILT | Protect in Fee with PILT | Limited | Full | Proposed | 0 | | | |
| Pleasant Lake p2 | Cass | 140 | 30 | 2 | 21 | 14030221 | 5 | \$ 264,000 | Sensitive lakeshore | Protect in Fee with PILT | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | | | |
| Pleasant Lake p3 | Cass | 140 | 30 | 2 | 21 | 14030221 | 2.9 | \$ 260,000 | Sensitive lakeshore | Protect in Fee with PILT | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | | | |
| Pleasant Lake p1 | Cass | 140 | 30 | 2 | 21 | 14030221 | 2 | \$ 3,000 | Sensitive lakeshore | Protect in Fee with PILT | Protect in Fee with PILT | No | Full | Proposed | 0 | | | |
| Big Cormorant Lake | Becker | 138 | 43 | 2 | 24 | 13843224 | 29 | \$ 900,000 | Peninsula and 7,000 shoreline feet | Protect in Fee with PILT | Protect in Fee with PILT | Limited | Full | Proposed | 0 | | | |
| Rock Lake | Becker | 140 | 40 | 2 | 17 | 14040217 | 23 | \$ 350,000 | 2400 shoreline feet | Protect in Fee with PILT | Protect in Fee with PILT | Limited | Full | Proposed | 0 | | | |
| Cotton Lake, p. 2 | Becker | 139 | 40 | 2 | 03 | 13940203 | 8 | \$ 850,000 | 1800 shoreline feet | Protect in Fee with PILT | Protect in Fee with PILT | Limited | Full | Proposed | 0 | | | |
| Wolf Lake, p. 1 | Becker | 139 | 37 | 2 | 29 | 13937229 | 63.4 | \$ 295,400 | 2950 shoreline feet | Protect in Fee with PILT | Protect in Fee with PILT | Full | Full | Proposed | 0 | | | |

Heather Koop

From: Deb Loon, MN Valley Trust [dloon@mnvalleytrust.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 8:50 AM
To: Heather Koop
Cc: danielle.salus@tpl.org
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Hi Heather –

Our proposal notes that we will pick among our parcel lists based on project readiness (we won't acquire all parcels with the grant requested).

Having said that, here is TPL's prioritization of its parcel list:

- 1 - Wilder Forest
- 2- St. Croix/Big Marine
- 3 - Blakely
- 4-St. Croix/Scandia
- 5-Rum River
- 6-Savage Fen

MN Valley Trust's list is entirely connected to expansion of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. I just divide it into the various Refuge units within which we work to acquire land. It's difficult to say one unit is a priority over the others, but if pushed, I'll say:

- 1 – Blakely
- 2 – Jessenland
- 3 – St. Lawrence
- 4 – Rapids Lake

Deb

From: Heather Koop [mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM
To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); (brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us); (dan.steward@state.mn.us); (david.schuller@state.mn.us); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdn.net); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us); (jason.garms@state.mn.us); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; ' (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us); (nfeeken@tnc.org); (nick.frohnauer@state.mn.us); (pat.rivers@state.mn.us); (westcom@brainerd.net); (rich_johnson@tnc.org); (rbiske@tnc.org); (richard.f.peterson@state.mn.us); (tabor.hoek@state.mn.us); (thomashowes@fdlrez.com); (tim.koehler@state.mn.us); (wjulien@peoplepc.com); (bdswd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker
Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions
Importance: High

All,

During the LSOHC meeting this week, there was a great deal of discussion around parcel priorities. We have been asked to request from each acquisition proposal a prioritized list of the parcels to be affected.

Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

Heather Koop

From: LLAWF [llawf@tds.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 1:30 PM
To: Heather Koop
Cc: klarson@mnland.org
Subject: Priority acquisitions for HA04
Attachments: Priority Acquisition Parcels HA04.xlsx

Importance: High

Heather:

I have attached a priority parcel list for proposal HA04 "Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Lakes". The 105-acre fee-title acquisition on Roosevelt Lake is our top priority. For conservation easement priorities, I have listed several parcels where through Phase I work we have identified a need to acquire an easement rather than receive a donated easement.

I estimated what that would cost using assumptions of a bargain easement acquisition where the landowner is required to donate some easement value. Through outreach we have also identified a number of parcels on the priority lakes noted, but have had no discussions with landowners or minimal discussion (not enough to indicate a level of interest).

We assure the Council that beyond the specific amount requested for the Roosevelt Lake fee-title acquisition (\$1,000,000) we will use additional money appropriated to pursue conservation easements on priority lakes on the parcel list, both shoreland easements and a few forest easements. We'll use a team comprised of project partners, DNR Fish Habitat Coordinator, county water planners, and other habitat experts to ultimately determine the parcel priorities and select the most significant habitat protection projects that provide the best overall protection for the public money invested. We'll look at criteria such as the condition of the habitat on the parcel, county priorities, impact of protection on the receiving water, level of protection achieved, amount of land value the landowner is willing to donate, and overall costs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or the Council has further questions.

Paula West, Executive Director
Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation

PO Box 455, Hackensack, MN 56452

Phone: 218-675-5773

(cell) 218-838-5010

westcom@brainerd.net

www.leechlakewatershed.org

..... Protecting water, woods, and wildlife for future generations to enjoy

From: Heather Koop [<mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn>]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM
To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); (brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us); (dan.steward@state.mn.us); (david.schuller@state.mn.us); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdnet.net); (Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us); (jason.garms@state.mn.us); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us); (nfeeken@tnc.org); (nick.frohnauer@state.mn.us); (pat.rivers@state.mn.us); (westcom@brainerd.net); (rich_johnson@tnc.org); (rbiske@tnc.org); (richard.f.peterson@state.mn.us); (tabor.hoek@state.mn.us); (thomashowes@fdlrez.com); (tim.koehler@state.mn.us); (wjulien@peoplepc.com);

(bds wd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)

Cc: Sandy Smith; Bill Becker

Subject: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Importance: High

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Please provide a prioritized parcel list by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10. Thanks much.

Heather

Heather Koop

From: Jane Harper [Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 10:34 AM
To: Heather Koop
Subject: RE: Council follow up question: Priority acquisitions

Hi Heather,

The Aiple property is the 2nd in priority acquisition for Washington County. The Carpenter conservation easement and trail corridor is the county's first priority acquisition.

By the way, last month we made an offer to Carpenter to purchase the trail corridor and a conservation easement over 75 acres. The Carpenter Board is now in discussions. They said that they intended to respond quickly to the offer – within 2 months. I expect that they will take formal action at their October Board meeting. It will be a hard decision for the Carpenter Board as we offered a lot of money for the combined acquisition. We have our fingers crossed and will have a staff celebration if we get to yes on this one.

Jane Harper
 Office of Administration
 14949 62nd Street North
 Stillwater, MN 55082-0006
 651-430-6011

From: Heather Koop [mailto:heather.koop@lsohc.leg.mn]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 1:04 PM
To: (al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us); Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); (1231TLC@charter.net); (brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us); (dan.steward@state.mn.us); (david.schuller@state.mn.us); (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org); (gfenwick@abcbirds.org); (helen.mclennan@mn.nacdn.net); Jane Harper; (jason.garms@state.mn.us); (jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org); (jshneider@visi.com); Jon Schneider; ' (josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us)'; (nfeeken@tnc.org); (nick.frohnauer@state.mn.us); (pat.rivers@state.mn.us); (westcom@brainerd.net); (rich_johnson@tnc.org); (rbiske@tnc.org); (richard.f.peterson@state.mn.us); (tabor.hoek@state.mn.us); (thomashowes@fdlrez.com); (tim.koehler@state.mn.us); (wjulien@peoplepc.com); (bdswd@frontiernet.net); Wilson, Grant (DNR)
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