

**Lessard - Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Meeting Summary
February 13, 2014**

Members Present:

Bob Anderson	Rep. Rick Hansen	Sue Olson
Jim Cox	Jane Kingston	Ron Schara
David Hartwell, Chair	Rep. Denny McNamara (phone)	Elizabeth Wilkens (phone)

Members Absent: Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen, Scott Rall, Sen. Tom Saxhaug

Call to order: Call to order at 8:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

Review and approve agenda:

Motion by J. Cox to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Review and approve minutes:

Motion by J. Kingston to approve the 1/16/2014 minutes as presented.

Bob Anderson – yes	David Hartwell - yes	Sue Olson - yes
Jim Cox - yes	Jane Kingston - yes	Ron Schara – yes
Rep. Rick Hansen - yes	Rep. Denny McNamara - yes	Elizabeth Wilkens - yes

Motion passed (7-0).

Members Report any Conflict of Interest on Today's Agenda

No new conflicts were noted.

Executive Director's Report

Director Becker informed members the pre-session OHF appropriations bill was heard yesterday in the House Environment Finance Committee. Rep. Rick Hansen, chief author, updated the council on the hearing. He informed council members the committee discussed emergency haying and grazing, PILT, Wild Rice, Fond du Lac and Vermillion projects. No action was taken on the bill because it was a pre-session hearing. Director Becker provided members a letter from Shell Rock River Watershed District about a substantial shortfall in the Albert Lea Lake Management invasive species control structure. Members discussed funding the shortfall from the general fund or DNR carp barrier monies. Mr. Becker updated the council on the USDA farm bill indicating the wetlands reserve program (WRP) was not approved in the bill. To take this into account, changes to the BWSR appropriation language will be made to reflect the new structure at the United States Department of Agriculture. A similar program with a match will be sought in lieu of the WRP program. Mr. Becker informed members has set a retirement date of January 2015, and will effectively be out of the office mid-November using the remaining of his vacation. Chair Hartwell provided members an update on the hiring process discussed with LCC.

(33:11) Presentation on Outdoor Recreation System (86.A) MN Natural Resource Management Framework - Bob Meier,

DNR Various staff of the DNR presented an overview of the purpose, uses, regulations, and planning of the land management units of the outdoor recreation system. The purpose of this was to familiarize the members with the intended use and approach to habitat in the various units in the system

(1:45:23) Action: Amendment Request - ML 2011, First Sp. Session, Ch. 6, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(b) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and enhancement on DNR lands

Motion by J. Kingston to approve the amendment retroactively to July 1, 2011 as presented which includes minor corrections to sectional priorities and outcomes, changes in timeline, changes in budget items and parcel list acreage.

Bob Anderson – yes
Jim Cox - no
Rep. Rick Hansen - yes

David Hartwell - yes
Jane Kingston - yes
Rep. Denny McNamara - yes

Sue Olson - yes
Ron Schara – yes
Elizabeth Wilkens - yes

Motion passed (8-1).

(1:52:39) Action: ML 2009, DNR Forestry conversion approval - Dick Peterson, DNR

Motion by J. Kingston to approve the conversion as presented and direct the deposit of the proceeds into the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Bob Anderson – yes
Jim Cox - yes
Rep. Rick Hansen - yes

David Hartwell - yes
Jane Kingston - yes
Rep. Denny McNamara - yes

Sue Olson - yes
Ron Schara – yes
Elizabeth Wilkens - yes

Motion passed (9-0).

Discussion: Council Procedure on conversion

Council members agreed to continue reviewing and approving conversions as they come up.

(1:57:14) Update: Working Group – Direct support services authorization and limits

Jim Cox provided members a handout with various excerpts from documents assessing or demonstrating Direct Support Services Calculations and a proposed a budget spreadsheet to be filled out by applicants and included in requests for the ML 2015 recommendations bill

(2:05:37) Public Comment on FY 16 Call for Funding Request

Testimony was heard from Dominic Cerisi of Mendota Heights who spoke of the water milfoil problem on Bay Lake. He emphasized his support for AIS funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Action: Approval of FY 16 Call for Funding Request

Members reviewed comments submitted and made the following changes to the Call.

Page 3, section 2

1. ~~Complete~~ Substantial completion of the project in three years or less. Specific programs may be extended to five years; and

Page 4, Item 10

10. Does the proposal fully describe and quantify in detail how the requested funding supplements - and does not substitute - customary or usual funding sources? ~~Simplified budget for like activities over the past five years or since inception is required.~~

As a priority for each LSOHC planning section priorities add: “Protect from long term or permanent endangerment from invasive species”.

Page 8, paragraph 1 under Metro Urbanizing Vision

“The Council’s vision for the Metropolitan Urbanizing Section is the protection ~~through fee and easement acquisition~~ of a network of natural lands...”

Page 8, paragraph 2 under Metro Urbanizing Vision

“The Section’s game lakes will be significant contributors of waterfowl production, due to efforts to protect uplands adjacent to game lakes.”

Page 9, last bullet

- “Game lakes are significant contributors of waterfowl population, due to efforts to protect uplands adjacent to game lakes (# impaired lakes, evidence of lake use/success....nesting success, etc.) “

Page 13, under Timing

“Reimbursable expenses may be incurred on or after July 1, 2015 ~~2014~~, or the date on which the L-SOHC approves the accomplishment plan, whichever is later.”

Include in the call language referring to MS 84.973 Honey Bee Habitat Program, that was passed in 2013.

2013 Minnesota Statutes

84.973 POLLINATOR HABITAT PROGRAM.

(a) The commissioner shall develop best management practices and habitat restoration guidelines for pollinator habitat enhancement. Best management practices and guidelines developed under this section must be used for all habitat enhancement or restoration of lands under the commissioner's control.

(b) Prairie restorations conducted on state lands or with state funds must include an appropriate diversity of native species selected to provide habitat for pollinators throughout the growing season.

History:

2013 c 114 art 4 s 12

Motion by S. Olson to approve the changes to the Call as discussed.

Bob Anderson – yes

Jim Cox - yes

Rep. Rick Hansen - yes

David Hartwell - yes

Jane Kingston - yes

Rep. Denny McNamara - yes

Sue Olson - yes

Ron Schara – yes

Elizabeth Wilkens - yes

Motion passed (9-0).

Members discussed the inclusion of any change to the direct support service in the call. It was determined that the Call would remain as is, members then discussed including the worksheet handed out by J Cox in the request form and accomplishment plan. Testimony was heard from the following: Amanda Graeber, DNR who stated that as the DNR reimburses NGO per the contract this work is already being completed, Grant Wilson, DNR who said they would be fine with the inclusion of this, Neal Feeken, The Nature Conservancy said that it was fine as it is similar to what they have already submitted and been approved for.

Motion by Rep. McNamara to maintain the current approach to direct support services as change is unnecessary and requires no further staff effort.

Bob Anderson – yes

Jim Cox - no

Rep. Rick Hansen - yes

David Hartwell - no

Jane Kingston - no

Rep. Denny McNamara - yes

Sue Olson - yes

Ron Schara – no

Elizabeth Wilkens - yes

Motion passed (5-4).

Members agreed to review the scoring criteria and method at the next meeting.

Opportunity for Public to Address the Council

no additional public comment was heard

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

APPROVED:

Susan Olson, Secretary

Date