

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: **Agenda Item #6**

DATE: October 1, 2020

SUBJECT: LSOHC ML2021/FY2022 OHF Allocations / Recommendations

PRESENTER: Chair David Hartwell & Vice Chair Ron Schara

Suggested Procedure:

Place the Chairs' Proposal before the Council as the main motion to start discussion. Councilmembers may offer motions to amend the Chairs' 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 **simple 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 Chairs' Proposal for allocations, as discussed and amended, for accomplishment plan and bill drafting to the 2021 Legislature. Staff is authorized to round appropriation amounts as appropriate. Staff is also authorized to include FY22 & FY23 Administrative Budget amounts (\$546,000 and \$553,000 respectively) and FY22 & FY23 LCC Website costs (\$4,000 and \$3,000 respectively).

Background:

This agenda item is founded with the benchmark appropriation amount of \$109.824m, as adopted by the Council at its August 31, 2020 meeting, and recommends allocation of OHF monies projected to be available for FY2022/ML2021.

- The \$109.824m benchmark allows for a 10% reserve.
- Funding amounts necessary for LCC Legacy website costs (\$4,000), and FY2022 LSOHC Administrative Budget (\$546,000) have been included in determining the \$109.824m benchmark. Consequently, the Council may recommend \$109,301m for appropriating to project proposals. (Funding for 01–Contract Management (\$210,000) and 02-Restoration Evaluations (\$150,000) are listed line items within the Council's list of recommendations.)
- The Chairs' Proposal is designed to be a "starting point" for Council allocation discussions.
- Following Council approval, project managers will be directed to create "Draft Accomplishment Plans" for Council review and approval during the November and December Council meetings.
- The draft accomplishment plans will be used to draft the Council's ML2021/FY2022 recommendation bill to the legislature.
- In the first year of each biennium, the OHF recommendations bill traditionally contains administrative appropriations for both fiscal years of the biennium. In the first biennial year

(ML21/FY22) the bill will include FY22 recommended program allocations of \$109.824m (this includes FY22 admin budget and LCC web costs). In the second biennial year (ML22/FY23) the bill will only include appropriations for LSOHC's FY23 administrative budget (\$553,000) and LCC website costs (\$3,000). As is usual, recommended appropriations in the second year of the biennium (FY23) come from FY23 funding.

Proposal Notes from Chair & Vice Chair (spreadsheet provided in Council packets)

The Proposal of Chair Hartwell and Vice Chair Schara consists of the following:

- 1) Projects not receiving an average allocation of \$400,000 (the threshold for CPL grants) are not included in the chair's proposal.
- 2) Projects not receiving votes from 2/3 of the members (8 members) are not included in the chair's proposal.
- 3) Chair Hartwell and Vice Chair Schara propose fulling funding the DNR roving crews (\$4,500,000) with an additional allocation of \$410,000 beyond the average allocation.
- 4) Chair Hartwell and Vice Chair Schara also propose an additional \$81,000 for the CPL program providing a total of \$8,447,000.
- 5) This leaves \$6,000,000 to be allocated. To allocate the remaining funds, the Chairs propose:
 - a. Letting each councilmember recommend to the entire council for its approval, allocation of \$500,000.
 - b. Each councilmember could allocate the total of \$500,000 to no more than two projects.
 - c. Projects for the additional allocation would be those receiving an allocation from at least one-half of the council members.
 - d. Any project added that is not in the Chairs' Proposal must have an allocation of at least \$400,000.
 - e. In no cases could allocation exceed requested amounts.
 - f. If any member chooses not to recommend part or all of the \$500,000, the remainder would then be designated to the CPL program.

Statutory guidance:

MS 97A.056, Subd. 3 directs the council to recommend to the legislature appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

- "(a) 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..."