

# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road · Saint Paul, Minnesota · 55155-4037

Office of the Commissioner

651-259-5555



December 6, 2012

Mr. David Hartwell, Chair  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
95 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Hartwell:

I am writing to respectfully request the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to remove DNR's project ID: WA 05, McGregor Marsh Wetland Protection, from your slate of recommended appropriations for consideration by the 2013 Minnesota Legislature.

As you may be aware, due to current financial realities the parcel's current owner, they have decided to pursue the sale of the property to a commercial interest. DNR did offer to discuss using a third party to speed up the appraisal and acquisition process, but were turned down by the landowner. DNR pursued the protection opportunity in good faith and until recently, had every reason to believe that we would be successful in acquiring the property. The parcel's habitat benefits will remain of interest to DNR as ownership transfers, and depending on the ownership situation, we may continue to pursue it.

At this point, though, DNR requests that the project be removed from your appropriations recommendations. I am respectfully requesting that the amount of this recommendation be added to the DNR WMA acquisition proposal. This will allow us to continue to seek similar types of habitat protection within the State. I want to sincerely thank the Council for the willingness to discuss the project, and support you have shown in pursuing a creative habitat opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Landwehr'.

Tom Landwehr  
Commissioner

Copy: Bill Becker, LSOHC – Executive Director  
Gary Drotts, MNDNR – Wildlife Area Manager