

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Meeting**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**December 10, 2019**

**Members Present**

David Hartwell  
Ashley Peters  
Tom Saxhaug  
Jamie Swenson

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

Mark Holsten  
Sen. David Tomassoni  
Sen. Andrew Lang

**Members Absent**

Ron Schara

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

**Review and Approve Agenda**

Motion by Councilmember Swenson to approve agenda with addition of action item to approve 2020 calendar. **Motion Adopted.**

**Review and Approve Minutes – November 21, 2019**

Motion by Councilmember McNamara to approve the minutes for November 21, 2019. **Motion adopted.**

**Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were noted.

**(00:01:03) Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Mark Johnson provided a recap of recent conservation related meetings attended by staff.

**(00:05:00) Discussion / Action: Communication and Outreach** – Council discussed the current Communications & Outreach contract with Russel Herder, the actions taken with this past year and what to do next. Councilmember Peters, Councilmember Eggerling, and Chair Hartwell will work with staff to review the LSOHC Strategic Communication Plan with anticipation to return to the Council at a future meeting with suggested options.

**(00:13:35) Discussion: Setting Agenda items** – Council members discussed subjects for potential future agenda items that they thought may be educational and helpful to them within their roles as LSOHC members. Chair Hartwell and Vice Chair Schara will work with staff to review the ideas and to set future agenda items.

**(01:06:53) Discussion: Prairie Song Farm Restoration** – Dr. Michael Osterholm (Regents Professor, McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair in Public Health, Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research, U of MN), presented to the Council his personal experiences, lessons learned, and successes during his restoration of his farm land in the karst region of NE Iowa. Dr. Osterholm keyed upon his restorations of three stretches of native trout streams and the associated floodplain for those streams. Council questions followed.

**(02:20:45) Discussion: Thoughts from BWSR & DNR Leadership** - Executive Director John Jaschke, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Commissioner Sarah Strommen, MN DNR provided their thoughts to the Council on various issues. Council questions followed.

**(03:14:00) Action: Request for Extension – [ML2017, 3\(a\) Carnelian Creek Conservation Corridor](#)**  
Motion by Councilmember Eggerling to approve the legislative extension of appropriation availability for [ML2017, 3\(a\) Carnelian Creek Conservation Corridor](#) until June 30, 2022 and to increase the monitoring and enforcement fund by \$90,000, to be included in the ML 2020 OHF recommendations bill. **Motion adopted.**

**(03:25:15) Action: Request for Extension – [ML2016, 5\(j\) Roseau Lake Rehabilitation](#)**

Motion by Councilmember Holsten to approve the legislative extension of appropriation availability for ML 2016 5(j), Roseau Lake Rehabilitation until June 30, 2022, to be included in the ML 2020 OHF recommendations bill. **Motion adopted.**

**(03:57:34) Action: Appropriation / Budget Change Request – Easement Monitoring and Enforcement Funds – [ML2019, 5\(a\) St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase I.](#)**

Motion by Councilmember Saxhaug to approve the appropriation amendment for ML 2019 5(a), St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase I to include up to \$20,000 to DNR for deposit in the Natural Resources Conservation Easement Stewardship Account established by MN Statutes section 84.69 for trout stream easements acquired with this appropriation and to be included in the ML 2020 OHF recommendations bill. **Motion adopted.**

**(04:02:35) Information: November Forecast Results & Review** - Sean Fahnhorst, Executive Budget Officer, MN Management & Budget, provided an overview of the November fiscal forecast for OHF, including additional available funds of approximately \$18.2 M for appropriation recommendation by the Council.

**(04:05:40) Action: Approve ML 2020 Bill Language –** Members discussed the additional available funds and agreed upon a method of recommending the funds for added allocation to various project proposals.

Motion by Councilmember Saxhaug to add \$18 M to the Council's ML2020 appropriation recommendations with each member to recommend \$1.5 M in additional allocations to projects. **Motion Adopted with no opposition.**

Clarifying motion by Councilmember Saxhaug that the Council allocate, discuss, and then approve the additional allocations as a package. **Motion Adopted.**

Members individually recommended allocation disbursement of their \$1.5 M additional funds as follows:

- Ron Schara – \$750,000 to PA09 Heron Lake Area Conservation Partnership; \$750,000 to HA05 Accelerating Habitat Conservation in Southwest MN.
- Jamie Swenson – \$1 M to WA02 Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program – Phase IX; \$500,000 to CPL – Phase XII.
- Ashley Peters - \$750,000 to PA07 RIM Grassland Reserve – Phase II; \$750,000 to WA03 Wetland Habitat and Protection Program – Phase V.
- David Hartwell - \$500,000 to HA02 Metro Big Rivers – Phase X; \$500,000 to PA04 Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge – Phase XI; \$500,000 to FA03 Northern Forest Habitat Conservation.
- Tom Saxhaug - \$400,000 to HA02 Metro Big Rivers – Phase X; \$400,000 to HA07 Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project – Phase IV; \$300,000 to CPL – Phase XII; \$400,000 to FA03 Northern Forest habitat Conservation.

- Denny McNamara - \$250,000 to HA02 Metro Big Rivers – Phase X; \$750,000 to PRE01 MN DNR Grassland – Phase XII; \$250,000 to HRE01 MN Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement – Phase XII; \$250,000 to HA06 Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine and Leech Watersheds – Phase I.
- Rep. Becker-Finn - \$500,000 to HA02 Metro Big Rivers – Phase X; \$500,000 to HA07 Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project – Phase IV; \$500,000 to HA06 Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine and Leech Watersheds.
- Mark Holsten - \$500,000 to HA05 Accelerating Habitat Conservation in Southwest MN; \$1 M to FA03 Northern Forest Habitat Conservation.
- Kristin Eggerling - \$250,000 to HA08 Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program – Phase II; \$250,000 to FRE03 Young Forest Conservation - Phase III; \$1 M to PA03 MN Prairie Recovery Program - Phase X.
- Rep. Fabian - \$500,000 to HRE08 Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration - Phase II; \$300,000 to PA09 Heron Lake Area Conservation Partnership; \$400,000 to HRE05 Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program - Phase IX; \$300,000 to HRE07 Roseau River Habitat Restoration.
- Sen. Lang - \$95,000 to HRE06 Phase I: Rum River Wildlife and Fish Habitat Enhancement using Bioengineered Bank Stabilization; \$535,000 to CPL – Phase XII; \$870,000 to FA01 Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape ACUB Protection Program – Phase VIII.
- Sen. Tomassoni - \$35,000 equally to each project with the remaining \$100,000 to CPL – Phase XII.

Motion by Councilmember Lang to amend the clarifying motion that CPL will apply their increase in funds proportionally between state and metro. **Amendment Adopted.**

Motion by Councilmember Saxhaug to approve the ML2020 bill language, subject to the changes to the accomplishment plans and the changes to the amounts as adopted by the Council today, and forward to legislative leadership for consideration during the 2020 session, with staff allowed to make technical edits as necessary. **Motion adopted. 10 members in attendance. No opposition to adoption.**

**(05:10:12) Action: 2020 Council Calendar** – The draft/tentative calendar was discussed and will be posted for 2020. The Council may discuss the calendar at a future meeting for potential adjustments to dates.

**(05:12:35) Opportunity for Public to Address the Council**

Mr. Rick Heller, unofficial representative of twice exceptional and print disabled, spoke to the accessibility of Council materials and website.

**(05:15:50) Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.**

APPROVED:

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David Hartwell, Chair

Date:

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Denny McNamara, Secretary

Date: