



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
The State of Minnesota

State Office Building, Room G95 100 Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

May 8, 2017

Gary Griffin
Land Services Director
Crow Wing County Land Services Building
322 Laurel St, Suite 15
Brainerd, MN 56401

Re: Mississippi River Northwoods trails and land swap

Dear Mr. Griffin:

At the April 28, 2017 meeting of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), the Council received an update from MN DNR Assistant Commissioner Sarah Strommen of developments regarding the Mississippi River Northwoods (MRNW) property and trail use. Along with that update, the Council discussed the potential swap of certain MRNW parcels to Crow Wing County for county parcels.

You will be interested to know that following the update and discussion, the Council approved a motion to approving LSOHC staff to work with Crow Wing County and MNDNR on a potential land exchange. Following is an excerpt from the Draft Council Minutes to this subject:

(00:54:10) Action: Mississippi River Northwoods Update

Executive Director Mark Johnson provided background information regarding the Mississippi River Northwoods. Mr. Johnson introduced Sarah Strommen, DNR Assistant Commissioner, who provided additional background information and explained the DNR's position. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. McNamara to acknowledge receipt of the Crow Wing County (CWC) Board Resolution, dated February 14, 2017, establishing changes to the Mississippi River Northwoods (MRNW) trail designation and recreational uses and approve LSOHC staff to work with CWC and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) on a potential land exchange between LSOHC and CWC specifically relating to approximately 134 acres currently part of the MRNW property along Highway 210 and other adjacent CWC owned lands. Final land exchange approval will be considered by the full LSOHC council and will follow all LSOHC statutory requirements. **Motion adopted.**

Per the Council's directive motion, LSOHC looks forward to working with Crow Wing County to move forward in this matter. To that point, we will await direction from Crow Wing County Land Services staff as to when you may wish to proceed.

I thank you for your patience and indulgence in the MRNW matter and look forward to working with you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Wm. Johnson".

Mark Wm. Johnson
Executive Director

Cc Chris Pence, CWC Land Services Supervisor
Tom Landwehr, DNR Commissioner
LSOHC members