

MINUTES
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)
December 8, 2020
Remote Meeting via Zoom, pursuant to MS 13D.021 and MS 13D.04

Call to Order: Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 8:04am.

Members Present

David Hartwell (Chair)
Ron Schara (Vice Chair) (joined at 9:14am)
Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn
Kristin Eggerling
Rep. Dan Fabian
Mark Holsten
Sen. Andrew Lang (joined at 8:26am)
Denny McNamara
Ashley Peters
Tom Saxhaug
Jamie Swenson
Pres. David Tomassoni

Members Absent

NONE

A quorum was present.

1. Review and Approve Agenda: Councilmember Swenson made a motion to approve the agenda – **Motion Prevailed**

2. Review and Approve Minutes: Councilmember McNamara made a motion to approve the minutes from November 19, 2020 – **Motion Prevailed**

3. Conflicts of Interest Reported: No new conflicts of interest were reported by Councilmembers. Previous reports of conflicts still stand.

4. Chair's Comments: Chair David Hartwell provided information for the Council regarding the November Forecast results and the surrounding bill language discussion taking place later in the meeting.

5. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Mark Johnson provided an update for the Council on several items of business:

- Mr. Johnson informed the Council that today's meeting would again be captioned, and that tech staff was testing a secondary captioning provider. Mr. Johnson also informed the Council that any costs incurred from captioning services will be paid by the LSOHC operational budget.
- Mr. Johnson also noted that the discussion regarding the memo re: clarification of bill language that was sent out by Assistant Director Joe Pavelko would be taken up under agenda item 11.

6. Presentation – DNR Land Acquisition and Partnerships: Pat Rivers, Deputy Director - Fish and Wildlife Division with Minnesota DNR, Joe Stangel, Assistant Regional Manager - Fish and Wildlife Division with Minnesota DNR, and Bill Schuna, Area Wildlife Manager - Fish and Wildlife Division with Minnesota DNR all provided an overview for the Council of how Minnesota Department of Natural Resources partners and collaborates with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) on protection, restoration, and enhancement projects. Council questions followed.

7. Presentation – Direct Support Services (DSS) Overview: Katherine Sherman-Hoehn, Grants Manager with Minnesota DNR provided an overview for the Council of how DNR evaluates and analyzes the DSS line on Council-approved Accomplishment Plans, and then works with partner organizations to develop methodology that can be used to determine which charges fall under the heading of DSS for each project. Council questions followed.

8. Request for Extension – ML 2016, 2(k), Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation, Phase IV: Wiley Buck with Great River Greening presented an Availability of Appropriation Extension Request for the ML 2016, 2(k), Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation, Phase IV project. Council questions followed.

Action: Councilmember McNamara made a motion to approve the Availability of Appropriation Extension Request for the ML 2016, 2(k), Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation, Phase IV project.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell

Rep. Becker-Finn

Eggerling

Rep. Fabian

Holsten

Sen. Lang

McNamara

Peters

Saxhaug

Swenson

Sen. Tomassoni

NAY:

ABSENT:

Schara

11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

9. Request for Extension – ML 2016, 5(h), Sand Hill River Fish Passage Restoration and Habitat Enhancement, Phase II: April Swenby with Sand Hill River Watershed District and Nicholas Kludt, Ph.D., Red River Fisheries Specialist - Division of Fish and Wildlife with Minnesota DNR presented an Availability of Appropriation Extension Request for the ML 2016, 5(h), Sand Hill River Fish Passage Restoration and Habitat Enhancement, Phase II.

Action: Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the Availability of Appropriation Extension Request for the ML 2016, 5(h), Sand Hill River Fish Passage Restoration and Habitat Enhancement, Phase II.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:
Hartwell
Schara
Rep. Becker-Finn
Eggerling
Rep. Fabian
Holsten
Sen. Lang
McNamara
Peters
Saxhaug
Swenson
Sen. Tomassoni

NAY:

ABSENT:

12 AYES, 0 NAYS – **Motion Prevailed**

10. Presentation – November Forecast Results & Review: Sean Fahnhorst, Executive Budget Officer with Minnesota Management & Budget provided an overview of the November budget forecast. Council questions followed.

11. Approval of ML 2021 Bill Language: Executive Director Mark Johnson provided an overview of the proposed ML 2021 Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) bill language, including funding increases made possible due to the adjusted November budget forecast. Chair Hartwell provided additional information regarding the possible funding increases and the updated Chairs' Proposal that had been provided to the Council. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to directly increase funding for each project recommended to receive funding at the October 1, 2020 meeting, with the exception of Roving Crews and administrative items which were already fully funded, by 16.63% over the original recommendation.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:
Hartwell
Schara
Rep. Becker-Finn
Eggerling
Rep. Fabian
Holsten
Sen. Lang
McNamara
Peters
Saxhaug
Swenson
Sen. Tomassoni

NAY:

ABSENT:

12 AYES, 0 NAYS – **Motion Prevailed**

Assistant Director Joe Pavelko, and Senate Council Ben Stanley provided an overview for the Council of a proposed language amendment to MN Statute 97A.056 Subd. 9, that would clarify the purchasing of lands with existing easements for OHF funded projects. Council discussion followed.

Action: Chair Hartwell made a motion that the Council go on record asking the legislature to review and resolve the issue of Subd. 9 in MN Statute 97A.056 in alignment with the draft amendment provided by staff.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:	NAY:	ABSENT:
Hartwell		
Schara		
Rep. Becker-Finn		
Eggerling		
Rep. Fabian		
Holsten		
Sen. Lang		
McNamara		
Peters		
Saxhaug		
Swenson		
Sen. Tomassoni		

12 AYES, 0 NAYS – **Motion Prevailed**

Action: Councilmember Eggerling made a motion to approve the ML 2021 OHF bill as drafted, with the understanding that staff are allowed to make edits and corrections as necessary.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:	NAY:	ABSENT:
Hartwell		
Schara		
Rep. Becker-Finn		
Eggerling		
Rep. Fabian		
Holsten		
Sen. Lang		
McNamara		
Peters		
Saxhaug		
Swenson		
Sen. Tomassoni		

12 AYES, 0 NAYS – **Motion Prevailed**

12. Presentation – Accelerating the WMA Program – A snapshot of progress: Eran Sandquist, MN State Coordinator with Pheasants Forever gave the Council an overview of the progress made on the Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program.

13. Public Comments: Chair Hartwell announced that no public comments had been submitted to the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02am.

APPROVED:

David Hartwell, Chair

Date

Denny McNamara, Secretary

Date