

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Meeting
Meeting Summary
January 29, 2020

Members Present

David Hartwell, Chair
Ashley Peters
Tom Saxhaug

Jamie Swenson
Denny McNamara
Kristin Eggerling

Rep. Jamie Becker – Finn
Mark Holsten
Ron Schara

Members Absent

Rep. Dan Fabian, Sen. Andrew Lang, Sen. David Tomassoni

Call to Order: Call to order at 8:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

Review and Approve Agenda

Motion by Member Swenson to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion adopted.**

Review and Approve Minutes – December 10, 2019

Motion by Member McNamara to approve the minutes with a correction to the spelling of Kristin Eggerling’s first name on page 3. **Motion adopted.**

Conflicts of Interest: No conflicts of interest were noted.

(00:01:55) Executive Director’s Report

Director Johnson reported that the ML2020 OHF recommendations bill was delivered to legislative leadership and the Governor’s office on January 15. On Jan 24, Director Johnson, Asst. Director Pavelko, and 5 council members attended the DNR Roundtable. A press release from the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa was reviewed. The release announced “a new policy governing hunting on and access to” Band lands that will require permits. However, the release also stated an exemption to the policy where “all lands acquired ... with funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund will still be open to the general public for outdoor recreation.”

Sandy Smith, LSOHC Project Analyst Manager, provided the council with an overview of a spreadsheet provided to members that depicted how additional appropriation recommendations were distributed after council determination on December 10, 2019.

The Council’s April 15, 2020 meeting was discussed with special concern to meeting room availability and busy schedules of council legislative members while the legislature is in session. Motion by Member Saxhaug to reschedule the April 15, 2020 meeting to May 27, 2020. **Motion Adopted.**

(00:10:15) Discussion / Action: LSOHC Operating Procedures

Chair Hartwell outlined suggested revisions and updates to the Council Operating Procedures document. Motion by Member Swenson to approve the revisions and updates as presented. **Motion Adopted.**

(00:13:05) Information: One Watershed, One Plan

Presentation by Julie Westerlund, Dan Steward, and Chris Pence of BWSR, and Melissa Barrick, Crow Wing SWCD. Council discussed and asked questions after presentation.

(01:26:15) Information: Understanding DNR Roving Crews & Funding

Presentation by Bob Welsh, DNR Wildlife Operations Manager, and Jason Ekstein, DNR Roving Habitat Crew Supervisor. Council asked questions after the presentation.

(02:26:29) Information: Beyond Habitat – Additional benefits from OHF projects

Presentation by Greg Hoch, DNR Prairie Habitat Supervisor, providing perspective and detail of benefits, beyond those to game & fish, resultant of OHF work. Council discussed and asked questions after presentation.

(02:50:00) Information: Outcomes Project Update

Presentation by Ryan Noe and Christiana Locke, Senior Scientists, Center for Science, Technology & Environmental Affairs, University of MN. This was an update to the ongoing Outcomes Project that is anticipated to culminate approximately late summer 2020. Council discussed and asked questions after presentation.

(03:20:20) Discussion / Action: Approval of 2020 Call for Funding Proposals

Chair Hartwell, with assistance from Sandy Smith (LSOHC staff), outlined suggested revisions and updates to the 2020 Call for Funding Proposals. Council discussed.

Motion by Member Rep. Becker-Finn to approve the Call for Funding as presented, but also instructing staff to add a statement informing program managers of the council’s wish to receive notification of any specific parcel they plan to acquire in fee where a positive CWD determination in wild or captive cervids has been documented on that specific parcel of land. Notification to the Council is to take place prior to closing on any such parcel to be acquired with any OHF monies. **Motion Adopted by voice vote. Call for division. Show of hands confirmed vote as 6 – yes, and 2 - no. Motion adoption confirmed.**

(04:02:13) Information: Current Challenges from Aquatic & Terrestrial Invasive Species in MN.

Presentation by Dr. Nicholas Phelps, Director of MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, U of M.
Presentation by Dr. Robert Vanette, Director, and Heather Koop, Assistant Director of MN Invasive Terrestrial Plants & Pests Center, U of M. Following each presentation, the Council discussed & questioned the presenters.

(04:57:00) Discussion: Council consideration of scoring projects & recommending funds.

Chair Hartwell and Vice Chair Schara reported their thoughts that more exchange of members’ perspectives, scoring methods, insights, and impressions could be potentially useful to the Council as a whole if shared prior to allocation recommendations are sought from members. Council discussed with apparent consensus among members being in agreement with the Chair and Vice Chair. Council also discussed thoughts and potentials regarding how future Chair’s Proposals for Funding Distribution to Projects might be devised and what considerations may be wise. Chair asked Council to continue considering this subject for future discussions.

(05:18:18) Opportunity for Public to Address the Council

Mr. Rick Heller, unofficial representative of twice exceptional and print disabled, spoke to accessibility of materials.

(05:22:48) Meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

APPROVED:

David Hartwell, Chair

Date:

Denny McNamara, Secretary

Date: