

Lessard - Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Meeting Summary
August 5, 2014

Members Present:

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

Members Absent: none

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

Executive Director Interviews

Chair Hartwell recognized the members of the initial interview panel and the process of receiving applications, the initial interviewing of 6 semi-finalists, and the determination to forward 2 finalists for interview today. Greg Hubinger, Director of the Legislative Coordinating Commission, outlined the types of questions members may ask during the interview process. Members discussed the process used to come to the two candidates before them, the interview questions, and the possibility of interviewing additional candidates. Members discussed not interviewing the two candidates before them today but rather wait and interview three finalists instead at a future date.

(53:30) Motion by S. Rall to interview the 5 first round candidates. Roll call requested.

Bob Anderson - yes	Rep. Rick Hansen - no	Scott Rall - yes
Jim Cox - yes	Jane Kingston - no	Sen. Tom Saxhaug - no
David Hartwell - no	Rep. Denny McNamara - no	Ron Schara - yes
Sen. Ingebrigtsen - yes	Sue Olson - no	Elizabeth Wilkens - no

Motion failed (7-no, 5-yes)

(54:30) Motion by J. Kingston to interview the 3 semi-finalists candidates. Roll call requested.

Bob Anderson - yes	Rep. Rick Hansen - no	Scott Rall - yes
Jim Cox - no	Jane Kingston - yes	Sen. Tom Saxhaug - no
David Hartwell - no	Rep. Denny McNamara - no	Ron Schara - yes
Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen - no	Sue Olson - no	Elizabeth Wilkens - no

Motion failed (8-no, 4-yes)

Members discussed the interview questions before them and members were asked that any additional questions that they may want to ask be put on paper and passed to the chair for review. (59:00) Sen. Ingebrigtsen stated his opposition to moving forward with the interviews and said that he was excusing himself and would not participate in the interview process but would be part of the rest of the meeting. Members S. Rall and J. Cox also left the room and did not to participate.

(59:35) Recess was requested by Rep. McNamara to reconvene at the discretion of the Chair. Chair Hartwell called a recess.

After reconvening, Chair Hartwell discussed how to proceed with the three members refusing to participate in the interview process. Members discussed moving forward with the process. Rep. Hansen recommended moving forward with the interviews of the two waiting candidates.

(1:05:40) Motion by Senator Saxhaug to reconsider the motion by J. Kingston to interview 3 semi-finalists candidates. Roll call requested.

Bob Anderson - yes	Rep. Rick Hansen - no	Scott Rall - absent
Jim Cox - absent	Jane Kingston - yes	Sen. Tom Saxhaug - yes
David Hartwell - yes	Rep. Denny McNamara - yes	Ron Schara - yes
Sen. Ingebrigtsen - absent	Sue Olson - no	Elizabeth Wilkens - yes

Motion to reconsider passed. (2-no, 7-yes, 3-absent)

Recording interruption

B. Anderson offered an amendment to the reconsidered motion by J. Kingston to interview 3 semi-finalists candidates to include 5 first-round candidates instead of 3 semi-finalist candidates. Roll call requested.

Bob Anderson - yes	Rep. Rick Hansen - no	Scott Rall - absent
Jim Cox - absent	Jane Kingston - no	Sen. Tom Saxhaug - no
David Hartwell - no	Rep. Denny McNamara - no	Ron Schara - no
Sen. Ingebrigtsen - absent	Sue Olson - no	Elizabeth Wilkens - no

Amendment to the motion failed. (8-no, 1-yes, 3-absent)

Reconsideration of the motion by J. Kingston to interview 3 semi-finalists. Rep. McNamara included clarification of the three current semi-finalists, but not to interview different candidates if the two current ones drop out. Roll call requested.

Bob Anderson - yes	Rep. Rick Hansen - no	Scott Rall - absent
Jim Cox - absent	Jane Kingston - yes	Sen. Tom Saxhaug - yes
David Hartwell - yes	Rep. Denny McNamara - yes	Ron Schara - yes
Sen. Ingebrigtsen - absent	Sue Olson - no	Elizabeth Wilkens - yes

Amendment to the motion passed. (2-no, 7-yes, 3-absent)

Review and approve agenda:

Motion by Senator Saxhaug to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Review and approve minutes:

Motion by Senator Saxhaug to approve the 6/17/2014 minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Members Report any Conflict of Interest on Today's Agenda

Members were given a sheet outlining the three possible conflicts.

Susan Olson - Past president of Mower County Pheasant Forever for approximately 8 years. Ms Olson took a voluntary 12-month recusal on Pheasants Forever projects which has expired.

Jim Cox - Past member of MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust and left that position over 1-year ago. Having recused himself Mr Cox can participate in HA-02. If he so chooses he may recuse himself from this proposal. Historically, members have been recused for 1-year following similar board service.

David Hartwell - Mr. Hartwell is on the National Audubon Board and Board of Belwin Conservancy. The Conservancy has received CPL grant in past. He may recuse himself on discussion of CPL and the Audubon related proposals PA-10 and CPL-1 and CPL-2. Members agreed that this was only a perceived conflict and that because of the extra level at which the CPL grants are vetted. His full participation is approved.

(00:06:13) Executive Director's Report

Bill Becker provided background information on partnership letters provided for NAWCA grant funds being sought by Pheasants Forever.

(14:33) Presentation: Impact of Commodity Prices on Agriculture and Forest Land Prices

Steve Taff, Dept. of Applied Economics, U of M presented to the Council and answered questions posed by members.

(1:07:22) Decision: Accomplishment Plan Amendment Parcel List addition - Houlton tract

ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd 5(b) Metro Big Rivers, Phase III

ML 2011, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 6, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd 5(d) Metro Big Rivers, Phase II

Bob McGillivray, Trust for Public Land, Dave Anderson and Mike Hecker, City of Elk River presented the amendment and answered questions posed by members. Motion by S. Rall to approve the amendment as presented. Motion passed.

-Recess for lunch-

(1:50:44) Decision: Accomplishment Plan Amendment Parcel additions of publicly owned land in Kittson and Roseau counties - ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(b) Prairie Recovery Project, Phase III

Neal Feeken, The Nature Conservancy presented the accomplishment plan amendment and answered questions posed by members. Motion by S. Rall to approve the amendment as presented. Motion passed.

(1:56:42) Decision: Acquisition of Tax Forfeited Land in Pennington County

M 2013, Ch. 137, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(c) WMA, SNA Native Prairie Bank Easement, Phase V

Pat Rivers, DNR presented the parcel land request to the Council. Motion by S. Rall to approve the purchase of the parcels as described. Motion adopted.

(2:02:57) Decision: Accomplishment Plan Amendment

ML 2014, Ch. 256, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(m) CPL Grant Program – Phase VI

ML 2014, Ch. 256, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(n) CPL Metro Grant Program

Jessica Lee, DNR, presented the amendment to members and answered questions. Motion by Sen. Saxhaug to

approve the amendment as presented. Motion passed.

(2:06:02) Update: Impacts of WRRDA on OHF Appropriations

ML 2012, Ch. 264, Article 1, Section 2 , Subd. 4(f) Marsh Lake Enhancements

Ricky Lien, DNR provided an update on the Marsh Lake program.

(2:18:18) Presentation: Accomplishment Plan Amendment - ML 2012, Ch. 264, Article 1, Section 2 , Subd. 5(h) Protect Aquatic Habitat from Asian Carp

Nick Frohnauer, DNR, provided an update on the aquatic invasive species barrier project.

Motion by S. Rall to approve \$430,000 to DNR Fisheries to complete barriers in SW MN identified in the original proposal but costing more than what was estimated and \$2,271,513 for additional carp exclusion projects in the MN River watershed. Motion passed.

(2:46:05) Update: Final reports

Bill Becker updated members on the status of final reports, possible changes to the information required on status report. Mr. Becker also indicated that members would be receiving additional information on the rate of expenditures provided by MMB prior to the next council meeting in September.

(3:00:41) Discussion: Member evaluation and scoring and proposal hearing agenda

Members discussed the evaluation process and suggested the Council review the criteria questions prior to the next appropriation round.

Motion by S. Rall to remove the two requests (HRE 08: Indian Beach Harbor Ecological Enhancement Mission and HRE09: White Bear Lake) submitted that were under \$400,000 and refer them to the CPL program. Motion passed.

Motion by S. Olson to remove WRE 02: Lake Flora Wetland Trail Project as it appears to not have habitat value but be more of a social benefit program. Motion adopted.

Motion by S. Olson to remove HRE 03: Biological Control of Invasive Plants as it does not seem to meet constitutional intent and lacked sufficient benefit to habitat. Motion adopted.

Opportunity for Public to Address the Council

No public comment was heard

Meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

APPROVED:

Susan Olson, Secretary

Date