



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

June 30, 2016

Mark Liedl Land Services Director
Crow Wing County
322 Laurel Street, Suite 11
Brainerd, MN 56401

Re: Mississippi River Northwoods Habitat Complex Protection (ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(b)) ATV trail plan and potential land transfer.

Dear Mr. Liedl:

At its June 29, 2016 meeting, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) was given an update on the status of the recreational trail plan the County recently approved and was also made aware of, and discussed, Crow Wing County's request for bids for appraisals on parcels of the Mississippi River Northwoods (MRNW) property for the purpose of a land exchange with additional county tax forfeit lands.

It was quite evident by the discussion that a majority of the Council does not approve of the County's current trail plan for the MRNW site and believe the County may be out of statutory compliance. Staff has been directed to confer with the Attorney General's Office and the Legislative Auditor to investigate potential remedies the Council may have.

As you may be aware, MS 97A.056, subd. 15 dictates that any conveyance of interest in real property acquired with Outdoor Heritage Funds must first be reviewed and approved by the LSOHC. Per the Council's discussion at the June 29, 2016 meeting, please be aware that the Council, at this time, is not interested in entertaining any exchange of parcels with regards to the MRNW property. Additionally, by unanimous vote of the 11 council members present, the Council requests Crow Wing County to not proceed with any appraisal process regarding a MRNW land exchange until such time as the Council decides to entertain a land exchange proposal.

With respect to the Council's request of Crow Wing County to not proceed with any appraisal process, the Council members expressed their concern that the County receive this message as soon as possible so that the County does not unnecessarily waste county staff time nor accrue unnecessary expenses.

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If you would like to meet and discuss this and/or other issues, please let me know. I would be happy to host a meeting at my office in St. Paul or to come to your office in Brainerd.

Respectfully,



Mark Wm. Johnson
Executive Director

cc: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council members
Mr. Tom Landwehr, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources