

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item #11

DATE: November 15, 2018

SUBJECT: ML 2018, Ch. 208, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd 3(b) SE MN Protection and Restoration, Phase 6

PRESENTER: Kris Larson, Minnesota Land Trust

Suggested Motion:

Motion to approve/deny the request by MLT to proceed with an easement (Wildcat Creek - Scanlan) in Houston County. An affirmative vote of 9 members is required.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 9, Lands in the Public Domain.

Money appropriated from the outdoor heritage fund shall not be used to purchase any land in fee title or a permanent conservation easement if the land in question is fully or partially owned by the state of Minnesota or a political subdivision of the state, unless: (1) the purchase creates additional direct benefit to protect, restore, or enhance the state's wetlands, prairies, forests, or habitat for fish, game, and wildlife; and (2) the purchase is approved by an affirmative vote of at least nine members of the council.

Background:

MLT is in the process of acquiring a 106 acre easement in Houston County that falls within the Root River Watershed Conservation Focus area.

At issue with the acquisition is an existing 10 acre trout stream angler access easement held by the State of MN. Due to this State-held easement, this parcel would need approval under 97A.056, subd. 9.

The supplemental benefits of acquiring the easement, and acknowledgement of considering the access easement value within the appraisal are provided in the attached letter.

Attachments:

- October 26, 2018 letter from Kris Larson, MLT with request and parcel maps.