

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

**MEMO:** Agenda Item # 10 (D)  
**DATE:** March 12, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Extension of Availability of Appropriation  
Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program, Phase 1  
**PRESENTER:** Wayne Ostlie, Minnesota 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\(g\) Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program - Phase 1](#) - \$1,514,000 to June 30, 2023.

### Information Provided by the Project Manager:

Hennepin County and the Minnesota Land Trust request an extension of this grant. The Land Trust is expected to close 3 additional conservation easements under this grant. These three projects will utilize the remaining funds dedicated for land protection. Slowdowns in project flow due to COVID-19 have created a level of uncertainty as to whether these three projects can be completed prior to the close of the grant (June 30, 2021). Extension of the grant will allow us sufficient time to complete these transactions.

### 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
2018	5(g)	\$1,514,000	\$697,700	\$816,300	46%
2020	5(h)	\$3,155,000	\$29,100	\$3,125,900	1%