

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item #13 A & B

DATE: May 26, 2021

SUBJECT: South Branch Buffalo River Restoration Project

Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley - Phase IV,
ML 2018, Ch. 208, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 2(h)

Reinvest in Minnesota Wetlands Reserve Program Partnership, Phase V
ML 2013, Ch. 137, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(a)

PRESENTER: Bennet Uhler, Project Engineer, Houston Engineering (on behalf of BRRWD)
John Voz, RIM Easement and Working Lands Specialist, BWSR
Eran Sandquist, MN State Coordinator, Pheasants Forever

Suggested Motion:

Motion by Member XX to approve/deny the proposed restoration project located on the two OHF funded parcels as presented.

Background:

The Buffalo Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) is working on the restoration of the South Branch of the Buffalo River located in Wilkin County, MN. This project was funded through the Outdoor Heritage Fund via ML2018, Ch. 208, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(n) – Buffalo River Watershed Stream Habitat Program, Phase 1. The South Branch of the river runs through two parcels acquired/protected with OHF monies: a fee-title acquisition by Pheasants Forever that will become a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) owned by the DNR, and a Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) conservation easement acquired by BWSR.

The proposed project will consist of rerouting the existing county ditch into the old abandoned stream bed and remeandering the stream through the two subject parcels to provide wildlife and clean water benefits.

The BRRWD is requesting approval from the Council to move forward with the project due to the requirements within the Notice of Funding Restrictions (NOFR) that were recorded on the properties at the time of purchase. An additional approval may also be necessary at a future meeting depending on legal requirements related to the county ditch.

Attachments:

BRRWD Handout