

**MINUTES**  
**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)**  
**November 16, 2023**  
**Hybrid Meeting – MN State Capitol 120/ Zoom, pursuant to MS 13D**

**Call to Order:** Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 8:32am.

**Members Present**

David Hartwell (Chair)  
Kristin Eggerling (Acting Vice Chair)  
Rep. John Burkel  
Dudley Edmondson  
Sen. Foung Hawj  
Mark Holsten  
Sen. Andrew Lang  
Tom Saxhaug  
Ron Schara  
Jamie Swenson

**Members Absent**

Rep. Leon Lillie

A quorum was present.

- 1. Review and Approve Agenda:** Councilmember Jamie Swenson made a motion to approve the agenda – **Motion Prevailed**
- 2. Review and Approve Minutes:** Councilmember Tom Saxhaug made a motion to approve the minutes from October 5, 2023 – **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 thanked staff for their detailed review of and report to the Council regarding the ML24/FY25 draft Accomplishment Plans, and noted that the Governor had not yet made an appointment to the Council seat formerly held by Ashley Peters.
- 5. Executive Director's Report:** Executive Director Mark Johnson drew the Council's attention to a thank you letter from Minnehaha Creek Watershed District relating to the completion of their Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Habitat Restoration program. Mr. Johnson gave the Council an overview of successes achieved by the program and encouraged members to read the final report. Mr. Johnson also presented two non-controversial requests for conveyance to the Council: one related to a Board of Water and Soil Resources RIM easement – a portion of which is needed by the Department of Transportation for highway repairs, and one related to a Department of Natural Resources native prairie bank easement – a portion of which is needed by Martin County for a culvert replacement and future maintenance of the replaced culvert. Mr. Johnson also reported on several recent Outdoor Heritage Fund related meetings he had participated in, and a tour he took of Conservation Partners Legacy Grants funded Ruffed Grouse Society management sites near Grand Rapids, MN. Lastly Mr. Johnson noted that the LSOHC office would be temporarily moving to the Centennial Office Building in early December to accommodate the upcoming remodel of the State Office Building.

**6. Review & Approval of 2024 Council Meeting Calendar:** Executive Director Johnson introduced the proposed 2024 Council meeting calendar and noted that it also included January 2025, in an effort to better reflect the full funding cycle going forward. Mr. Johnson also noted that Councilmember Dudley Edmondson had submitted a conflict with the proposed June dates to staff prior to the meeting. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Councilmember Mark Holsten made a motion to amend the current calendar draft as such:

- the June meeting/tour dates – currently set for June 17 and 18 – be moved to June 10 and 11
- the November meeting date – currently set for November 14 – be moved to November 19

and approve the calendar as amended.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell  
Rep. Burkel  
Edmondson  
Eggerling  
Sen. Hawj  
Holsten  
Saxhaug  
Schara  
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Sen. Lang  
Rep. Lillie

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

**7. Appropriation Extension Request - ML 2019, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd, 4(g) – Big Rice Lake Wild Rice Enhancement:** Ricky Lien, Wetland Habitat Supervisor with MN DNR, Nicole Hansel-Welch, Shallow Lakes Program Supervisor with MN DNR, Thomas Howes, Natural Resources Program Manager with Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Melissa Thompson Shallow Lake Specialist with MN DNR, and Darren Vogt, Resource Management Division Director with 1854 Treaty Authority presented an appropriation extension request for the ML 2019/FY 2020 Big Rice Lake Wild Rice Enhancement appropriation. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Councilmember Holsten made a motion to approve the ML 2019, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd, 4(g) – Big Rice Lake Wild Rice Enhancement extension request as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell  
Rep. Burkel  
Edmondson  
Eggerling  
Holsten  
Saxhaug  
Schara  
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Sen. Hawj  
Sen. Lang  
Rep. Lillie

8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**8. Accomplishment Plan Amendment Requests – Change in Activity and Outputs:** Executive Director Jonson presented information to the Council regarding recent trends staff have observed in accomplishment plan amendments. Council discussion followed. Staff was directed to draw up recommendations for Council consideration that could help provide guidance/protocol regarding amendments seeking to shift the activity/outputs of a particular program, and to present these recommendations to the Council at a future meeting.

**9. Accomplishment Plan Amendment Request – ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd 5(c) – Resilient Habitat for Heritage Brook Trout:** Nick Bancks, Project Manager with Trust for Public Land and John Lenczewski, Executive Director with MN Trout Unlimited presented an Accomplishment Plan amendment request for the ML2020/FY2021 Resilient Habitat for Heritage Brook Trout program. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd 5(c) – Resilient Habitat for Heritage Brook Trout accomplishment plan amendment request as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

|           |           |             |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| AYE:      | NAY:      | ABSENT:     |
| Hartwell  | Edmondson | Rep. Burkel |
| Eggerling | Holsten   | Sen. Lang   |
| Sen. Hawj | Schara    | Rep. Lillie |
| Saxhaug   | Swenson   |             |

4 AYES, 4 NAYS, 3 ABSENT – **Motion Did Not Prevail**

Continued Council discussion followed.

**10. The Role of Food Plots on WMA Lands, Insights and Objectives:** Dave Trauba, Region Wildlife Manager with MN DNR and Kelly Straka, Wildlife Section Manager with MN DNR provided information for the Council regarding the role that food plots play in strategic MN DNR wildlife management areas. Council discussion followed.

**11. Council Officer Vacancies/Election:** Chair Hartwell reminded the Council they must fill the Vice Chair position left vacant by the departure of Ashley Peters, and asked the Council their preference regarding doing so at the current meeting vs. a future meeting. Council discussion followed. A consensus was reached that the Council would vote on the issue at the December meeting.

**12. Council Funding Recommendations:** Executive Director Johnson and Assistant Director Joe Pavelko provided an overview of the draft Accomplishment Plans and related materials currently before the Council. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to progress the draft Accomplishment Plans with the exception of:

- WRE01 – DNR Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements – Phase 16, which was directed to provide additional information to the Council regarding personnel costs.
- FA02 – Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape ACUB Protection Program – Phase 12, which was directed to correct a math error in the Accomplishment Plan.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell  
Rep. Burkel  
Edmondson  
Eggerling  
Sen. Hawj  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Saxhaug  
Schara  
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Rep. Lillie

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

**13. Public Comments:** Chair Hartwell announced that no public comments had been submitted to the Council.

**12. Council Funding Recommendations (cont.):** Continued Council discussion.

**Action:** Acting Vice Chair Kristin Eggerling made a motion directing staff to proceed with drafting of ML2024 bill language – reflective of the reallocation of acquisition/IDP monies from individual programs to the Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions program – for review and approval at December 7, 2023 meeting.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell  
Rep. Burkel  
Edmondson  
Eggerling  
Sen. Hawj  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Saxhaug  
Schara  
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Rep. Lillie

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22am.

APPROVED:

---

David Hartwell, Chair

Date

---

Kristin Eggerling, Secretary

Date