

Sandy Smith

FRE 01

From: Schlagenhaft, Tim <tschlagenhaft@audubon.org>
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2015 2:49 PM
To: Sandy Smith
Cc: Anderson, Matthew; Swanson, Susan
Subject: RE: Follow up from November Council meeting on Accomplishment Plans

Hello Sandy – Sorry I was unable to attend the November 5 meeting and respond to the Council’s comments in person. The comments were specific to personnel costs not dropping proportionately with the funding amount, and increased leverage.

Personnel costs: The original proposal included 0.2 FTE for a Forest Ecologist position for 3 years (\$32,000), 0.2 FTE for my position for 3 years (\$45,000), and \$3,000 for our administrative assistant. The accomplishment plan was changed from the original proposal to include 0.25 FTE for the Forest Ecologist position for 3 years (\$48,000), 0.15 FTE for my position for 3 years (\$38,000), and \$3,000 for our administrative assistant.

There are several reasons for these changes: To meet the reduced amount recommended by the council from the original proposal, we reduced the total number of acres that would be enhanced. We will be doing a similar number of project sites, we will just be able to enhance fewer acres at each site. Since most of those projects would be completed by contractors, the main funding reductions were primarily in contracts and supplies (trees). Our staff time would not change much from the original proposal as we still need to set up the work plans, manage contracts, and ensure the work was completed as required for each project, independent of the number of acres.

We also we shifted more of the project work to the lower Mississippi River which will be completed by our Forest Ecologist who will be working in far southeast Minnesota, so we increased his time from .2 to .25 FTE to better reflect that shift; and since the proposal was submitted my position was upgraded and my salary increased, so while my time dropped from .2 to .15 FTE per year, the cost did not drop proportionately.

Leverage: For both the proposal and the accomplishment plan, leverage was equal to the amount of personnel time we were requesting from the grant, with the exception of the administrative assistants time. For each hour/dollar of grant funded time, we will be providing an equal amount of Audubon funded time. So, while personnel costs remained similar to the original proposal, so did leverage, keeping the percent of leverage higher in the accomplishment plan.

I hope this explanation helps. If you or the council need clarification or have additional questions please let me know.
Thanks

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Sandy Smith

FA 01

From: Merrie Morrison <mmorr@abcbirds.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 3:33 PM
To: Mark Johnson
Cc: Sandy Smith; Craig Thompson; Peter Dieser
Subject: Young Forest Conservation - Phase II - American Bird Conservancy

Hello Mr. Johnson,

In preparing for tomorrow's meeting of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, we noted Item 7b – Review and Progress Draft Accomplishment Plan with notes from the staff on the draft plans.

To help, we have prepared responses to the comments as noted below:

LSOHC Comments:

Personnel is 25% of the recommended appropriation. Staff is NOT overlapped with Phase 1. Personnel, travel and DSS not consistent with percentage of funding reduction. No OHF money will be used for used for monitoring of and annual evaluation of SGCN response to BMP's? (page 2, paragraph 5) clarified.

Response Points:

Salary and Funding Reduction

The ABC MN Public Lands Coordinator funded by this request is responsible for project planning and oversight on habitat restoration projects on county, state and Federal public lands in northern Minnesota. This includes the identification of potential public lands project areas, site boundary delineation, management plan drafting, bid solicitation, project implementation oversight and final project evaluation. In addition, the Public Lands Coordinator trains public lands natural resource managers to properly implement best management practices for young forest/brushland species. The ABC MN Public Lands Coordinator regularly partners with organizations including Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative, Minnesota Logger Education Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service throughout northern MN to implement training and workshops.

In response to the funding reduction of the original Young Forest Conservation Phase II proposal, ABC removed the intended acquisition areas, one full-time position, and a portion of another personnel position from our original accomplishment plan. The acquisition costs including buying the land, partnering with The Conservation Fund for their expertise and the associated DNR costs for acquisition were removed. These costs would not affect the expenses associated with the remaining ABC MN Public Lands Coordinator position or associated habitat restoration.

Monitoring

The comment here indicates this point has been clarified with staff.

Craig Thompson, ABC's Great Lakes Regional Director, and Peter Dieser, ABC's MN Public Lands Coordinator, will be attending the meeting tomorrow and will be more than happy to answer any questions from you or the Council.

Please let me know if you need any further information or if I can be of help in any way.

Best regards,

Merrie Morrison

HRE 06



Shell Rock River Watershed District

214 West Main Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007
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November 19, 2015

RE: November Meeting Follow up responses.

Robert Anderson
L-SOHC Board Chair

Dear Bob Anderson,

These are the District responses to the L-SOHC Questions:

Personnel not consistent with percentage of funding reductions:

The District determined that with the amount and complexity of projects listed in the Accomplishment Plan for the Habitat Restoration Program, the personnel cost is appropriate. We need a strong personnel component to successfully execute these great projects. Personnel costs in the plan are reasonable at less than 4 percent of total costs.

Restoration acres accomplished remained close to proposed:

Yes, restoration acres to be accomplished remained close to the proposed amount. The District's 2016 allocation takes a high priority in targeting restoration acres. Maximizing restoration acres within the watershed fulfills the goals of the District as well as the LSOHC and is one of the first steps in improving the degraded habitat conditions within the Watershed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Andy Henschel'.

Andy Henschel
Director of Field Operations

Sandy Smith

HREOI

From: John Lenczewski <jlenczewski@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 4:20 PM
To: Sandy Smith
Cc: Mark Johnson
Subject: Follow up from November Council meeting on Accomplishment Plans

Hi Sandy,

I am sorry that I had to miss the November 5, 2015 meeting in Spicer, MN. Seeing all the great work being done on the ground is always great, but I was out of state then. I understand that the staff comments regarding our reduced work plan budget targets were: "Leverage reduced significantly. Personnel, Travel and Prof Services not consistent with percentage of funding reduction."

The funding level recommended by the LSOHC is 34% less than we originally requested. To meet this reduced budget target we had to cut and dramatically scale back several projects. Because we finish what we start, we cut specific projects, not general percentages of budget categories. For example, the Miller Creek project had to be cut. That project budget had earmarked \$400,000 for contracts and materials and nothing for professional services or staff time since our partner was to provide these services. Cutting that project did not result in a reduction in estimated professional services fees or personnel. We believed that we could leverage \$400,000 to \$500,000 on this project, so the estimated leverage amount was reduced substantially when the project had to be dropped. The projects which were cut or reduced were not ones where we anticipated travel by staff, so our staff travel estimate is unchanged. Personnel costs were reduced some and if it turns out that actual personnel costs are lower still (which is likely), the unexpended budget in this category will be reallocated to other categories and projects.

Please let me know if staff or Council members have any additional questions. Thank you.

Best regards,

John

John P. Lenczewski
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Sandy Smith

From: Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 10:59 AM
To: Sandy Smith
Cc: Schulte, Judy (DNR); Jennings, Martin (DNR)
Subject: AP Question Responses

Hi Sandy,

As I mentioned after last week's meeting, I answered the Council's questions regarding DNR proposals' personnel, travel, and DSS costs, and Dave Trauba/USACE answered the questions on planned life of drawdown structures. Below I've included answers to the 2 other questions related to our proposals, for reference should the Council request further information from us. Thanks for your help!

PA06 NPB – Roads and trails question:

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

When necessary Native Prairie Bank will allow the use of a field road for the landowner to access the site or adjacent land-locked parcel for land management activities. Often times these field roads are maintained in permanent vegetated cover with little to no trace of vehicle traffic.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition - **Yes**

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

Use of the allowed field road is limited to necessary activities only. Field road is documented on the Exhibit A Map that is recorded along with the easement at the county in addition to being photographed and documented in the Baseline Property Report to insure the road does not increase in size or expand from existing necessary location. Through implementation of DNR Operational Order 128 "Conservation Easement Stewardship" along with the "Ecological and Water Resources Division Conservation Easement Stewardship Plan and Guidelines" Native Prairie Banks acquired with these funds will be monitored at least once every 3 years, at which time the field road will be checked for compliance.

Will new trails or roads be developed as a result of the OHF acquisition - **No**

HA01 Aquatic protection – Easement average cost per acre:

Answers:

Draft budget didn't have money specified for R/E of parcels, that was added to budget (signs, seeds, misc supplies), adding to per acre cost for fee and easement. Comments received from council (email from Joe Pavelko) included addressing DNR equivalent of IDP costs.

Prof service costs for fee title were reduced to estimates for a couple transactions, but the reduction is less than a proportional reduction compared to the fee title purchase amount, increasing per acre cost.

Easement reductions were not proportional. We are including a higher proportion of trout stream easements than Forests for the Future easements, when compared to the proposal. Trout easements are more expensive per acre, so the per acre costs averaged for all easements increased.

Grant L. Wilson

Fish & Wildlife Policy & Planning Supervisor
Liaison to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources