

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item #11

DATE: December 10, 2019

SUBJECT: Appropriation Amendment – Easement Monitoring and Enforcement Funds

ML 2019 5(a), St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase I
(\$3,751,000 appropriation)

PRESENTER: Bob McGillivray – TPL, Martin Jennings – MNDNR

Suggested Motion:

Motion by Councilmember X to approve/deny the appropriation amendment for ML 2019 5(a), St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase I to include up to \$20,000 to DNR for deposit in the Natural Resources Conservation Easement Stewardship Account established by MN Statutes section 84.69 or for trout stream easements acquired with this appropriation and to be included in the ML 2020 OHF recommendations bill.

Background Information

The Trust for Public Land is working with the MN DNR to acquire trout stream easements. The current appropriation language does not include stewardship funds for these trout stream easements, all of which will be eventually held by the MN DNR. The appropriation only allows stewardship funds for Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) currently. Amending the appropriation language will allow TPL to acquire the trout stream easements and ensure the future monitoring and enforcement of the acquired trout stream easements by MN DNR. The stewardship funds will be held in DNR's Natural Resources Conservation Easement Stewardship Account.

Language for the appropriation bill:

Subd. 11. Technical Amendments

The appropriation in Laws 2019, first special session, chapter 2, article 1, section 2, paragraph 5(a) St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase I is amended to read: \$3,751,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: (1) \$2,209,000 to The Trust for Public Land to acquire land in fee and to acquire permanent conservation stream easements in the St. Croix River watershed using the payment method prescribed in Minnesota Statutes, section 84.0272, subdivision 2. Of this amount, up to \$20,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources to deposit in the Natural Resources Conservation Easement Stewardship Account established by Minnesota Statutes section 84.69 as approved in

the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17;
(2) \$1,377,000 to Minnesota Land Trust to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems in the St. Croix River watershed. Of this amount, up to \$168,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17; and (3) \$165,000 to the St. Croix River Association to coordinate and administer the program under this paragraph. A list of proposed land acquisitions and permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.