

MINUTES
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)
October 7, 2021
Al Klingelhutz Memorial Pavilion, Lake Ann Park
1456 West 78th Street
Chanhassen, MN 55317

Call to Order: Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

NONE

A quorum was present.

1. Review and Approve Agenda: Councilmember Eggerling made a motion to approve the agenda – **Motion Prevailed**

2. Review and Approve Minutes: Vice Chair Schara made a motion to approve the minutes from September 1, 2021 and September 2, 2021 – **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 gave the Council an overview of the allocation discussion and recommendation process that would take place as part of the day's agenda.

5. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Mark Johnson provided information for the Council on several items of business:

- Mr. Johnson reported on two requests for conveyance that had been sent to the Council for approval.
- Mr. Johnson also noted that staff had received notice from MN DNR Deputy Commissioner Bob Meier that MN DNR is currently in the process of filling the vacant Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program staff position.
- Councilmembers were asked by Mr. Johnson to note any conflicts they may have with the draft 2022 Council calendar and pass the conflicts along to staff at their convenience.
- Additionally, Mr. Johnson informed Councilmembers of an optional tour of an OHF funded buckthorn removal site in Washington County.

6. Acquisition of Parcels with Existing Partial State/Federal Ownership: Kristina Geiger, Associate Director of Land Protection with MN Land Trust, requested an approval from the Council for ML2020, Ch.104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(h) – Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program, Phase 2 to acquire a conservation easement on a parcel of land with existing state/federal ownership.

Action: Councilmember Holsten made a motion to approve the requested parcel – **Motion Prevailed**

7. BWSR – Request for Amendments to ML’s 2015, 2016, 2017 Buffers and ML’s 2017, 2018 Wetlands: Sharon Doucette, Conservation Easement Section Manager with BWSR and Dave Weirens, Assistant Director for Programs & Policy with BWSR, presented amendment requests for five separate programs. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Eggerling made a motion to approve all five requested amendments – **Motion Prevailed**

8. DNR IDP Funding – IDP Supervisor & IDP Fieldwork Funding: Jamie Gangaware, Wildlife Operations & Development Supervisor, Division of Fish & Wildlife with MN DNR and Jennifer Olson, IDP Coordinator with MN DNR provided an overview for the Council of the DNR Initial Development Plan (IDP) program. Council discussion followed. Staff was directed to coordinate a more in-depth IDP presentation for the November 3 meeting.

9. Chairs’ Recommendation and Allocation Selection: Chair David Hartwell initiated a discussion of ML22/FY23 Project Proposals currently before the Council for possible allocation recommendation. Following Council discussion, Chair Hartwell introduced he and Vice Chair Schara’s joint allocation recommendations. Further Council discussion followed.

Action: Chair Hartwell made a motion that the Council recommend funding all ML22/FY23 projects receiving eight or more member votes, at the funding level indicated by those votes and in the manner in which the projects were originally presented to the Council, with the exception of:

- CPL (Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Ph. 14: Statewide and Metro Habitat) which would be recommended for full funding
- HA08 (DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition, Ph. 14) which would have the imbedded IDP Coordinator position removed and funded as a separate administrative item at the level of \$123,000 (42%) – the same funding recommendation level as HA08 – with the understanding that the Council would continue discussion in the future about how best to handle IDP in the long term
- HA02 (Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase VIII) which would be allowed to revise the way they handle their acquisition of easements to mirror BWSR’s system, with the understanding that all easement acquisitions must ultimately be trued up with appraisals so that OHF monies are not being used to pay more than the appraised value
- HRE02 (DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement - Phase 5) which would be required to scale its personnel cost proportionate to the funding level
- FA04 (Minnesota Forests for the Future Phase IX) which must exclude Conservation Fund lands unless the Council is able to see the purchase price relative to the selling price prior to approving
- HRE11 (Daylighting Phalen Creek) which would not be allowed to use any of its OHF funding for public outreach or stakeholder engagement

Additionally, all four administrative items would be recommended for full funding, and the \$446,000 remaining unallocated would be held for allocation consideration at the December 9 Council meeting following the release of the updated December fiscal forecast – **Motion Prevailed (Approved by voice vote with no dissenting votes.)**

Staff was instructed to reach out to MN DNR and encourage DNR to be more proactive in working with both local road authorities and MNDOT to more clearly define their contributions towards road culvert fish passage improvements.

10. Public Comments: There were no public comments made or submitted.

9. Chairs' Recommendation and Allocation Selection (cont.): Chair Hartwell noted that MN DNR had asked the Council to consider recommending an increase in the allowed funding limit for the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (CPL) from \$400,00 to \$500,00 and the allowed total project cost limit from \$575,000 to \$1 Million. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Eggerling made a motion to recommend that the CPL project funding limit be increased from \$400,000 to \$500,00 and the total project cost limit increased from \$575,000 to \$1 Million, as requested by DNR, and correspondingly increase the Council grant request minimum to \$500,000 – **Motion Prevailed (Approved by voice vote with no dissenting votes.)**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36pm.

APPROVED:

David Hartwell, Chair

Date

Kristin Eggerling, Secretary

Date