

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

**MEMO:** Agenda Item #8

**DATE:** January, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Extension of Availability of Appropriation  
ML 2016 5(b) - Metro Big Rivers, Phase 7 (\$4,000,000 appropriation / FMR \$430,000)

**PRESENTER:** Lisa Mueller, Friends of the Mississippi River  
Alex Roth, Friends of the Mississippi River

### **Suggested Motion:**

Motion by Councilmember X to approve/deny the legislative extension of appropriation availability for ML 2016 5(b) - Metro Big Rivers, Phase 7 until June 30, 2022, to be included in an amendment to the ML 2021 OHF recommendations bill.

### **Background Information** (provided by Project Manager)

#### MBR7 Amendment - 1 Year Extension Request:

FMR's allocation for restoration at the William H. Houlton Conservation Area (WHHCA) was over \$400,000. Due to the economy of scale on such a large site, the bids for the restoration work came in far lower than the already modest \$2,400/acre used to plan the grant request. In 2017, FMR requested an amendment to add restoration of 21 acres of the Bailey Point Nature Preserve (BPNP) to the grant in order to add habitat value and to use some of the remaining funds. Even with this additional site and other small additions to our WHHCA subcontractor contract (additional grassland prep, tree removal, additional seed mix diversity, etc) there is still over \$120,000 remaining.

For the last year, FMR has been exploring the potential to use this funding for erosion control along both the Elk and Mississippi Rivers at both BPNP and WHHCA. FMR has engaged both the City of Elk River and the Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District in exploring the feasibility of such projects, and while both parties had interest, progress was slow owing to the need for engineering design specifications. Engineers at the watershed district have finally provided such designs, which give us the cost estimates necessary to plan and bid out the projects. However, given the timeframe, it's unlikely that work would occur until late summer or fall 2021, at which point the grant funding will have already expired.

FMR is requesting a 1-year extension to utilize funding through June 30th, 2022 in order to implement erosion control projects that will preserve the prairies we have restored at each site and improve water quality and in-stream habitat. These two bank stabilization projects are estimated to cost a total of \$75,817. This extension will also allow additional prairie maintenance at both sites (201 acres), better ensuring the long-term viability of these restorations. The goal is to spend the entire original allocation by June 30, 2022.

The C-19 Extension language had no effect on the ML 16 appropriations.

**Language for the appropriation bill:**

Subd X. Carryforwards

- (a) The availability of the appropriation in Laws 2016, Ch. 208, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5, paragraph (b) for Metro Big Rivers, Phase 7 is extended to June 30, 2022.