

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Proposal Evaluation Scoring Sheet - ML 2027 / FY 2028

Member Name:		John Burkel												
Due Date: Friday, July 17, 2026 by 4 p.m. Email to tom.rebman@lsohc.mn.gov														
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PA01	Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program - Phase XIX	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	78	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 5/10. WMA acquisition provides public hunting/fishing benefits but expands public ownership and PILT exposure; rank lower than restoration/easement projects.
PA02	Acquisition and restoration of terrace wetland complex with potential fen characteristic	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	88	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 8/10. Strong wetland restoration value and habitat benefit; fiscal score moderated by acquisition/permanent protection components and need to confirm long-term tax treatment.
PA03	DNR Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection-Phase IX	8	8	8	8	8	7	8	7	7	8	7	84	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 8.5/10. Native prairie bank protection keeps land largely private/taxable, but limited public access and protection-heavy emphasis reduce the score.
PA04	DNR WMA & SNA Acquisition, Phase XIV	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	7	7	75	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 5/10. Strong habitat and access outcomes, but fee acquisition expands public ownership and should rank below restoration-focused or tax-base-friendly proposals.
PA05	Great Prairie Lakes and Wetlands Restoration Initiative	9	9	8	8	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	91	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 9/10. Strong prairie/wetland restoration and habitat outcomes with less concern than acquisition-heavy proposals; good fit if implementation dollars are directed to habitat.
PA06	Lower Sioux Prairie and Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Project	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	55	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 2/10. Significant concern that tribal ownership may not guarantee local property tax replacement; uncertain public access and property tax shift risk require low priority under fiscal model.
PA07	Martin County WMA Acquisition Phase 11	7	6	7	6	7	6	7	6	6	6	6	70	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 4.5/10. WMA acquisition may create public hunting access but remains acquisition-heavy and should rank substantially lower than restoration/enhancement projects.
PA08	Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP)	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	8	8	8	8	94	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. CREP/RIM model is strongly tax-base friendly, keeps land private/taxable, and delivers restoration through voluntary easements; public access is indirect.
PA09	Minnesota River Watershed Habitat Conservation Program Phase 2	8	8	8	8	8	7	8	7	7	8	7	84	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 8/10. Solid watershed habitat benefits and easement-based protection, but public access is limited and outcomes depend on parcel selection.
PA10	MN Prairie Recovery Program	9	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	90	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 8.5/10. Strong prairie recovery and restoration benefits; score moderated where protection/acquisition components or public access limitations exist.
PA11	Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley - Phase XIII	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	88	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 9/10. Strong grassland/wetland habitat benefits and prairie chicken focus; favorable where work avoids fee acquisition and leverages local/private partnerships.
PA12	RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water - Phase XIII	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	8	8	9	8	95	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. RIM buffer easements protect habitat while keeping land privately owned and on tax rolls; limited direct public access is the primary drawback.
PA13	Western Minnesota Prairie and Wetland Protection Program	8	8	8	8	8	7	8	7	7	7	7	83	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 7/10. Important prairie/wetland protection, but permanent protection/acquisition elements and uncertain public access reduce priority.
PRE01	Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands - Phase X	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	9	9	98	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Excellent enhancement of existing public grasslands with no new acquisition or tax-base loss; strong alignment with restoration-first philosophy.
PRE02	Restoring Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Ecosystem - Phase 1	9	9	8	8	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	91	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 9.5/10. Strong prairie pothole restoration benefits; phase/start-up considerations and leverage determine final priority.
FA01	Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape ACUB Protection Program Phase 14	8	7	8	8	8	7	8	7	7	7	7	82	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 8/10. ACUB/easement model protects working lands and limits development while generally reducing tax-base concerns; public access is limited.
FA02	Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project Phase 11	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	78	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 6/10. Strong forest corridor value, but acquisition/permanent protection and limited guaranteed hunting/fishing access moderate the ranking.
FA03	MN Forests of the Future Phase XI South East Blufflands to Northern Forests Protection	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	7	6	74	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 7/10. Forest protection value is real, but public access limitations and protection/acquisition emphasis reduce priority under this rubric.
FA04	Pine and Leech Watershed Phase IV Forest Habitat Protection	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	7	7	7	76	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 6/10. Watershed forest protection has habitat value, but fee acquisition/permanent protection and local tax concerns keep it below restoration-focused proposals.
FRE01	DNR Statewide Forest Enhancement-Phase 7	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	9	9	97	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Strong forest enhancement on existing public/protected lands; no new acquisition and direct habitat work make this a high-priority investment.
FRE02	Enhancing Black Ash Forests for Resilience and Habitat	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	9	96	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Black ash resilience/enhancement is a strong restoration investment; private/non-state support deserves some leverage forgiveness and no new tax-base impact.
FRE03	Metro Forests for Minnesota Wildlife and Communities	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	8	8	86	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 9.5/10. Good metro forest restoration and community benefit, though cost and public access/scale considerations keep it below statewide enhancement projects.

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FRE04	Minnesota Forest Recovery Project	9	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	90	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 9.5/10. Strong forest recovery and public hunting/fishing benefit where lands are accessible; enhancement/restoration focus is positive.	
WA01	Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program - Phase XIX	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	7	7	7	76	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 5/10. WPA acquisition creates permanent habitat and public access but remains acquisition-heavy with local tax-base concerns.	
WA02	RIM Wetlands - Restoring the most productive habitat in Minnesota	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	8	8	9	8	95	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. RIM wetland restoration keeps land private/taxable while restoring highly productive habitat; limited public access is the main drawback.	
WA03	Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program	9	9	8	9	9	8	9	8	8	8	8	93	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 9.5/10. Strong shallow lake/wetland restoration with broad public wildlife and waterfowl benefits and limited tax-base impact.	
WRE01	Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	88	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 9/10. USFWS easements protect habitat while generally avoiding fee acquisition; public access is limited/variable.	
WRE02	DNR Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements Phase 19	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	9	9	97	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. High-value shallow lake and wetland enhancement on existing public/protected lands with strong public wildlife benefits.	
WRE03	DNR Statewide control and reduction of invasive Phragmites Phase I	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	9	96	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Invasive Phragmites control is direct habitat protection/restoration with no acquisition or tax-base impact.	
WRE04	Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement & Restoration Initiative	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	8	8	8	8	94	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Strong shallow lake/wetland restoration and public wildlife benefit with no meaningful local tax-base concern.	
WRE05	Mud River Enhancement Phase II	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	101	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Top-tier enhancement/restoration of existing habitat with strong fiscal fit, public benefit, and no acquisition concerns.	
WRE06	Otter and Campbell Lakes Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Phase 1	9	9	8	8	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	91	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 9.5/10. Solid lake habitat restoration/enhancement with public benefit; score moderated by cost, scale, and leverage.	
HA01	2027 Riparian Habitat Protection In the kettle and Snake River Watersheds	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	8	8	7	86	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 8/10. Easement-focused riparian protection keeps land largely taxable but limited restoration and uncertain public access reduce score.	
HA02	2027 St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 8	7	7	7	7	7	6	7	6	6	6	6	72	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 4/10. Primarily fee acquisition with local tax-base concerns; ranks lowest among HA proposals despite habitat/public access value.	
HA03	Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - 16	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	84	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 6.5/10. Good restoration/enhancement and public access, but 600 acres of fee acquisition and low leverage limit priority.	
HA04	Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase IX	9	8	9	9	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	92	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 9.5/10. Restoration dominates, no fee acquisition, strong county match; public access on easements is limited.	
HA05	Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - ML2027	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	7	7	7	76	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 4.5/10. Strong fisheries science and public access, but entirely fee acquisition with no restoration/enhancement and modest leverage.	
HA06	Metro Big Rivers Phase 17	9	8	8	8	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	90	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 5.5/10. Strong corridor and public access benefits with meaningful enhancement, but very acquisition-heavy and expensive.	
HA07	Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance - Phase 6	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	78	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 5/10. Excellent lake science and county approval, but fee acquisition-only, no restoration, anticipated leverage, and slow spending.	
HA08	RIM Priority Habitat	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	98	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 9.5/10. RIM easements keep land private/taxable while incorporating restoration and stewardship; no fee acquisition.	
HA09	Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 15	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	9	96	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 8.5/10. Strong restoration/enhancement and easement-heavy protection; public access only on fee acquisitions and county approval concerns.	
HA10	Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Phase X	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	8	8	8	8	94	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Wild rice shoreland protection uses voluntary easements with no fee acquisition; no restoration and no leverage reduce score.	
HRE01	Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase 11	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	99	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Strong enhancement on existing protected lands with no acquisition; concerns are recent spending pace and personnel/DSS share.	
HRE02	Beaver Creek Habitat Restoration	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	9	96	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Focused trout stream restoration on existing public land; no tax impact, strong measurable outcomes, but high cost per acre and low leverage.	
HRE03	Daylighting Phalen Creek - Phase 2	9	8	9	9	8	8	9	8	8	8	9	93	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. No acquisition and strong urban habitat/public access value, but significant planning/design costs and unspent prior appropriation reduce priority.	
HRE04	DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Phase 10	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	101	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Statewide aquatic connectivity and restoration with no acquisition; top-tier habitat value, moderated by large open balances.	

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HRE05	DNR Fish Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Phase 1	9	8	9	9	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	92	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Good fish habitat and no acquisition, but score reduced for two new OHF-funded positions, 20%+ personnel/DSS, and weak leverage.
HRE06	DNR Irish Creek Watershed Enhancement, Phase 1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	8	8	87	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Strong trout/moose habitat benefits on existing public lands, but no confirmed leverage and 21.7% personnel/DSS reduce fiscal score.
HRE07	DNR Roving Crew 4	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	88	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Committee Judgment Override: although personnel/DSS is very high, roving crews are essential to manage existing public lands and protect prior investments.
HRE08	Enhancing Agate Bay's Coastal Wetland Habitat along the Lake Superior Shore in Lake County, Minnesota	7	7	7	7	7	6	7	7	6	6	7	74	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Long-term coastal wetland concept has merit, but this request is almost entirely engineering/design with no construction and limited confirmed leverage.
HRE09	Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation Project-PH VIII	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	9	9	98	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Proven Knife River rehabilitation with durable stream restoration, strong trout benefits, reasonable cost, and no acquisition; monitor Phase VII status.
HRE10	Little Cannon River Stream Habitat Restoration - Construction Phase	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	9	9	98	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. High-quality construction-phase stream restoration with permanent public angling access; cost per acre and modest leverage keep it behind top projects.
HRE11	Minnesota Marine Art Museum LSCOHC Proposal	8	7	8	8	7	7	8	7	7	7	8	82	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Meaningful habitat and strong leverage, but broader museum campus/public amenity scope is better suited to multiple Legacy funds; no permanent protection yet.
HRE12	Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat Enhancement & Protection - Construction	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	101	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Statewide trout construction on existing protected/public access lands; low personnel overhead and guaranteed public angling access; leverage is anticipated and prior appropriations warrant review.
HRE13	Protection and Resiliency in the Rainy River Headwaters	10	10	9	9	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	102	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Permanent fish passage and watershed connectivity through right-sized culverts; strong leverage and no tax impact; public access benefit is indirect.
HRE14	Restoring priority habitats for Hennepin County's sensitive wildlife	10	9	9	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	102	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Strong protected-land restoration, biological monitoring, and corridor value; concerns are high personnel/DSS, unidentified acreage, and current spending pace.
HRE15	Swift Coulee Channel Restoration/ Enhancement - Phase 2	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	9	9	10	107	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Top-tier watershed-scale restoration with perpetual RIM easements, strong confirmed leverage, measurable sediment/phosphorus reductions, and broad local benefits.
HRE16	Tamarac River Enhancement Project - Phase 1	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	9	9	9	9	105	Net Local Tax Impact Score: 10/10. Committee Judgment Override: high cost and phased implementation are concerns, but this district project corrects a state-created ditch impact and creates a permanent prairie river corridor.
CPL	Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program ML27/FY28												0	Competitive Grant Program – Support, Not Ranked. CPL funds smaller local habitat projects that do not fit the large-grant space; evaluate separately for accountability, transparency, and statewide/local partnership value.
O1	2027 Contract Management												0	Administrative Program – Support, Not Ranked. Contract management is necessary for compliance, reimbursements, monitoring, and close-out of Outdoor Heritage pass-through grants.
O2	2027 Restoration Evaluations - ML 2027												0	Administrative Program – Support, Not Ranked. Restoration evaluation is an accountability function that improves future habitat work; high personnel share is appropriate to evaluation mission.
O3	DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions												0	Administrative Program – Support, Not Ranked. DNR core functions support partner-led acquisitions and public access readiness; not comparable to competitive habitat projects.