

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item # 10 (C)
DATE: March 12, 2021
SUBJECT: Extension of Availability of Appropriation
Grassland Conservation Partnership
PRESENTER: Wayne Ostlie, MN Land Trust

Suggested Motion:

Motion by Councilmember X to approve/deny the legislative extension of appropriation availability for ML 2018, Ch. 208, Art 1, Sec. 2, Subd. [2\(k\) Grassland Conservation Partnership - Phase III](#) - \$1,468,000 to June 20, 2023.

\$69,000 - The Conservation Fund
\$1,399,000 - Minnesota Land Trust

Information Provided by the Project Manager:

The Conservation Fund and the Minnesota Land Trust request an extension of this grant. The Land Trust is expected to close two working grasslands conservation easements under this grant in May 2021, creating a contiguous block of protected land totaling 850 acres. Sufficient funding will remain to close on a third contiguous parcel, which would close out the grant. Extension of the grant will allow us sufficient time to complete that transaction. COVID-19 has resulted in a slowdown in all facets of this OHF grant.

Staff Notes:

- 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 Year	Subd	Appropriation Amount	Spent to Date	Balance	% spent
2016	2(i)	\$1,475,000	\$1,062,900	\$412,100	72%
2018	2(k)	\$1,468,000	\$150,600	\$1,317,400	10%