

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Meeting  
Meeting Summary  
October 7, 2019**

**Members Present**

David Hartwell, Chair  
Ashley Peters  
Tom Saxhaug  
Jamie Swenson

Denny McNamara  
Kristin Eggerling  
Rep. Jamie Becker – Finn  
Rep. Dan Fabian

Mark Holsten  
Ron Schara  
Sen. Andrew Lang  
Sen. David Tomassoni

**Members Absent**

None

**Call to Order:** Call to order at 8:06 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Review and Approve Agenda**

Members discussed modifying; the order of the suggested agenda is as follows (agenda items 1 – 4 remain unchanged): (5) proposal discussion; (6) Chair’s recommendation and allocation selection; (7) approval to acquire land with existing protection; (8) 2020 meeting calendar; (9) election discussion; (10) public input. Motion by Ms. Swenson to approve the modified agenda for October 7, 2019 as presented. **Motion adopted.**

**Review and Approve Minutes – October 7, 2019**

Motion by Rep. Becker-Finn to approve the minutes. **Motion adopted.**

**Conflicts of Interest:**

No conflicts of interest were noted.

**(00:14:15) Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director Mark Johnson provided an update on correspondence in member’s packets and associated meetings as follow-up to items brought up at recent council meetings.

**(00:21:06) Discussion: Proposals and Allocations**

Council members discussed proposals and directed questions to program managers. Members questioned Kris Larson, Minnesota Land Trust, and Kim Berns-Mulhus, Conservation Fund, regarding FA03: Northern Forest Habitat Conservation. Members also questioned Tracy Halstensgard, Roseau River Watershed District, and Randy Prachar, MN Dept. of Natural Resources, about landowner feedback regarding a past appropriation (ML2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(j) Roseau Lake Rehabilitation) and a current proposal (HRE07: Roseau River Habitat Restoration). Mr. Schnitker, Schnitker Law Office, is representing a family from the Roseau area and spoke on their behalf. Members discussed.

**(01:41:57) Action: Chair’s Recommendation and Allocation Selection**

Chair Hartwell present the ML 2020 / FY 2021 Chair’s Allocation Recommendation. Members discussed.

Motion by Chair Hartwell to recommend the Chair's proposal as presented to the ML 2020 legislature, allowing staff to round appropriation amounts as appropriate. **Motion adopted by unanimous voice vote.**

**(01:53:20) Action: Acquire land with existing protection**

Nick Bancks and Wayne Ostlie, Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), explained that MLT would like to pursue the acquisition of a permanent conservation easement over a tract of land in Elba Township, Winona County, MN using their ML 2017 SE MN Protection & Restoration - Phase V appropriation. The land currently has a 45-year CREP easement on 52.5 acres of the 76-acre tract; the CREP easement will expire July 1, 2052. The Minnesota Land Trust notes that the landowner intends to donate the full value of the permanent conservation easement. Outdoor Heritage Fund monies will be used to pay for title work, survey, habitat plan, and easement stewardship.

Motion by Mr. Schara to approve the request by the Minnesota Land Trust, allowing them to proceed with the easement in Elba Township, Winona County. **Motion adopted by unanimous voice vote.**

**(01:58:48) Action: Review and Approve 2020 Calendar**

Council members discussed the draft 2020 meeting schedule requesting the March 27, 2020 meeting be moved to April 29, 2020.

**(02:03:30) Action: Election of Council Officers**

Due to the unexpected passing of Chairman Bob Anderson, the Council discussed the procedure for filling the Chair position on the Executive Committee. Members noted the need to review and update the Council's Operating Procedures to account for future unforeseen vacancies within the Executive Committee. Council members discussed.

The council held elections for the Chair and Vice Chair position.

Nominations for Chair of the Executive Committee were as follows: Sen. David Tomassoni, nominated by Denny McNamara; and, David Hartwell, nominated by Rep. Becker-Finn. David Hartwell was elected Chair of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council with a vote of 8 to 4.

Nominations for Vice Chair of the Executive Committee were as follows: Ron Schara, nominated by David Hartwell. Ron Schara was the only member nominated and was elected as Vice Chair of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council by unanimous voice vote.

**(05:52:15) Opportunity for Public to Address the Council**

Dave Zumeta, former Executive Director of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council, requested the Council give particular consideration to forest birds when reviewing future requests.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

APPROVED: November 21, 2019. A signed copy if on file with LSOHC staff.