

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

**MEMO:**        **Agenda Item #8**  
**DATE:**        July 28, 2022  
**SUBJECT:**     Accomplishment Plan Amendment:  
                  ML 2019, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd, 2(c) - MN Prairie Recovery Project  
                  Phase 9  
**PRESENTER:**   Neal Feeken, The Nature Conservancy

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### **Suggested Motion:**

Motion by Member XX to approve/deny the accomplishment plan amendment reducing fee title acquisition from the program and allowing the use of \$599,000 of the appropriation 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 this amendment to the Council as the program is greatly reducing fee title activity in the program.

This program has approximately \$599,000 remaining in the fee-title related budget line items.

Comments from the Program Manager: "TNC believed to be in a very strong position to successfully spend this money down within the timeframe but one deal in Lincoln county fell apart when the owner sold to the neighbor and a second deal in Kandiyohi county didn't come together in time. TNC continues negotiations with the sellers for the latter transaction - an 80 acre addition to the Regal Meadows WMA complex in Kandiyohi county. All indications led us to believe that they would sign a binding agreement, but the two owners just couldn't quite reach agreement amongst themselves and the deadline passed without action. TNC is hopeful that given more conversation and time they'll be able to pull the deal together in the coming year using other Prairie Recovery funds.

As you know, we have a robust enhancement component to the Prairie Recovery Program and could easily apply unspent acquisition dollars toward enhancement activities."

The amendment requests:

- Reduces the total Fee Title Acquisition acres by 260 (from 500 to 240)
- Increase Enhancement acres by 4,000 (from 14,000 to 18,000)
- Reduces Leverage by \$124,000 (from \$421,200 to \$297,200)
- Project Manager confirms that the Enhancement activities will be completed by June 30, 2024 within the availability of the appropriation

### **Attachments:**

- MN Prairie Recovery Project Phase 9 Accomplishment Plan