

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item # 10 (B)

DATE: March 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Extension of Availability of Appropriation
Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central MN Lakes

PRESENTER: Annie Johnson, Northern Waters Land Trust

Suggested Motion:

Motion by Councilmember X to approve/deny the legislative extension of appropriation availability for ML 2018, Chapter 208, Article 1, Section 2, subd [5\(c\) Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - Phase IV](#) for \$2,801,000 to June 30, 2023.

Information Provided by the Project Manager:

Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) would like to formally request a 2 year extension, to June 2023, on our ML18: Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes, Phase 4 grant. Due to COVID-19, the process for completing fee title acquisition projects has been slower (i.e. appraisals, abstract updates, survey work, etc.). NWLT currently has two fee title acquisition projects in progress. For our project on Wabedo Lake, obtaining the updated property abstract is projected to take 3-6 months based on the estimated timeline provided by the title company, in part due to county office constraints and pandemic operational impacts. For this reason, we are requesting a 2 year extension, with the hope that it will not take this long. We plan to work as quickly as possible to close on these two projects.

Staff Notes:

- MLT's easements will be completed on time, this extension is for 2 NWLT fee acquisition parcels.
- This program currently has 5 open appropriations, 2 are very close to closing out.
- This program's acquisition dollars expire June 30, 2021, with agreements closing until 2022.
- ML 2018 appropriations were not affected by the Covid-19 extension in ML 2020 bill.
- This is a COVID related extension request.
- Chart below shows open appropriations and spending to date.

ML	Subd	Approp Amount	Spent to Date	Balance	% spent
2016	5(d)	\$1,425,000	\$1,257,800	\$167,200	88.3%
2017	5(b)	\$1,716,000	\$1,678,500	\$37,500	97.8%
2018	5(c)	\$2,801,000	\$1,320,600	\$1,480,400	47.1%
2019	5(d)	\$3,365,000	\$94,600	\$3,270,400	2.8%
2020	5(d)	\$2,814,000	\$8,300	\$2,805,700	0.3%