

MINUTES
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)
January 19, 2022
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 8:02am.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Ashley Peters

A quorum was present.

- 1. Review and Approve Agenda:** Senator Dibble made a motion to approve the agenda – **Motion Prevailed**
- 2. Review and Approve Minutes:** Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the minutes from December 9, 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 drew Members' attention to several items that would be presented for Council consideration and discussion later in the meeting.
- 5. Executive Director's Report:** Executive Director Mark Johnson provided information to the Council on several items of business:
 - Mr. Johnson invited Chair Hartwell to provide the Council with an overview of the non-quorum meeting between LSOHC and the Clean Water Council. Representative Heintzeman and Councilmember Eggerling also provided insight and requested that staff procure the presentation given by the Clean Water Council at the meeting and provide it to all LSOHC Members for their perusal.
 - Mr. Johnson reported on a conveyance request submitted by MN DNR which would provide MnDOT an easement to widen a portion of Highway 169 through the Aitkin WMA.
 - Mr. Johnson noted that jacketed copies for the official ML2022/FY2023 OHF recommendations bill had been delivered by Commission Assistant Amanda Schnabel to the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, and Governor on January 13, 2022, per statute.

- Ms. Schnabel reminded councilmembers of an upcoming discrimination and harassment training provided by the LCC, and mandatory for all public members.

6. Review & Approval of 2022 Council Calendar: Commission Assistant Amanda Schnabel reported that per Council discussion, the December 2022 meeting had been shifted on the current calendar draft before the Council from 12/7 to 12/13 in order to better accommodate the release of the November fiscal forecast. Ms. Schnabel noted that the newly proposed date had been provided to Councilmembers via email for their consideration, and staff had received no negative feedback.

Action: Sen. Dibble made a motion to approve the draft of the 2022 Council Calendar currently before the Council.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell

Schara

Sen. Dibble

Rep. Ecklund

Edmondson

Eggerling

Rep. Heintzeman

Holsten

Sen. Lang

Saxhaug

Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Peters

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

7. Parcel List Additions with Heritage Forest Parcels, Conservation Fund Purchase Price Transparency, Trails – Hubbard County: Kim Berns-Melhus, State Director and Emilee Nelson, Associate State Director with The Conservation Fund provided information for the Council regarding the purchase of PotlatchDeltic lands – now known as Minnesota’s Heritage Forest Project – with regards to long term plans and price transparency. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Schara made a motion to:

- Approve the presented MN Heritage Forest land acquisition purchases from The Conservation Fund as outlined in the ML 2021, First Sp. Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(i) – Targeted RIM Easement and Acquisition to the Parcel Level Pine and Leech Watersheds, Phase II Accomplishment Plan Amendment, the ML 2018, Ch. 208, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(b) - Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project - Phase IV Accomplishment Plan Amendment, and the ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(g) - Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project Phase V Accomplishment Plan Amendment
- Direct LSOHC staff to review future such amendments in the normal course of business and approve them if deemed appropriate or disapprove if not appropriate

- Require that The Conservation Fund provide a detailed accounting of costs vs. purchase price prior to closing on all acquisitions of Minnesota Forest Heritage parcels, and require that The Conservation Fund sell all MN Heritage Forest lands at their cost.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:	NAY:	ABSENT:
Hartwell		Peters
Schara		
Sen. Dibble		
Rep. Ecklund		
Edmondson		
Eggerling		
Rep. Heintzeman		
Holsten		
Sen. Lang		
Saxhaug		
Swenson		

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

8. OHF Land Acquisition Valuation and Purchase Price: Assistant Director Joe Pavelko and Sharon Doucette, Easement Section Manager with MN Board of Water and Soil Resources gave the Council an overview of current land valuation processes as related to determining purchase price for acquisitions and easements. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Swenson made a motion that Dakota County be allowed to use either the standard appraisal process valuation method or the RIM process valuation method for their HA02 Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase VIII project proposal when determining and paying value on projects funded by OHF, replacing the related motion made by the Council on October 7, 2021.

Further Council discussion followed.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:	NAY:	ABSENT:
Hartwell		Rep. Ecklund
Schara		Peters
Sen. Dibble		
Edmondson		
Eggerling		
Rep. Heintzeman		
Holsten		
Sen. Lang		
Saxhaug		
Swenson		

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

9. Review and Approve ML2023 / FY2024 Request for Proposals: Assistant Director Pavelko gave the Council an overview of the ML2023/FY2024 draft Call for Funding Request.

Action: Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the ML2023/FY2024 Call for Funding Request, allowing staff to make technical changes as necessary and substantive changes as approved by the Chair.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell

Schara

Sen. Dibble

Edmondson

Eggerling

Rep. Heintzeman

Holsten

Sen. Lang

Saxhaug

Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Rep. Ecklund

Peters

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

10. Conversion/Conveyance – ML2017, Ch. 91, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(g) – Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program, Phase VI: Assistant Director Pavelko, Courtney Phillips, Program/Project Manager with Shell Rock River Watershed District and Tom Austin, Project Manager with MnDOT gave the Council an overview of a requested MnDOT easement on OHF purchased lands which would allow for the planting of a living snow fence. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Swenson made a motion to approve the Minnesota Department of Transportation living snow fence easement on the Outdoor Heritage Funded parcel pursuant to M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 15 as presented, with direction that MnDOT give additional consideration for species and habitat enhancement.

Further Council discussion followed.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell
Schara
Sen. Dibble
Edmondson
Eggerling
Rep. Heintzeman
Holsten
Sen. Lang
Saxhaug
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Rep. Ecklund
Peters

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

11. Presentation: Program Success Stories – Prairie Recovery Project: Neal Feeken, Protect Land and Water Director for the MN Chapter of The Nature Conservancy provided an overview for the Council of the Minnesota Prairie Recovery Program. Council discussion followed.

12. Public Comments: Chair Hartwell reported that no public comments had been submitted to the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04am.

APPROVED:

David Hartwell, Chair

Date

Kristin Eggerling, Secretary

Date