

County Notification Letter for ML 2022/FY 2023

Dear Counties of Minnesota,

Each spring, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) solicits habitat conservation project proposals to be considered for funding recommendation to the MN Legislature. This letter is to alert you to proposals that could have projects within your county, if they are successful in receiving LSOHC recommendation for funding and ultimate legislative approval of funding during the upcoming 2022 legislative session.

In accordance with [MN Statute 97A.056, Subd. 3\(j\)](#), this letter and the attached spreadsheet document are to comply with statutory direction that the LSOHC “provide counties with a list of project proposals that include potential fee title land acquisitions in the county that is based on that year’s funding requests received by the council from nongovernmental organizations.”

The attached spreadsheet document lists project proposals with potential fee-title activity within each county. The spreadsheet also provides the following link, https://www.lsohc.leg.mn/FY2023/Requests/index_list.html, that will bring you to a page on the [LSOHC website](#) where the respective detailed project proposals are all listed and hyperlinked. From there you can access the individual project proposal accomplishment plans containing each project’s individual information.

In an effort to provide each county board with additional information beyond fee title acquisition activities, the spreadsheet document also lists project proposals with potential easement acquisition activities as well as restoration and enhancement activities within each county.

With this information in mind, it is important to remember that these project proposals have not yet received a recommendation for funding by the LSOHC, nor recommendation to the Legislature. They are simply “proposals” at this time, and this is the beginning of the process through which they are requesting funding. Consequently, I urge you to consider reaching out to the program managers of project proposals that propose activity in your county. The program managers will be able to provide you with detailed information including why, where, and how they hope to accomplish habitat work. Hopefully, increasing communication between county boards and nongovernmental organizations who propose working in your county will provide greater knowledge, transparency, and overall collaboration.

Additionally, the LSOHC invites your County Board’s feedback regarding the program proposals seeking Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) funding for work in your county. The LSOHC will conduct proposal hearings on August 31, September 1 & 2, 2021. To be of greatest impact we suggest any feedback be submitted prior to the hearings. It is our hope that this opportunity will increase communication and lead to stronger and more widely supported project proposals in the future.

Ultimately, the Council’s statutory charge is to provide recommendations to the Legislature for the use of OHF monies to protect, restore, and enhance Minnesota’s wildlife habitat resources to the benefit of future generations. With that responsibility in mind, the Council continuously strives to increase

communication and promote inclusion of diverse partnerships. Your involvement and feedback can help the Council come to the best decisions.

For further information, please feel free to contact LSOHC staff. Their contact information is available on the LSOHC website: <https://www.lsohc.leg.mn/staff.html>.

Additionally, if your county agencies are interested in the potential of seeking OHF funding for a future project proposal, LSOHC members and staff are always available to discuss your ideas, offer suggestions, and offer our guidance. Annual funding recommendations exceed \$100 million. The opportunity for funding habitat related projects for your county is there, but we won't know your needs without a proposal.

Sincerely,

David Hartwell
Chairman
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council