

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Agenda Item Memo

DATE: October 7, 2014
SUBJECT: Allocation/Recommendation
PRESENTER: David Hartwell

Background:

MS 97A.056, Subd. 3 allows the council to recommend to the legislature appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. "The council shall make recommendations to the legislature on appropriations of money from the outdoor heritage fund that are consistent with the Constitution and state law and that will achieve the outcomes of existing natural resource plans, including, but not limited to, the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, that directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie. In making recommendations, the council shall consider a range of options that would best restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife." This agenda item allocates projected funds available in the OHF for fiscal year 2016.

The chair will begin this process with the chair's proposal. This proposal is based on the pattern of allocation by each member provided to staff since the September request hearings. The chair's proposal is a main motion, open to modification by a motion to amend and a council vote. Motions dealing with individual requests require a majority of the members present. The ultimate motion, to adopt a recommendation package for staff to use in bill drafting, requires nine votes.

Staff has assembled information that members may find useful. Over the last several months, the council members received data on the status of programs, the expenditures to date and balances of appropriations. Additionally, testimony about program requests included information specific to the liquidation of the programs' past appropriations.

This memo combines information on past appropriations, the most recent information on fund expenditures and balances. It is important that these programs have complied with the final report requirements. MS 97A.056, sub. 11 requires that all recipients of Outdoor Heritage Funds "must compile and submit all information from funded projects or programs, including the proposed measurable outcomes" to the LCC by January 30 of each year. The statute also states that "future eligibility for money from the outdoor heritage fund is contingent" upon satisfying all applicable requirements in this section. Session law also references the reporting requirements for outdoor heritage fund appropriations.

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If past due final reports are not received by April 2015, council members could consider not approving the ML 2015 accomplishment plan until a future date when those managers have complied with the law.

Suggested Motion:

The initial motion for debate is the chair's proposal. The chair's proposal is on allocations by individual members. (See attached table) It is the main motion.

Suggested Procedure:

Place chair's motion before the council. Council members may offer motions to amend the chair's proposal, add or delete projects or increase/decrease requests in the chair's proposal. Debate and vote on amendments. When there are no members with amendments, debate and vote on the main motion.