

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

**MEMO:**        **Agenda Item #8**  
**DATE:**        August 5, 2020  
**SUBJECT:**     **Discussion/Action** - ML21/FY22 Proposals & Sept Hearing dates/format  
**PRESENTER:**   Staff & Chair

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### **Suggested Motion:**

Motion by Member XX to approve modifying the dates for the fall proposal hearings (currently Sept 1-3, 2020), allowing staff to make schedule changes as approved by the chair.

### **Background:**

Currently, the Fall 2020 proposal hearings are scheduled for Sept. 1-3. Originally, the format was anticipated to be in-person meetings held over 2 full days and 1 half day. However, with the covid-19 restrictions currently in place, it is highly unlikely that an in-person meeting format will be feasible. Additionally, some agencies and NGOs have enacted policies restricting employees from attending any large gatherings/meeting except via virtual means. Engaging a location for an in-person meeting has also become problematic. While we have requested permission to meet in a MN Senate Building large hearing room, Senate staff is unable to grant that request due to the covid-19 restrictions currently instituted by the Senate. The same is true for House hearing rooms. Any relaxing of those restrictions is currently not foreseeable, thus providing further uncertainty to anchoring a location.

With the above in mind, and with the technical difficulties involved in holding hybridized in-person/virtual hearings, it seems prudent to plan for virtual hearings (via zoom). Additional is the concern that multiple presenters would not be able to attend in-person hearings due to employer restrictions. One more consideration is whether it is appropriate for members of the council and staff to attend an in-person meeting when state and federal health leaders are advising against large gatherings when other means are available.

### **Suggested Procedure:**

Council members discuss the potential of changing the dates and format of the fall proposal hearings.

Council members discuss proposal scoring as well as which proposals they feel should be invited to present at the hearings and which, if any, proposals should be omitted from presenting.

### **Attachments:**

Current draft schedule for hearings on Sept 1-3.

Potential draft schedule for half-day hearings on Aug 31 – Sept 4.