

**MINUTES**  
**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)**  
**May 26, 2021**  
**Remote Meeting via Zoom, pursuant to MS 13D.021 and MS 13D.04**

**Call to Order:** Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

**Members Present**

David Hartwell (Chair)  
Ron Schara (Vice Chair)  
Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn  
Sen. D. Scott Dibble  
Dudley Edmondson  
Rep. Josh Heintzeman  
Mark Holsten  
Sen. Andrew Lang  
Ashley Peters  
Tom Saxhaug  
Jamie Swenson

**Members Absent**

Kristin Eggerling (excused)

A quorum was present.

**1. Review and Approve Agenda:** Rep. Becker-Finn made a motion to approve the agenda – **Motion Prevailed**

**2. Review and Approve Minutes:** Councilmember Swenson made a motion to approve the minutes from March 12, 2020 – **Motion Prevailed**

**3. Conflicts of Interest Reported:** No new conflicts of interest were reported by Councilmembers. Previous reports of conflicts still stand.

**4. Chair's Comments:** Chair Hartwell reminded Councilmembers that in person gatherings are not yet permissible under current Legislative Coordinating Commission guidelines, and noted that the tour scheduled to take place in June would be cancelled for the time being, and the June meeting would be virtual with the duration reduced to a single day. Chair Hartwell also noted that the Council would look into future tour dates if the opportunity become available.

**5. Election of Officers:** Executive Director Mark Johnson presided over the election of Council officers.

**Action:** Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to nominate David Hartwell for the position of Council Chair. Mr. Hartwell accepted the nomination.

No other nominations were made for the position of Chair.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:  
Hartwell  
Schara  
Rep. Becker-Finn  
Edmondson  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Peters  
Saxhaug  
Swenson

NAY:  
Rep. Heintzeman

ABSENT:  
Sen. Dibble  
Eggerling

9 AYES, 1 NAYS, 2 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**Action:** Councilmember Holsten made a motion to nominate Ron Schara for the position of Council Vice Chair. Mr. Schara accepted the nomination.

No other nominations were made for the position of Vice Chair.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:  
Hartwell  
Schara  
Rep. Becker-Finn  
Edmondson  
Rep. Heintzeman  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Peters  
Saxhaug  
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:  
Sen. Dibble  
Eggerling

10 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**Action:** Rep. Becker-Finn made a motion to nominate Kristin Eggerling for the position of Council Chair. Ms. Eggerling accepted the nomination.

Councilmember Swenson made a motion to nominate Dudley Edmondson for the position of Council Chair. Mr. Edmondson did not accept the nomination. Councilmember Swenson withdrew her nomination. **Motion Withdrawn**

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:  
Hartwell  
Schara  
Rep. Becker-Finn  
Edmondson  
Rep. Heintzeman  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Peters  
Saxhaug  
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:  
Sen. Dibble  
Eggerling

10 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**Action:** Councilmember Holsten made a motion to nominate Jamie Swenson for the position of Council Treasurer. Ms. Swenson accepted the nomination.

No other nominations were made for the position of Treasurer.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:  
Hartwell  
Schara  
Rep. Becker-Finn  
Edmondson  
Rep. Heintzeman  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Peters  
Saxhaug  
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:  
Sen. Dibble  
Eggerling

10 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**Action:** Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to nominate Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn for the position of Council Legislative Member. Rep. Becker-Finn accepted the nomination.

No other nominations were made for the position of Chair.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:  
Hartwell  
Schara  
Rep. Becker-Finn  
Edmondson  
Rep. Heintzeman  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Peters  
Saxhaug  
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:  
Sen. Dibble  
Eggerling

10 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**6. Executive Director’s Report:** Executive Director Mark Johnson provided an update for the Council regarding a parcel of OHF funded land in Big Stone County previously reported on at the March meeting, an update on the status of the ML 2020/FY 2021 Legacy bill and anticipated special session, and several other miscellaneous items related to Council business. Rep. Becker-Finn and Sen. Lang also provided further information on the status of the ML 2020/FY 2021 Legacy bill. Council discussion followed.

**7. Approval of 2021 Council Calendar:** Chair Hartwell informed the Council that several Members had reported conflicts with the tentative 2021 Council Calendar and suggested several alternate dates/solutions. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Chair Hartwell made a motion to approve that calendar as it stands, with the suggested adjustments of moving the meeting currently scheduled for December 8 to December 9 and the understanding that the hearing dates of September 1 and 2 will take precedence, and August 31 will be used only if needed, as discussed.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:  
Hartwell  
Schara  
Edmondson  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Peters  
Saxhaug  
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:  
Rep. Becker-Finn  
Sen. Dibble  
Eggerling  
Rep. Heintzeman

8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 4 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**8. Approval to Issue an RFP and engage in contract for OHF Program Management System**

**Maintenance & Necessary Improvements Contract:** Project Analyst Manager Sandy Smith gave the Council an overview of the approval request from staff to publish a Request for Proposals (RFP) in the State Register and to engage in a contract with a vendor to continue the maintenance and development of the OHF online management system.

**Action:** Chair Hartwell made a motion that the Council approve staff’s request to publish an RFP in the State Register and engage in a program management system maintenance and improvement contract with a vendor.

AYE:

Hartwell  
Schara  
Rep. Becker-Finn  
Edmondson  
Rep. Heintzeman  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Peters  
Saxhaug  
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Sen. Dibble  
Eggerling

8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 4 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**9. Acquisition of Parcels with Existing Partial Protection and Accomplishment Plan Amendment with**

**retroactivity:** John Schneider with Ducks Unlimited presented an Accomplishment Plan Amendment request for the ML 2020 4(b) Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection and Restoration Program to acquire land parcels with existing partial State/Federal ownership. The amendment also included a request for retroactivity on previously incurred appraisal costs. Council questions followed.

**Action:** Vice Chair Schara made a motion to approve the acquisition of the parcels before the Council despite their existing partial State/Federal ownership and grant the retroactivity requested. A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell  
Schara  
Rep. Becker-Finn  
Sen. Dibble  
Edmondson  
Rep. Heintzeman  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Peters  
Saxhaug  
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Eggerling

11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**10. Presentation – The Conservation Fund – PotlatchDeltic Forest Lands:** Kim Berns-Melhus, MN State Director with The Conservation Fund and Emilee Nelson, MN Associate State Director with the Conservation Fund provided an overview for the Council of The Conservation Fund’s recent purchase of, and plans for, 72,000 acres of PotlatchDeltic forest lands. Council discussion followed.

**11. Amendments to add PotlatchDeltic forest parcels to acquisition lists:** Bob McGillivray, Land Protection Director with The Trust for Public Land presented a request for the ML 2020 5(g) and ML 2018 5(b) Mississippi Headwaters Board / TPL projects to amend their fee title parcel acquisition lists to include purchase of a 2,500 acre Conservation Fund owned (formerly Potlatch owned) parcel known as Laden Lake in Hubbard County for an estimated cost of \$5.0 million. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Sen. Dibble made a motion to approve the request to amend the current fee title parcel acquisition lists for the ML 2020 5(g) and ML 2018 5(b) Mississippi Headwaters Board / TPL projects to include the 2,500 acre Laden Lake parcel.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell

Schara

Rep. Becker-Finn

Sen. Dibble

Edmondson

Rep. Heintzman

Holsten

Sen. Lang

Peters

Saxhaug

Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Eggerling

**11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT – Motion Prevailed**

Annie Johnson, Grants Manager with Northern Waters Land Trust and Kathy DonCarlos, Land Conservation Lead with Northern Waters Land Trust presented a request for the ML 2020 5(d) and ML 2021 5(e) Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic Northern Central MN Lakes, Phases 6 & 7 projects to amend the fee-title parcel acquisition lists to include purchase of 659 acres of various Conservation Fund owned (formerly Potlatch owned) parcels, some with existing partial state/federal ownership known as the Kabekona River complex for an estimated cost of \$1.2 million.

**Action:** Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the request to amend the current fee title parcel acquisition lists for the ML 2020 5(d) and ML 2021 5(e) Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic Northern Central MN Lakes, Phases 6 & 7 projects to include the 659 acre Kabekona River complex with the existing partial state/federal ownership.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:  
Hartwell  
Schara  
Rep. Becker-Finn  
Sen. Dibble  
Edmondson  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Peters  
Saxhaug  
Swenson

NAY:  
Rep. Heintzeman

ABSENT:  
Eggerling

10 AYES, 1 NAYS, 1 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

Further Council discussion followed.

**12. Presentation – DNR – Off Highway Motorcycle Trails construction planned in Huntersville State Forest on parcels previously acquired with OHF monies:** Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner with MN DNR, Laura Preus, Statewide Programs and Planning Section Manager, Parks and Trails Division with MN DNR, and Pat Rivers, Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Division, MN DNR provided an overview for the Council regarding trails on DNR acquired lands, and trails in Huntersville State Forest in particular. Council discussion followed.

**13. Buffalo River Restoration Project – Buffalo Red River Watershed District:** Bennet Uhler, Project Engineer with Houston Engineering, John Voz, RIM Easement and Working Lands Specialist with MN BWSR, and Eran Sandquist, MN State Coordinator with Pheasants Forever presented a request to amend The current accomplishment plans for ML 2013 4(a) - Reinvest in Minnesota Wetlands Reserve Program Partnership, Phase V and ML 2018 2(h) - Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley - Phase IV to allow for a proposed stream bead restoration of the South Branch of the Buffalo River by the Buffalo Red River Watershed District.

**Action:** Sen Dibble made a motion to approve the proposed Buffalo River stream restoration project located on the two OHF funded parcels as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:  
Hartwell  
Rep. Becker-Finn  
Sen. Dibble  
Edmondson  
Rep. Heintzeman  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Peters  
Saxhaug  
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:  
Schara  
Eggerling

10 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**14. Presentation – OHF Habitat Work – How will Climate Change affect it? Is the work being done appropriate considering Climate Change challenges?:** Greg Hoch, Prairie Habitat Supervisor with MN DNR and Neal Feeken, Grassland Conservation Program Director with The Nature Conservancy provided information to the Council regarding carbon sequestration and climate change as they relate to OHF projects. Council discussion followed.

**15. Public Comments:** Commission Assistant Amanda Schnabel delivered verbal testimony from Mr. Rick Heller regarding ADA accessibility of Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council virtual meetings and meeting materials.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06pm.

APPROVED:

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David Hartwell, Chair

Date

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Jamie Swenson, Acting Secretary

Date