

Lessard - Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
Meeting Summary  
**September 20, 2011**

**Members Present:**

Les Bensch (phone)  
Ryan Bronson  
Jim Cox  
Wayne Enger

Chair David Hartwell  
Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen  
Jane Kingston  
Rep. Leon Lillie

Rep. Denny McNamara  
Scott Rall  
Ron Schara  
Sen. Tom Saxhaug

**Members Absent:**

none

**Call to order:** Call to order at 8:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Review and approve agenda:** Motion by W. Enger to approve the agenda. Motion adopted.

**Review and Approve Minutes: September 7 & 8, 2011:** Motion by R. Schara to approve the minutes. Motion adopted.

**Members report any Conflict of Interest on Today's Agenda**

J. Cox – HA 02 – Metro Big Rivers Habitat, Phase III -- sits on the board on the National Wildlife Refuge Trust and will not be participating in the discussion of that project.

J. Kingston – PA 04 - Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project, Phase III and PA07 - Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition -- is a former The Nature Conservancy Trustee and might be a perception of conflict of interest and will not be participating in the discussion of that project.

**Executive Director's Report**

There are no more advances needed by Great River Greening and all payments have been completed. Heather Koop provided an update on status of 2009 and 2010 appropriations.

**Presentation/Discussion: Aquatic Invasive Task Force Recommendations (00:07:48)**

Tim Schlagenhaft, DNR and Dr. John Anfinson, National Park Service (NPS) / Mississippi National River Recreational Area (MNRRA), and Steve Hirsh, DNR presented an update on the task force report and answered questions posed by members.

**Discussion: Consideration of Funding for Aquatic Invasive Species / Next Steps (01:06:11)**

Members discussed consideration funding for AIS from the Outdoor Heritage Fund and the effectiveness of the barrier, permitting, and entities involved in various options. The Council also heard from Bob Meier, DNR, on the Commissioner of DNR's request for funding and steps to protect Minnesota habitat from aquatic invasive species.

**Decision: Allocation and Recommendation Funding Process (1:23:01)**

Motion by D. Hartwell to appropriate money to those receiving 9 or more members support as indicated on page 1 of spreadsheet. Motion passed. (12-0)

(1:40:06) Motion by J. Cox to increase funding for P RE 01- DNR Prairie/Grassland Habitat Restoration and Enhancement to the fully requested amount of \$4,440,767. Motion passed (11-1)

Motion by R. Bronson to increase funding to W RE 02 - Wetland and Shallow Lake Enhancement to \$4.0 million and accepted an amendment from D. Hartwell to complete the work in 3 years. Motion adopted (12-0)

(1:47:47) Motion by L. Bensch to fund H RE 03 - Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration at \$2.0 million, accepted a friendly amendment by S. Rall to increase to \$2.4 million. Motion adopted (11-1)

(1:56:00) Motion by W. Enger to fund F RE 02- Minnesota Moose Habitat Collaborative at \$3.0 million, accepted a friendly amendment by R. Bronson to fund at \$1.0 million. Rep. McNamara requested that the Minnesota Deer Hunters work in consultation with DNR to determine the best use this money for consolidated habitat area. Motion passed (9-3)

(2:15:30) Members discussed the merits of F A 05 - Conservation Easements in the Avon Hills using MMAPLE.

(2:22:12) Motion by R. Bronson to fund FA07 - Protect (Acquire) Key Forest Habitat Lands Cass County, FA01 -

Protecting Mississippi River Corridor Habitat ACUB Partnership, and HA03 - Riparian and Lakeshore Protection/ Management in Dakota County at \$500,000 each. Rep. Lillie requested a higher funding level for the recommendation. W. Enger offered an amendment to fund FA01 at \$1.0 million and FA01 and HA03 at \$700,000 each. Motion on the amendment NOT adopted (6-6). Motion on the R. Bronson original motion passed. (12-0)

(2:32:40) Rep. McNamara expressed concern over the PILT liability created from the acquisition in F A 02 - Mississippi River Northwoods Habitat Complex Protection specifically and generally all land acquired by Outdoor Heritage Funds that have a PILT obligation. Members discussed the county having ownership of this acquisition.

Members discussed setting some money aside for aquatic invasive species before spending the entire available fund balance.

(3:02:00) Motion by R. Schara to set aside \$8,349,233 (balance) into an aquatic invasive species contingency fund allocated to the DNR, subject to an accomplishment plan approved by the Council. Motion withdrawn.

(3:18:20) Motion by J. Cox to increase funding of F A 02 – Mississippi River Northwoods habitat Complex Protection to the full amount requested of \$14,500,000. J. Kingston noted that \$500,000 was for site development as asked if members were comfortable funding that component. Motion adopted. (10-1)

(3:29:30) Motion by S. Rall to fully fund H RE 01 - Lower St. Louis River Habitat Restoration at \$3,794,000. Rep. Lillie moved to amend and allocate \$4 million to hold for aquatic invasive species and the balance remaining to H RE 01. Motion on the amendment NOT adopted (4-8). Motion on the S. Rall motion adopted. (10-2).

(3:39:20) Motion by R. Bronson to allocate the remaining balance (approx \$2.8 million) to W RE 03 - Marsh Lake Enhancement, accepted a friendly amendment by W. Enger and allocate the full \$400,000 to HR05 - Knife River Habitat Restoration and the balance to W RE 03. It was noted that included in the motion is an approval to cover the \$300,000 in engineering costs that they have yet covered for the Marsh Lake project. Motion adopted. (8-4)

Members discussed funding and options for aquatic invasive species again.

(4:06:11) Motion by W. Enger to reduce WA 01 – RIM WRP Partnership by \$3 million to put money back on the table for reallocation and future consideration, accepted a friendly ? amendment from S. Rall to reduce all projects equally by a percentage needed to reach the \$3 million instead of reducing WA 01. Motion adopted. (11-1)

(4:18:00) Motion by R. Schara to appropriate three million dollars to DNR for expenditure to protect aquatic habitat from asian carp or as recommended by the aquatic invasive species taskforce and approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. This appropriation must be matched one dollar to one dollar if used on state boundary waters. Motion adopted. (10-2)

(4:28:10) Motion by R. Bronson to adopt the final appropriation recommendations as amended. Motion adopted. (12-0)

**(4:31:07) Decision: UPM Blandin / MN Power Utility Easement Change**

Motion by W. Enger to approve the DNR's request to convert eased lands as described in the letter from Richard Peterson, dated, Sept. 6, 2011. Motion adopted. (12-0)

**(4:41:24) Decision: Approve Accomplishment Plan for Contract Management - ML 2011, First Special Session, Ch. 6, Art. 1, Sec. 2 Subd 6(a)**

Motion by Jim Cox to approve Accomplishment Plan for Contract Management, MN Laws 2011, First Special Session, Ch. 6, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 6(a). Motion adopted. (12-0)

**Opportunity for Public to Address the Council - none**

**Adjournment (04:42:43)**

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

APPROVED: