

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: **Agenda Item #7**
DATE: July 28, 2022
SUBJECT: Accomplishment Plan Amendment:
 ML 2019, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Subd. 5(b) - Metro Big Rivers, Phase 9
PRESENTER: Deb Loon, MN Valley Trust

Suggested Motion:

Motion by Member XX to approve/deny the accomplishment plan amendment eliminating fee title acquisition from the program and allowing the use of \$820,000 appropriation to the Minnesota Valley Trust to be used for restoration and enhancement (R/E) activities.

Background:

As has been past practice, accomplishment plans with substantive changes come before the Council for approval. We are bringing it to the Council as the amendment will eliminate “fee title without PILT” as a grant-funded activity in the program.

The Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) requests an amendment to convert its grant funds in this phase from Fee Acquisition w/o PILT to R/E activities. This is necessary because they were not able to get a purchase agreement executed by 6/30/22, the deadline for this grant phase.

With this amendment, MVT anticipates completing restoration and enhancement work on at least 300 acres. All work will be completed on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) and Wetland Management District within the LSOHC's Metro Urbanizing Area, including on a parcel recently acquired by MVT for the Refuge with an OHF grant via Metro Big Rivers 8. All prospective projects are being identified by MVT and USFWS and will be selected soon, at which point they will request a subsequent amendment to add projects to the parcel list and, if needed, refine the budget and outputs.

The amendment requests:

- Reduces the total fee title acquisition acres from 200 to 0 (a completed 20-acre fee title acquisition will be reported as leverage).
- Increases Restoration and Enhancement acres by 300 (from 597 to 897).
- Reduces leverage by \$45,000
- Project Manager confirms that the R/E activities will be completed by June 30, 2024 within the availability of the appropriation.

Attachments:

- Metro Big Rivers Phase 9 Accomplishment Plan