

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

**MEMO:**       **Agenda Item #9**

**DATE:**       November 13, 2014

**SUBJECT:**    Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Programs

**PRESENTER:** Jessica Lee, CPL Grants Program Coordinator, DNR

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**Background:**

MS 97A.056, subd. 3b directs the Council to “establish a conservation partners program...for matching grants for restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, prevention of forest fragmentation, encouragement of forest consolidation, and expansion of restored native prairie.” The Council has recommended funding for a Conservation Partners Legacy grant program for the last six years. Under ML 2014, Ch. 256, an additional CPL program was funded, focused on project proposals from metropolitan areas with populations of 50,000 or more.

Staff from the DNR’s CPL programs will provide an update of the program to-date.

**Suggested Procedure:**

DNR staff makes presentation and stands for questions.

The Conservation Partners Legacy grant program is now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year of providing funding to organizations throughout Minnesota to restore, enhance, and protect our state's prairies, wetlands, forests, and habitat. To-date we have funded 278 projects totaling almost \$22 million dollars. Nearly 77,000 acres of habitat have been restored, enhanced, or protected, with another 100,000 acres planned.

**Status of All CPL Appropriations**

| <b>Appropriation Year</b>                 | <b>ML 2009</b> | <b>ML 2010</b> | <b>ML 2011</b> | <b>ML 2012</b> | <b>ML2013</b> | <b>ML2014</b>              | <b>Total</b>        |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Grants appropriation</b>               | \$3,740,000    | \$4,210,560    | \$5,310,000    | \$4,624,000    | \$3,494,000   | \$8,035,000                | <b>\$29,413,560</b> |
| <b>Total amount awarded</b>               | \$3,706,400    | \$4,210,560    | \$5,310,000    | \$4,610,600    | \$3,403,650   | \$604,300<br>(ECP Round 1) | <b>\$21,845,510</b> |
| <b>Total grant funds expended to-date</b> | \$3,488,400    | \$3,935,080    | \$3,257,700    | \$2,305,100    | \$308,000     | \$0                        | <b>\$13,294,580</b> |
| <b>Projects funded</b>                    | 33             | 49             | 75             | 57             | 46            | 18<br>(ECP Round 1)        | <b>278</b>          |
| <b>Total planned acres</b>                | 7,500          | 8,400          | 51,550         | 70,400         | 18,270        | 12,771<br>(ECP Round 1)    | <b>168,891</b>      |
| <b>Total acres completed to-date</b>      | 10,250         | 8,800          | 38,200         | 11,800         | 7,900         | 0                          | <b>76,950</b>       |

We are currently completing the review process for our FY15 Round 1 Statewide and Metro grant cycles. The table below summarizes the applications received.

**ML2014 Statewide (Traditional) and Metro Round 1 Application Cycle**

|  | <b>Statewide</b> | <b>Metro</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Eligible Applications Submitted</b> | 21               | 26           | 47           |
| <b>Grant Amount Requested</b>          | \$4,264,464      | \$3,802,661  | \$8,067,125  |
| <b>Available Funding</b>               | \$3,285,000      | \$3,750,000  | \$7,035,000  |

Our first round of ECP (Expedited Conservation Projects) grant cycle resulted in funding 18 of 20 applications, for a total of \$600,000. Only \$400,000 remains for ECP for the remainder of the fiscal year.