

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

**MEMO:** Agenda Item #8  
**DATE:** January 27, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** Accomplishment Plan Amendments  
Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection & Restoration Phase 2 & 3  
**PRESENTER:** Sabin Adams, Pheasants Forever

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### Suggested Motion:

Motion by Member XX to approve/disapprove the accomplishment plan amendments for:

ML 2020, 5(p) - Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection & Restoration Phase 2

ML 2021, 5(o) - Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection & Restoration Phase 3

### Amendment Change Summary:

Pheasants Forever would like to purchase the parcel, identified on the parcel list as Kinzer Creek – Stearns County (\$4,200,000 / 298 acres), to be conveyed to Stearns County near the City of Cold Spring. County ownership is an addition to the current accomplishment plan.

- Page 3 – update WMA to Stearns County Parks Department
- Page 7 – added County/Municipal to where activity takes place & variations updated for hunting/fishing
- Page 8 – Update ownership and designation of acquired parcel & update info on trails
- Budget shifts:
  - ML 2020 – Move \$140,000 from Fee acquisition w/PILT to w/o PILT
  - ML 2021 – Move \$445,000 from Fee acquisition w/PILT to w/o PILT

### Project Funding

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Appraised Value                                 | \$2,786,000.00 |
| ML 2020 – OHF \$                                | 1,084,525      |
| ML 2021 – OHF \$                                | 868,025        |
| County Funds (County Board Officially Approved) | 333,450        |
| Private Donation (Anonymous)                    | 500,000        |
| TOTAL   | \$2,786,000    |

**Considerations for the acquisition:**

- Stearns Co. wants to utilize 6 acres as a boat landing, parking lot, restrooms, fishing pier, primitive camping, and picnic shelter. LSOHC funds will not be used to install these items.
- The entire property, 253.4 acres, has already been appraised and surveyed. If the above mentioned 6 acres are not approved by LSOHC we would need to split the acquisition into multiple tracts which would require ordering new appraisals, surveys and essentially starting the project over.
- All other acres will be managed by Stearns Co. as habitat for wildlife similar to how WMA's and WPA's are managed.
- Upland and wetland acres will be restored by Pheasants Forever using LSOHC funds.
- Limited hunting and trapping restrictions, such as firearm hunting limited to fine shot only, or trapping by permit only.
- Minimal grass trails may be mowed on the property for use by hunters, hikers, birders etc.

**Attachments:**

- Accomplishment Plans for Phase 2 & Phase 3
- 3 Acquisition Property Maps