

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Action Agenda Item Memo

DATE December 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Accomplishment Plan Amendment
ML 2009, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd 2(b)
Green Corridor Legacy Program
Retroactive reimbursement approval to Southwest Initiative Foundation

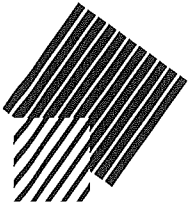
Background

- Staff approved an amendment to the accomplishment plan for ML 2009, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd 2(b) Green Corridor Legacy Program on August 10, 2010 to adjust the budget line items for contracts and personnel. The amendment decreased the personnel line item and increased the contract line item, as the project manager, who was under contract, performed many of the duties originally assigned to the staff of the Southwest Initiative Foundation. The changes were effective the date of the approval letter.
- DNR contract management had reimbursed expenditures incurred by the project manager prior to the effective date of approval of the budgetary line item changes.
- The Office of the Legislative Auditor recommended that the DNR “should determine whether to seek recovery of amounts reimbursed to a grantee for unauthorized costs paid to a subcontractor.”
- The Southwest Initiative Foundation has requested in a letter dated November 28, 2011 that the council amend the effective date of the August 10, 2010 approval letter to be retroactive to August, 13, 2009. (see attached)

Motion

“Motion to approve/deny the Accomplishment Plan retroactively to August 13, 2009, as amended per the underlined text on page 4 of the accomplishment plan report.”

Agenda Item 8



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION
A Rural Minnesota Community Foundation

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November 28, 2011

Mr. William Becker, Executive Director
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
The State of Minnesota
State Office Building, Room G95
100 Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Green Corridor Legacy Program, Minnesota Laws of 2009, Chapter 172, Article 1, Section 2,
Subdivision 2b, Department of Natural Resources Grant Agreement No. B34026

Dear Mr. Becker:

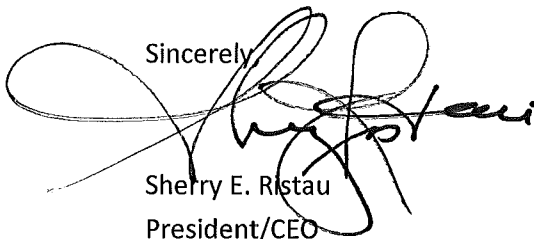
The Southwest Initiative Foundation would like to provide information and documentation for retroactive action to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council at the December 13 meeting as you address work plan activities associated with the 2009 Green Corridor Legacy Program. A change in the scope of work occurred and it was our understanding that approval had been given for expenses dating back to the August 2009 beginning of the grant. We therefore request an amendment to approve retroactive charges incurred between August 2009 and August 2010.

We have provided extensive documentation to the Office of the Legislative Auditor to support the appropriateness of the expenditures that were made to complete the work as outlined in the work plan, including the pre-approval by the DNR on August 19, 2010 of the payment in question. All funds have been disbursed and used to successfully accomplish the objectives of the work plan, so there are no funds left to be returned to the State of Minnesota, DNR.

It is worth noting that five percent of the appropriation was the allowable amount for professional services. The Southwest Initiative Foundation and its local partners completed all of the objectives for 2.9% of the appropriation - \$32,757 less, even with the \$21,682.10 payment in question.

Thanks to all the partners in our region working together, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Funds are creating recreational resources that will be enjoyed for generations.

Sincerely,



Sherry E. Ristau
President/CEO

C: Nancy Fasching, Senior Administration and Grants Officer, Southwest Initiative Foundation

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Final Accomplishment Plan Report

Date: ~~October 5, 2011~~ December 6, 2011

Program Title: Green Corridor Legacy Program – Phase I

Manager's Name: Nancy Fasching

Title: Grants Officer

Organization: Southwest Initiative Foundation

Address: 15 3rd Ave NW

City: Hutchinson

State: MN

Zip: 55350

Telephone: 800-594-9480

Email: nancyf@swifoundation.org

Fax: 320-587-3838

Funds Recommended: \$1,617,000

Legislative Citation and Appropriation Language:

ML 2009, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(b)

\$1,617,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Southwest Initiative Foundation or successor to acquire land for purposes allowed under the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, section 15, in Redwood County to be added to the state outdoor recreation system as defined in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 86A. A list of proposed fee title acquisitions must be provided as a part of the required accomplishment plan. The commissioner of natural resources must agree to each proposed acquisition. No more than five percent of this appropriation may be spent on professional services directly related to this appropriation's purpose.

Outcomes

The Green Corridor Legacy Program - Phase I protected high quality fish, game, and wildlife habitats by developing complexes or corridors of new and/or expanded MN DNR Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and/or Aquatic Management Areas (AMA) in the Program area.

The LSOHC Lamberton WMA acquisition expanded the existing 641 acre WMA complex by 43% (277 acres) for a total of 918 acres. This acquisition enhances wildlife carrying capacity, lowers ongoing maintenance costs, and provides greater accessibility to the public. The protected areas provide much needed nesting habitat for both game and non-game wildlife species. This property also has the potential for wetland restoration.

The LSOHC Whispering Ridge AMA acquisition expanded the existing 183 acre AMA complex by 55% (101 acres) to 184 acres. This site provides benefit to wildlife and additional shoreline protection. Through this expansion, ongoing maintenance costs are lowered and greater accessibility is provided to the public.

This program incorporated the basic concepts of sustainability and ecosystem management. Minnesota has lost 99% of the original prairie and has seen dramatic declines in grassland dependent wildlife of greatest need. Traditional game & aquatic species was also affected by the decline in habitat.

The program succeeded because numerous partnerships have been developed from a wide variety of disciplines to assist in monitoring outcomes, provide long range management of the acquired lands, provide technical support, and ensure that program activities will advance the goals, objectives, and strategies of the various state-wide conservation plans and provide public transparency and input.

The Green Corridor Legacy Program approach was based on sound science concepts of plan development, setting conservation priorities, developing short and long term strategies to achieve conservation priorities, implement the strategies, and then continue monitoring the outcomes. The Green Corridor Legacy Program in consultation with area DNR managers has insured program activities conform to the various state conservation and resources plan objectives and outcomes.

Publicly owned natural resource infrastructure (e.g. WMA, AMA, etc) invigorates local and regional economies by providing outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities. New business concepts are likely to arise as a direct result of the recreational/ tourism opportunities that will be advanced and promoted by the Green Corridor Legacy Program.

Efforts to restore, protect, and enhance our wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife are timely as escalating development pressures threaten remaining natural lands and water resources on both public and private lands in the program area.

Maintenance

First, initial site restoration and development (signage, parking lots, fencing) was accomplished by this appropriation. The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife is permanently managing these properties. Routine maintenance is managed by area DNR staff funded by their traditional sources like the Game & Fish Fund. Due to the proximity to other DNR properties, maintenance costs are less than average due to shared resources. Periodic enhancements or improvements will be funded by special funding requests. The DNR requires management plans for each project which identify periodic inspections and continuing management of the property site. These management practices include such things as; prescribed fire, weed control, and invasive tree removal. Regional partners may also support these management activities/practices by applying for state funding/grants for maintenance as needed.

Sustainability

The fee simple acquisition of these 378.27 acres is being administered by the MN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife for management and enforcement of state laws on these acquired properties in perpetuity. This program has acquired land in fee from willing and supportive landowners and was transferred to the appropriate state agency for long-term habitat conservation, outdoor recreational access, sustainability, and monitoring. Payment in Lieu of tax (PILT) has been established by current or traditional methods. The Program Manager and DNR submitted an approved Initial Development Plan (IDP).

Table B-2. Other Outcome Table

(This table should be used for activities that are not counted in acres, miles etc.)

Goal 1	Activity – P/R/E	Measure	Impact	Ecological Type
Goal 2				

Attachments *(on spreadsheet workbook – 3 separate tabs)*:

- A. Budget
- B. Proposed Output Tables
- C. Parcel List

Program Name:
Date:
Legal Citation:

Green Corridor Legacy Program Phase I
October 5 2011-December 6, 2011
ML 2009, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd 2(b)

[Link HERE to definitions of the budget items below.](#)

Total Amount of Request \$ 1,617,000 From page 1 on the funding form.

Personnel

Position breakdown here	Over # of		Initial OHF Request	Actual OHF Expended	Actual Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source
	FTE	years				
Grants Officer	0.06	2	24500	\$ 8,429		
Accountant	0.01	2	14000	\$ 1,867		
position 3						
position 4						
position 5						
position 6						
position 7						
position 8						
position 9						
position 10						
Total	0.07			\$ 10,296	\$ -	\$ -

Budget and Cash Leverage (All your LSOHC Request Funds must be direct to and necessary for program outcomes.)
Please describe how you intend to spend the requested funds.

Budget Item	Initial OHF Request	Actual OHF Expended	Actual Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source
Personnel - auto entered from above	38500	\$ 10,296	\$ -	\$ -
Contracts*		\$ 27,879		
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT (breakout in table 7)	1576575	\$ 1,561,500	\$ 5,000	MDHA
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT (breakout in table 7)				
Easement Acquisition				
Easement Stewardship				
Travel (in-state)	1925	\$ 1,925		
Professional Services		\$ 7,992		
Direct Support Services				
DNR Land Acquisition Costs		\$ 7,408		
Other				
Capital Equipment (auto entered from below)				
Other Equipment/Tools				
Supplies/Materials				
		\$ 1,617,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -

*The contract line item allows for payment of all expenditures incurred from Aug. 13, 2009.

Capital Equipment (single items over \$10,000 - auto entered into table above)

Item Name	Initial OHF Request	Actual OHF Request	Leverage	Disposition Plan
Total	0	-	-	

Program Name: Green Corridor Legacy Program Phase I
 Date: 10/5/2011-12/6/11
 Legal Citation: ML 2009, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd 2(b)

Table 1 and Table 3 column totals should be the same AND Table 2 and Table 4 column totals should be the same

If your project has lakes or shoreline miles instead of land acres, convert miles to acres for Tables 1 and 3 using the following conversion:
 Lakeshore = 6 acres per lakeshore mile / Stream & River Shore = 12 acres per linear mile, if both sides

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type
 Table 1 & 2 ask for Initial and Final information. INITIAL information means the data in the FIRST accomplishment plan approved by the Council, NOT approved versions thereafter.

	Wetlands		Prairies		Forest		Habitats		Total	
	Initial	Final	Initial	Final	Initial	Final	Initial	Final	Initial	Final
Restore									0	0
Protect Fee			350	378.27					350	378.27
Protect Easement									0	0
Enhance									0	0
Total	0	0	350	378.27	0	0	0	0	350	378.27

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands		Prairies		Forest		Habitats		Total	
	Initial	Final	Initial	Final	Initial	Final	Initial	Final	Initial	Final
Restore									\$ -	\$ -
Protect Fee			\$ 1,576,575	\$ 1,561,500					\$ 1,576,575	\$ 1,561,500
Protect Easement									\$ -	\$ -
Enhance									\$ -	\$ -
Total	0	0	1,576,575	1,561,500	0	0	0	0	1,576,575	1,561,500

Tables below only ask for final amounts and achievements.
 Table 3. Final Acres achieved within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore						0
Protect				378.27		378.27
Enhance						0
Total	0	0	0	378.27	0	378.27

Total Acres (sum of Total column) 378.27 These three cells
 Total Acres (sum of Total row) 378.27 should be the
 Total Acres from Table 1. 0 same figure.

Table 4. Final Amount spent within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore						\$ -
Protect				\$ 1,617,000		\$ 1,617,000
Enhance						\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,617,000	\$ -	\$ -

Total Dollars (sum of Total column) \$ 1,617,000 *These two cells should be the same figure.*
 Total Dollars (sum of Total row) \$ 1,617,000

Check to make sure these amounts are the same as the Funding Request Amount on page 1 of Main Funding Form.

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles

NA # miles of Lakes / Streams / Rivers Shoreline

Table 6. Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in acres)

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee State PILT Liability with		378.27			378.27
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability					0
Permanent Easement State PILT Liability					0

Table 7. Estimated Value of Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in dollars)

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee State PILT Liability with		\$ 1,561,500			\$ 1,561,500
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability					\$ -
Permanent Easement State PILT Liability					\$ -

Program Name:
Date:
Legal Citation:

Green Corridor Legacy Program Phase I
10/5/2011-12/6/11
MIL 2009, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd 2(b)

Please include ALL parcels in which OHF money was spent, regardless of whether acquired.

Parcel Name	County	Township	Range	Direction	Section	TRDS	# of acres	Cost to OHF	Primary habitat type:	Activity:	LSOHC Section:	Open to hunting and fishing?	Identify state or federal disposition:	If easement, what is the easement cost as a percentage of the fee acquisition?
									wetland, prairie, forest, aquatic	R=Protect Fee PE=Protect Easement E=Enhance (Note: these figures should be the same as those in Attachment B)	Metro-Urbanizing = MU Southeast Forest=SEF Northern Forest= NF Prairie-Transition PT Prairie= P	(yes/no)	WPA, WMA, AMA, SNA, State Forest	

Lamberton WMA Tr.#12	Redwood	109	37	2	13	10937213	80	\$360,000	Prairie	PF	P	yes	WMA	
Lamberton WMA Tr.#13	Redwood	109	36	2	19	10936219	83.22	\$324,500	Prairie	PF	P	yes	WMA	
Lamberton WMA Tr.#14	Redwood	109	37	2	13	10937213	113.98	\$558,500	Prairie	PF	P	yes	WMA	
Whispering Ridge AMA	Redwood	114	36	2	19	11436219	101.07	\$318,500	Prairie	PF	P	yes	AMA	