

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item #5a

DATE: January 7, 2016

SUBJECT: Draft OHF Bill Language - FA 02, Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River Watershed Habitat Acquisition (Subd. 3(b) in draft bill)

PRESENTER: Mark Johnson, Director, LSOHC

Background:

Regarding the draft bill language:

- a. At the December 3, 2015 council meeting, Senator Saxhaug moved to approve the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) bill and send it on to the Minnesota legislature for approval.
- b. Representative McNamara moved to amend the motion by Senator Saxhaug to add the following to the draft bill language for proposal FA 02, Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River Watershed Habitat Acquisition (Subd. 3(b) in draft bill):
“Preference must be given to parcels that will be transferred to a government entity or non-governmental organization with expertise in land management.”

Rep. McNamara’s amendment passed by majority voice vote. However, Senator Saxhaug’s amended motion failed.

Subsequently, David Hartwell moved to approve the council’s allocation recommendations. After much discussion that included additive language to proposal FA 09, Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the Wildrice River Watershed, the motion passed with a vote of 9:3. However, the previous McNamara amendment regarding FA 02 was NOT included.

Consequently, to include the “Preference” clause in the FA 02 language, Subd. 3(b) of the draft bill language, for presentation to the legislature, a simple majority vote is necessary at this time.

For the council’s reference and for the purposes of this discussion, Rep. McNamara’s proposed “Preference” language inclusion is currently included and highlighted on page 8, Subd.3 (b), of the draft bill language that is in your packets.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to approve the addition of the following sentence to Subd. 3(b) of the draft bill language after the words “Wadena counties”: “Preference must be given to parcels that will be transferred to a government entity or non-governmental organization with expertise in land management.”

Suggested Procedure:

Place motion before the council, discuss and vote as amended.

(Appropriation Language on back of this page)

(a) Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River Watershed Habitat Acquisition

\$5,532,000 in the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, to acquire in fee and restore and enhance forest habitat lands in Cass, Hubbard and Wadena Counties. Preference must be given to parcels that will be transferred to a government entity or non-governmental organization with expertise in land management. Annual income statements and balance sheets for income and expenses from land acquired in fee with this appropriation and not transferred to State of Minnesota or local government unit ownership must be submitted to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council no later than 180 days following the close of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association's fiscal year. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.