

Lessard - Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

June 16, 2010

Room 5, State Office Building Meeting Summary

Members Present:

Chair Michael Kilgore
Ryan Bronson
Jim Cox

Sen. Lisa Fobbe
Rep. Rick Hansen
David Hartwell

Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen
Darby Nelson
Scott Rall (phone)

Members Absent: Les Bensch Wayne Enger Rep. Bob Gunther

Call to order

Chair Kilgore called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. A quorum was present.

Review and approve agenda

Motion by D. Hartwell to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Becker provided an update to Council members on his recent meetings in Greater Minnesota. He also described two member authorized travel/speaking opportunities. Upcoming opportunities are a Joint Powers Natural Resource Board meeting on June 28th in Bemidji and a Red River Basin Watershed Flood Reduction Work Group on June 23rd in Detroit Lakes. Member will have to notify Sandy if they wish to join either of these meetings.

Decision Item: Administrative Budget review and approval, ML 2010, Ch. 361, Art. 1, Sec. 2., Subd. 6(b). Mr. Becker reviewed the details of the administrative budget and reminded members this was as testified in hearings as part of the recommendations process. Chair Kilgore asked questions about the possible addition of staff if needed in the budget. Mr. Becker stated there was not enough money as appropriated in the FY12 budget for additional staff, however there is a carry-forward of \$251,000. Mr. Becker is monitoring the work load carefully and taking into consideration the work involved with the 25 year plan, two years of funded projects, and the FY 12 cycle.. Per the request of Sen. Ingebrigtsen, Mr. Becker was asked to report on the administrative budget and staff in the LCCMR office. Rep. Hansen stated that with the state budget shortfall and more cuts and possible layoffs expected, the addition of LSOHC staff would not be looked upon favorably.

Motion by R. Bronson to approve the administrative budget as presented. Motion adopted.

Presentation: Natural Resource Land (DNR)

Jim Nobles and John Yunker, Office of the Legislative Auditor, presented the Natural Resource Land audit report and answered questions posed by members.

Update: LSOHC 25 Year Plan Process (1:32:05)

Judy Grew, MMB, Management Analysis and Development, updated members on the progress of the data collection and working group assignments. Rep. Hansen suggested that a "good government" monitoring group such as League of Woman Voters monitor the activity and influence of this working group. Ms. Grew stressed the analytical nature of the framework development and analysis that this working group is gathering. This group is not deciding on spending priorities, as that is the work of the Council. Ms. Grew also spoke to the neutrality of MMB as being an objective facilitator much like the Office of the Legislator Auditor function.

Presentation: MN Forest Resource Council and MN Forest Resource Partnership (1:42:21)

Al Sullivan and Robert Sonnenberg presented the work of the MFRC and MFRP. Their hope is that this work will help supplement the work of LSOHC especially as it moves forward in development of the 25 year plan.

Decision Item: FY2011 Accomplishment Plan Approvals (1:54:39)

Motion by Rep. Hansen to approve the Accomplishment Plans on the Consent List (below), contingent upon program managers filing the following items with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council: 1) A copy of

the written communication with the MCC considering possible use of their services for restoration and enhancement work; 2) a description of the land acquisition parcel selection process; 3) an easement stewardship plan if required by Laws of Minnesota 2010, Chapter 361, Article 1, Section 2; and 4) a signed acknowledgement that the program manager will comply with all applicable laws and statutes including but not limited to Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 97A.056, Subd. 9. Lands in public domain. Motion adopted.

- 2(a) Accelerated Prairie Grassland Restoration and Enhancement Program on DNR Lands
- 2(c) Prairie Heritage Fund - Acquisition and Restoration
- 2(d) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Protection
- 2(e) Rum River - Cedar Creek Initiative
- 3(c) Little Nokasippi River Wildlife Management Area
- 3(e) Northeastern Minnesota Sharp-Tailed Grouse Habitat
- 4(a) Accelerated Shallow Lake and Wetland Enhancement and Restoration Program
- 4(b) Accelerate the Waterfowl Production Area Program in Minnesota
- 4(c) Reinvest in Minnesota Wetlands Reserve Program Acquisition and Restoration
- 5(a) Metro Big Rivers Habitat Program
- 5(b) Accelerated Aquatic Management Area Acquisition
- 5(c) Cold Water River and Stream Restoration, Protection, and Enhancement
- 5(e) Valley Creek Protection Partnership
- 5(f) Anoka Sand Plain Restoration and Enhancement
- 5(g) Lower Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Acceleration
- 5(h) Washington County St. Croix River Land Protection
- 5(i) Outdoor Heritage Conservation Partners Grant Program

Members called up the following accomplishment plans from the hearing list.

3(d) Accelerated Forest Wildlife Habitat Program (2:01:23)

Peggy Booth and Cynthia Osmundson, DNR answered question posed by members about costs associated with enhancement work, specifically burn costs and hydro axing.

Motion by D. Hartwell to 3(d) Accelerated Forest Wildlife Habitat Program, contingent upon program managers filing the following items with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council: 1) A copy of the written communication with the MCC considering possible use of their services for restoration and enhancement work; 2) a description of the land acquisition parcel selection process; 3) an easement stewardship plan if required by Laws of Minnesota 2010, Chapter 361, Article 1, Section 2; 4) a signed acknowledgement that the program manager will comply with all applicable laws and statutes including but not limited to Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 97A.056, Subd. 9. Lands in public domain; and 5) provision of a list of detailed parcel activity descriptions as part of the accomplishment plan for staff approval. Motion adopted.

2(f) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project (2:23:14)

Tom Landwehr, The Nature Conservancy, answered questions posed by members regarding the lack of permanent protection on land held by The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Landwehr reviewed a handout provided to members on the principal concepts of the proposal to LSOHC and answered questions posed by members.

Motion by D. Nelson to approve 2(f) the Minnesota Prairie Recovery Program contingent upon submission to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council of a revised Accomplishment Plan, 1) pledging to "provide semi-annual income and expenditure statements to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council in a form prescribed by the Council", 2) affirming that "The Nature Conservancy will pay property taxes on all lands acquired with OHF dollars appropriated in Laws of Minnesota 2010, Chapter 361, Article 1, Section 2, subdivision 2(f)", and 3) acknowledging that "restoration and enhancement will be limited to land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership or in public waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes 103G.005, subdivision 15 or interest in land acquired using funds appropriated in Laws of Minnesota 2010, Chapter 361, Article 1, Section 2, subdivision 2(f)," and contingent upon program managers filing the following items with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council: 1) A copy of the written communication with the MCC considering possible use of their services for restoration and enhancement work; 2) a description of the land acquisition parcel selection process; 3) an easement stewardship plan if required by Laws of Minnesota 2010, Chapter 361, Article 1, Section 2; and 4) a signed acknowledgement that the program manager will comply with all applicable laws and statutes including, but not limited to, Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 97A.056,

Subd. 9. Lands in public domain. Motion adopted.

3(a) Critical Shoreline Habitat Protection Program (2:55:50)

Kris Larson, Minnesota Land Trust, answered question posed by members regarding the high cost of easement relative to other easement programs. Mr. Larson provided a letter and packet of information to the Council answering easement stewardship questions.

Motion by D. Hartwell to 3(a) Critical Shoreline Habitat Protection Program, contingent upon program managers filing the following items with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council: 1) A copy of the written communication with the MCC considering possible use of their services for restoration and enhancement work; 2) a description of the land acquisition parcel selection process; 3) an easement stewardship plan if required by Laws of Minnesota 2010, Chapter 361, Article 1, Section 2; 4) a signed acknowledgement that the program manager will comply with all applicable laws and statutes including but not limited to Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 97A.056, Subd. 9. Lands in public domain; and 5) a copy of the signed agreement with DNR setting the amounts to be paid to Minnesota Land Trust for stewardship. Motion adopted.

3(b) Protect Key Industrial Forest Land Tracts in Central Minnesota (3:07:19)

Joshua Stevenson, Cass County, answered questions posed by members regarding how these parcels protect, restore, enhance.

Motion by Rep. Hansen to table until the August 16th Council meeting when more information regarding updated parcel information can be brought back to the Council. Motion adopted.

2(b) The Green Corridor Legacy Program (3:15:40)

Brad Cobb, Green Corridor Initiative, answered questions posed by members regarding personnel cost issues value you bring to the project as the manager.

Motion by Sen. Ingebrigtsen to approve 2(b) The Green Corridor Legacy Program, contingent upon program managers filing the following items with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council: 1) A copy of the written communication with the MCC considering possible use of their services for restoration and enhancement work; 2) a description of the land acquisition parcel selection process; 3) an easement stewardship plan if required by Laws of Minnesota 2010, Chapter 361, Article 1, Section 2; 4) a signed acknowledgement that the program manager will comply with all applicable laws and statutes including but not limited to Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 97A.056, Subd. 9. Lands in public domain. Motion adopted.

5(d) Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection and Restoration (3:21:41)

Al Singer, Dakota County, answered question posed by members regarding the personnel table out of alignment with Budget table.

Motion by D. Hartwell to approve 5(d) Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection and Restoration Program contingent upon submission to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council of a revised Accomplishment Plan showing \$140,000.00 budgeted for personnel and \$0.00 budgeted for contracts, and contingent upon program managers filing the following items with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council: 1) A copy of the written communication with the MCC considering possible use of their services for restoration and enhancement work; 2) a description of the land acquisition parcel selection process; 3) an easement stewardship plan if required by Laws of Minnesota 2010, Chapter 361, Article 1, Section 2; and 4) a signed acknowledgement that the program manager will comply with all applicable laws and statutes including but not limited to Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 97A.056, Subd. 9. Lands in public domain. Motion adopted.

Adjournment

Chair Kilgore adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

APPROVED:

Mike Kilgore, Chair

Date

Darby Nelson, Secretary

Date