

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item #7b
DATE: January 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Legislative Extensions of Time
PRESENTER: Wayne Ostlie – Minnesota Land Trust

Suggested Motion:

Motion by Member XX to approve/disapprove extension of time for ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 5(a) - Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on MN North Shore, Phase 1

\$1,809,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat in priority coldwater tributaries to Lake Superior. Of this amount, **up to ~~\$144,000~~ \$240,000 is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund** as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed conservation easement acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Background:

- Requesting a 1-year extension until June 30, 2025 and increase in stewardship funds by \$96,000 to total \$240,000. That increase would allow stewardship for 4 additional easements.
- Phase 2 (ML 2022) appropriation has \$3.395 million with \$11,000 spent to date and availability goes until June 30, 2026.
- Currently ML 2020 Phase 1 acquisitions in this program need signed agreements by June 30, 2023 in order to get an additional year to close.
- Phase 1 spent to date in August Status Update \$171,200 out of \$1,809,000 Most recent correspondence indicates \$1 million for easement acquisition remains.
- Phase 1 August Update did not indicate that an extension would be needed. They stated, “Four conservation easement projects, totaling approximately 291 acres, continue to be developed with due diligence steps and easement term negotiation proceeding and also indicated “landowner outreach is ongoing.....” and “one potential project was put on hold due to landowner readiness issues”.
- E-mail correspondence stated 5 of the 6 anticipated easements are poised to close by June 30, 2023 and acres will be nearly achieved or exceeded.

Attachments:

- Memo from MLT