

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: **Agenda Item #8**

DATE: October 7, 2019

SUBJECT: LSOHC OHF Allocations / Recommendations

PRESENTER: Chair David Hartwell

Suggested Procedure:

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

- Motions dealing with individual requests require a majority of the members present.
- The main motion, to adopt the recommendation package for staff to use in bill drafting, requires a minimum of **nine** votes.

Suggested Motion:

Recommend the Chair's Proposal for allocations, as discussed and amended, for bill drafting to the 2020 Legislature. Staff is authorized to round appropriation amounts as appropriate.

Background:

This agenda item is founded with the benchmark appropriation amount of \$119.14m, as adopted by the Council at its September 5, 2019 meeting, and recommends allocation of OHF monies projected to be available for FY2021/ML2020.

- The \$119.14m benchmark allows for a 6% reserve.
- Funding amounts necessary for 01—Contract Management (\$210,000), 02—Restoration Evaluations (\$150,000), and FY2021 LSOHC Administrative Budget (\$565,000) were already set aside prior to determining the \$119.14m benchmark. Consequently, the Council may recommend the entire \$119.14m for appropriating to project proposals.

Chair's Proposal (spreadsheet provided in Council packets):

The Chair's Proposal has three parts:

1. The Chair proposes that the Council recommend funding of all project proposals that have eight (8) or more members allocating.
 - Each project proposal is recommended for appropriation with the “average allocation.”
 - This would utilize \$118.731m of the \$119.14m target with \$409,000 remaining.
 - The Chair proposes that the Council allocate the remaining \$409,000 to the CPL program for a total recommended amount of \$10,726,000.

Rationale within the Chair's Proposal:

- The Council, at its 9/5/2019 meeting, agreed upon the preliminary baseline recommendation funding target of \$119.14m (provides a 6% reserve balance)
- Non-programmatic budget items of \$925,000 are accommodated above and beyond the baseline figure of \$119.14m.
 - Non-programmatic items include
 - 01 - Contract Management (\$210,000)
 - 02 - Restoration Evaluations (\$150,000)
 - FY2021 LSOHC Administrative Budget (\$565,000)
- Recommendation of funding for project proposals with eight (8) or more members recommending allocation acknowledges that a majority of the Council initially indicated funding is appropriate.
- All project proposals have been reported as “scalable” and not dependent upon full funding.
- The Council’s average allocation of all proposals receiving 8 or more allocations leaves a relatively small amount of \$409,000. Allocating that to the CPL program which will then grant that to projects around the state seems logical and simple rather than trying to figure out a fair way to consider all other potential projects for additional funding.
- The Chair’s Proposal is designed to be a “starting point” for Council allocation discussions.

Statutory guidance:

MS 97A.056, Subd. 3 directs 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.”