

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

**MEMO:**        **Agenda Item #7**  
**DATE:**        October 7, 2021  
**SUBJECT:**     BWSR Wetlands and Buffer Program Amendments  
**PRESENTER:**   Sharon Doucette and Dave Weirens, BWSR

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### **Suggested Motion:**

Motion by Member XX to approve the following 5 BWSR Accomplishment Plan Amendments (summarized below & attached) for:

- ML 15 Buffers
- ML 16 Buffers
- ML 17 Buffers
- ML 17 Wetlands
- ML 18 Wetlands

### **Background Summary:**

Consistent with past practice of the Council, program accomplishment plans with minor changes are approved by staff, while substantial changes are brought before the Council for approval. BWSR staff are here to summarize and explain the requested amendments as they relate to the CREP program implementation in MN.

Below/attached is a summary of the accomplishment plan changes.

### **Summary of current Accomplishment plan Amendment requests before the Council**

The current request before the Council includes accomplishment plan changes to 5 BWSR programs. Minor changes to ML 16 Wetlands program were approved by staff in December 2020 and is included below.

#### [ML 2015 Buffers](#)

This program came before the Council in [December 2016](#) to increase stewardship funds via a legislative amendment. That approved amendment included increasing the acres, leverage, and # of easements based on outcomes anticipated from the CREP implementation.

In ML 2019 Law, this appropriation was extended 5-years to June 2024 from 2019.

The current request:

- update timeline to reflect a previous approved legislative extension of time
- budget shifts: reduce contracts, increase easement acquisition
- reduces stewardship needs from \$728,000 to \$253,500 (original AP was 72,500)

- reduces leverage from \$22.7 million to \$13.6 million (original AP was \$4.5 million)
- reduces acres from 1,793 to 1,036 (original AP was 600)
- reduces # of easements from 224 to 78
- addition of 31 parcels, updates acres and estimated costs on others

#### ML 16 Buffers

This program came before the Council in [December 2016](#) to increase stewardship funds via a legislative amendment. That approved amendment included increasing the acres, leverage, and # of easements based on outcomes anticipated from the CREP implementation

In ML 2019 Law, this appropriation was extended 5-years to June 2025 from 2020.

The current request:

- update timeline reflect a previous approved legislative extension of time
- budget shifts: reduce personnel and contracts, increase easement acquisition
- reduces stewardship needs from \$1,079,000 to \$273,000 (original AP was \$130,000)
- reduces leverage from \$33.5 million to \$18.6 million (original AP was \$6.7 million)
- reduces acres from 2,655 to 1,390 (original AP was 792)
- reduces # of easement from 332 to 84 (original AP was 40)
- adds 2 parcels to the list, updates acres and estimated costs on others

#### ML 17 Buffers

The current request:

- update timeline to within the availability of the federal funds – no legislative action needed
- budget shifts: reduce personnel and contracts, increase easement acquisition
- reduces stewardship needs from \$793,000 to \$123,500
- reduces leverage from \$27.6 million to \$16.1 million
- reduced easement from 244 easements to 38
- reduces acres from 2,053 to 1,335
- adds 26 parcels to the list

#### ML 17 Wetlands

The current request:

- update timeline to within the availability of the appropriation language
- reduces acres from 4,137 to 2,700
- reduces # of easement from 46 to 37
- reduces leverage from \$20.7 million to \$13.9 million
- adds 4 parcels to the list

## [ML 18 Wetlands](#)

The current request:

- update timeline to within the availability of the appropriation language
- budget shifts - reduces personnel & contracts; increases easement acquisition
- reduces stewardship needs from \$292,500 to \$175,500
- reduces leverage from \$23.6 million to \$9.9 million
- reduces acres from 3,920 to 2,400
- reduces # of easement from 45 to 27
- adds 24 parcels to the list

## [ML 16 Wetlands – Staff approved minor accomplishment plan amendment in December 2020](#)

This program came before the Council in December 2016 to increase stewardship funds via a legislative amendment. That approved amendment included increasing the acres, leverage, and # of easements based on outcomes anticipated from the CREP implementation

In ML 2020 law, this program was extended 3-years from 2019 to 2022.

The December 2020 staff approved accomplishment plan amendment included:

- reduces acres from 5,480 to 5,055 (original AP was 2,250)
- increases # of easement from 63 to 76 (original AP was 30)
- reduces leverage from \$27.6 million to \$26 million (original AP was \$0)
- increases stewardship needs from \$409,500 to \$410,000 (original AP was \$195,000)

## [PAST BWSR Amendments brought before Council \(click on date to link to agenda memo\):](#)

### [June 17, 2014](#)

Approval of Accomplishment Plan to reduce acres and number of easements for **ML 2011 RIM-WRP**

### [November 13, 2014](#)

Approval of changes from Draft AP to Final AP that reduced acres and leverage for **ML 2014 RIM-WRP**

### [November 13, 2014](#)

Approval of Accomplishment Plan to reduce acres, leverage, and number of easement for **ML 2012 RIM-WRP Program** and **ML 2013 RIM-WRP Program**

### [December 14, 2016](#)

Approval to legislatively increase stewardship monies for 3 appropriations as follows due to federal CREP match. The amendments also increased acres, # of easements, and leverage amounts from the original and are noted above under current AP Amendment requests for **ML 2015 RIM Buffers**, **ML 2016 RIM Wetlands**, and **ML 2016 RIM Buffers**.

**Attachments:**

- Accomplishment Plan Amendments for each of the programs
- BWSR PowerPoint