

Lessard - Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Meeting Summary
December 12, 2013

Members Present:

Bob Anderson	Jane Kingston	Sen. Tom Saxhaug
Jim Cox	Rep. Denny McNamara	Ron Schara
David Hartwell, Chair	Sue Olson	Elizabeth Wilkens
Rep. Rick Hansen	Scott Rall	

Members Absent: Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen

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

Review and approve agenda: Motion by S. Olson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion adopted.

Review and approve minutes: Motion by J. Kingston to approve the November 14, 2013 minutes as presented. Motion adopted.

Members Report any Conflict of Interest on Today's Agenda

No new conflicts were noted.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Becker informed members that language addressing haying and grazing language was in the bill and native prairie (MS 84.96) was included in the appropriations bill. He described two letters in the packet that clarified enforcement provisions in OHF contracts. Mr. Becker informed members that the \$50,000 for High Priority Transaction service was included in the bill per last meetings discussion.

(19:30) Action: Review ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5h Protect Aquatic Habitat from Asian Carp

Steve Hirsch and Nick Frohnauer, DNR, presented an update on the program and remaining goals of the program. Pending Congressional legislation to allow closure of the lock and dam at St. Anthony Falls, the DNR will return to the council with an amendment request to the original accomplishment plan.

(38:13) Action: Review and progress ML 2014 accomplishment plans

DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition --Phase VI / Vermillion River WMA Acquisition

Pat Rivers, DNR, provided an update and requested information on the revised accomplishment plan and answered questions posed by members. Members discussed the development of the proposed trail on the WMA, restoration after the gravel removal is complete, and wetland reclamation by Cemstone.

(1:11:34) Preventing Forest Fragmentation and Protecting and Restoring Lake and Stream Habitat in the St. Louis River Watershed

Thomas Howes and Reid LeBeau, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa provided an update and requested information on the revised accomplishment plan and answered questions posed by members.

Members discussed trust status, transfer and ownership of land, hunting and fishing regulations and wolf hunting regulations on the proposed land to be purchased.

(1:37:23) Evaluate Effectiveness of AIS Prevention Strategies, Initiative Foundation

Don Hickman of the Initiative Foundation provided an update, explained the requested information on the revised accomplishment plan and answered questions posed by members. In addition, testimony was heard from DNR on the support for the project and Joe Schneider from MN COLA testified on his involvement in the development of the proposal. Members discussed the match association with this proposal.

(1:51:35) Information: Forecast and allocation of surplus

Michelle Mitchell, Executive Budget Officer, MN Management & Budget, provided a pre-February forecast update to members stating there was an additional \$5.638 million due to increased estimates in sales tax and FY13 cancellations/carry forward increases. She stated that MMB recommends a 5-10% reserve balance, with a 10% balance there would be \$759,000 reserve balance.

(1:55:40) Members discussed appropriating the additional \$5.638 million and the results of the members' subsequent allocation selections and process for allocation the funds. Members discussed making the additional recommendations now or waiting to do so during session. Members decided to move forward with spending the \$5.638 million to be included with the recommendation that is due to the Speaker and Majority Leader by January . Members had a discussion on the projects that members had selected for additional recommendations. Chair Hartwell wanted to make sure there was ample discussion by all members. Motion by Rep Hansen that each member be allotted \$500,000 in additional recommendation dollars; members would make motions in the opposite order of the original round robin process that was held on Sept. 20. S. Rall made a friendly amendment to the motion that the additional money not be recommended for more than two projects. Amendment adopted. Motion adopted.

(2:29:15) Motion by Chair Hartwell to recommend an additional \$500,000 to FA-8: Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration -- Phase II. Motion passed.

Motion by B. Anderson to recommend an additional \$500,000 to FA-3: Camp Ripley ACUB. Motion passed.

Motion by J. Kingston to recommend an additional \$250,000 to PA-3: Prairie Recovery Project, Phase V. Motion passed.

Motion by J. Kingston to recommend an additional \$250,000 to WA-2: Accelerating the WPA Program, Phase VI. Motion passed.

Motion by S. Rall to recommend an additional \$500,000 to PA-2: Accelerating the WMA Program, Phase VI. Motion passed.

Motion by S. Olson to recommend an additional \$500,000 to FA-8: Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration -- Phase II. Motion passed.

Motion by R. Schara to recommend \$500,000 to WA-1: RIM-WRP Partnership, Phase VI. Motion passed.

Motion by E. Wilkens to recommend \$250,000 to CPL-1. Motion passed.

Motion by E. Wilkens to recommend \$250,000 to CPL-2 (Metro Grant Program). Motion passed.

Motion by Rep. Hansen to recommend \$110,000 to CPL-2 (Metro Grant Program). Motion passed.

Motion by Rep. Hansen to recommend \$390,000 to HAIS-4: Evaluating the effectiveness of AIS Prevention Strategies. Motion passed.

Motion by Sen. Saxhaug to recommend \$250,000 to PA-3: Prairie Recovery Project, Phase V. Motion passed.

Motion by Sen. Saxhaug to recommend \$250,000 to HRE-2: St. Louis River Restoration Initiative, Phase II. Motion passed.

Motion by Rep. McNamara to recommend \$200,000 to FA-3: Camp Ripley ACUB. Motion passed.

Motion by Rep. McNamara to recommend \$300,000 to FRE-2: Floodplain Forest Enhancement – Mississippi River. Motion passed.

Motion by J. Cox to recommend \$500,000 to FA-3: Camp Ripley ACUB. Motion passed.

Motion by Chair Hartwell to recommend the remaining \$138,000 to WA-2: Accelerating the WPA Program, Phase VI. Motion passed. Staff suggested rounding the dollar amount. Council members agreed.

(2:47:25) Action: Recommendation bill approval

Ms. Koop reviewed the appropriation recommendations bill with members.

(3:08:31) S. Rall raised the issue that the prairie priority mandate should include “all other factors being relatively equal” His concern is that priority may be given to a degraded native prairie rather than a more substantial larger piece of connective habitat. Members discussed losing acres to the plow, reviewed the administrative rules pertaining to prairie, and focused on native prairie as a priority. Members heard testimony from DNR on seeding practices of native prairie restoration. S. Rall suggested incorporating into the recommendations bill language referencing MN Administrative Rule 6136.0900 Native Prairie Bank Eligibility Requirements and additional recommendations as previously motioned by members. The Council had additional discussion on match requirements for projects

(3:29:16) Motion by R. Schara to edit the language for 5 (k) Evaluate Effectiveness of AIS Prevention Strategies

“\$3,650,000 in the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Central Minnesota Initiative Fund to develop a series of pilot projects to enhance aquatic habitat by preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. All pilot projects must be conducted on a reimbursement basis and require a ~~one to one~~ 50% match of non-outdoor heritage fund dollars. A

required evaluation of results must be funded with non-outdoor heritage fund dollars. A list of pilot projects must be included in the required final report. “

Motion failed. Division requested: 5-yes, 6-no

Motion by S. Rall to edit the language for 5 (k) Evaluate Effectiveness of AIS Prevention Strategies \$3,650,000 in the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Central Minnesota Initiative Fund to develop a series of pilot projects to enhance aquatic habitat by preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. All pilot projects must be conducted on a reimbursement basis and require a ~~one-to-one~~ match of non-outdoor heritage fund dollars. A required evaluation of results must be funded with non-outdoor heritage fund dollars. A list of pilot projects must be included in the required final report.

Motion passed.

Motion by S. Rall to approve the bill as presented with the additional allocation recommendations, inclusion of language referencing MN Administrative Rule 6136.0900 Native Prairie Bank Eligibility Requirements. Rall’s motion authorized the Chair and Vice Chair to review the revised accomplishment plans and the completion of the final bill language related to those projects. Any issues must be brought back to the Council. Motion passed.

Rep. Hansen requested a roll call vote:

Bob Anderson – yes, with reservations	Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen - absent	Sen. Tom Saxhaug - yes
Jim Cox - yes	Jane Kingston - yes	Ron Schara - yes
David Hartwell - yes	Rep. Denny McNamara - yes	Elizabeth Wilkens - yes
Rep. Rick Hansen - yes	Sue Olson - yes	
	Scott Rall - yes	

Motion passed (11-0).

(3:41:35) Action: Biennial vs. annual council recommendation

Ralph Brown & Kirby Anne Pitman, MAD summarized the findings of the recommendation process.

Motion by S. Rall to approve the draft letter to legislative leadership recommending that the annual appropriation recommendations cycle remain as stipulated in MN 97A.056, Subd. 3a. Motion passed.

(3:44:40) Update: Call for Funding Request and Review of 25 Year Plan

Charlie Petersen, MAD provided an update on the process, summaries of conversations and answered questions posted by members.

Opportunity for Public to Address the Council

The Council heard testimony from two people.

1) Les Bensch, Ashby, MN, testified on: 1) an update to members on the Ottertail County no net-gain resolution and the information plan that has provided an element of cooperation with the public; 2)

status of the enforcement of the buffer statute, 6020; 3) opposition to the Fond du Lac proposal, specifically the land management aspect and control being with the State and handling of the land transfer.

2) Bob Austin, New Prague testified in support of the annual appropriation cycl;, opposition to AIS funding and directing those efforts to the Clean Water fund; and opposition to the Metro CPL “parks” program funding and directing those efforts to the Parks and Trails funds.

(3:45:33) Meeting adjourned at 12:07 a.m.

APPROVED:

Susan Olson, Secretary

Date