

**MINUTES**  
**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)**  
**December 7, 2023**  
**Hybrid Meeting – MN State Capitol 120/ Zoom, pursuant to MS 13D**

**Call to Order:** Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 8:35am.

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

A quorum was present.

**1. Review and Approve Agenda:** Councilmember Tom Saxhaug made a motion to amend the agenda as follows to better accommodate several councilmembers' schedules:

- Item #6 becomes item #10
- Item #7 becomes item #9
- Item #8 becomes item #11
- Item #9 becomes item #6
- Item #10 becomes item #7
- Item #11 becomes item #8

and approve the agenda as amended – **Motion Prevailed**

**2. Review and Approve Minutes:** Councilmember Jamie Swenson made a motion to approve the minutes from November 16, 2023 – **Motion Prevailed**

**3. Conflicts of Interest Reported:** Chair Hartwell reported a continuing conflict with any proposal/recommendation related to the American Bird Conservancy.

**4. Chair's Comments:** Chair Hartwell announced that the November fiscal forecast had indicated significant extra monies available for allocation from the Outdoor Heritage Fund and noted that he and Acting Vice Chair Kristin Eggerling had assembled a Chairs' recommendation for the extra funds – which Councilmembers would be discussing later in the meeting.

**5. Executive Director’s Report:** Executive Director Mark Johnson reminded Councilmembers of an invitation they had received to an upcoming presentation regarding the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape program hosted by the Minnesota National Guard. Mr. Johnson also reminded members that the next Council meeting would take place on January 10, 2024.

**6. November Fiscal Forecast Results and Review:** Ryan Merz, Executive Budget Officer with MN Management and Budget and Josh Riesen, Director of Budget Policy and Analysis with MN Management and Budget gave the Council an overview of the recent November fiscal forecast, as related to the Outdoor Heritage Fund, and noted that an additional \$29,361,000 was predicted to be available for allocation from the fund. Council discussion followed.

**7. Review and Approve Council Funding Recommendations:** Chair Hartwell gave the Council an overview of the new Chairs’ recommendations – reflective of the additional monies available in the November fiscal forecast – before the Council. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to adopt the updated Chairs’ recommendations as presented:

- Fund CPL – Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Ph. 16 Statewide and Metro Habitat proposal at the level of \$15,000,000.
- Fully fund FA01 – Minnesota Heritage Forest - Transition to Public Ownership Program proposal at its original ask of \$22,647,000.
- Distribute the remaining \$14,311,000 by a proportional amount of what was recommended by the Council at its October meeting among proposals that received funding recommendations from all 11 councilmembers – with the addition of FRE 02 – Young Forest Conservation Phase IV, which received votes from 10 councilmembers, with 1 member declaring a conflict of interest – with the understanding that funding increases should not exceed full funding and administrative budget items (personnel and DSS) are limited to the same proportional increase.
- Any decline in the February forecast would result in a proportional reduction of the additional funding amounts recommended for the proposals that received the remaining \$14,311,000 of funding.

Continued Council discussion followed.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

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

NAY:

ABSENT:

11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**8. Review and Approval of OHF Recommendations Bill Language:** Assistant Director Joe Pavelko gave Councilmembers and overview of the ML 2024 OHF Recommendations bill language.

**Action:** Acting Vice Chair Kristin Eggerling made a motion to approve the ML 2024 OHF Recommendations bill language, with direction that staff update the allocation numbers to reflect the recent adoption of the updated Chairs’ recommendations, and that staff is given the ability to make future technical edits as needed.

Continued Council discussion followed.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

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

NAY:

ABSENT:

11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**9. Acquisition of Parcel with Existing Permanent Protection:** David Ruff, Conservation Program Manager with The Nature Conservancy and Wayne Ostlie, Director of Land Protection with The Minnesota Land Trust presented a request to acquire a parcel with existing permanent protection related to both the ML 2022, Regular Session, Chapter 77, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 5(d) – Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration, Phase 10 program and the ML 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 40, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 5(e) – Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration, Phase 11 program appropriations. Council discussion followed. The Council declined to take up requested extension.

**10. Council Officer Vacancies/Election:** Chair Hartwell announced to Councilmembers that, per Council operating procedures, the Council must elect a new Vice Chair to fill the vacancy left by former Councilmember Ashley Peters’ resignation.

**Action:** Councilmember Swenson made a motion to nominate Ron Schara for the position of Vice Chair. Mr. Schara accepted the nomination.

No other nominations were made for the position of Chair.

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**

**11. Review and Progress ML2024 / FY2025 DRAFT Accomplishment Plans:** Chair Hartwell reminded the Council that they must review several ML 2024/FY 2025 Draft Accomplishment Plans that had been requested to make corrections/changes prior to progression. Ricky Lien, Wetland Habitat Team Supervisor with MN DNR and John Maile, Wetland Habitat Program Supervisor with MN DNR provided the Council with further information regarding the WRE01 – DNR Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements, Phase 16 Accomplishment Plan. Council Discussion Followed.

**Action:** Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to progress the draft accomplishment plan for WRE01 – DNR Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements – Phase 16.

Continued Council discussion followed.

Executive Director Johnson reported that FA02 – Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape ACUB Protection Program – Phase 12, had made the requested corrections to technical errors in their accomplishment plan and staff had reviewed and found the corrections satisfactory.

Executive Director Johnson and Assistant Director Joe Pavelko informed the Council that appropriate acquisition/IDP monies from individual accomplishment plans had been moved from those accomplishment plans to the O3 – DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions accomplishment plan, and would be adjusted as appropriate going forward, should the Council make any additional changes to their appropriation recommendations.

**Action:** Councilmember Saxhaug amended his motion to progress the remaining draft Accomplishment Plans for:

- WRE01 – DNR Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements – Phase 16
- FA02 – Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape ACUB Protection Program – Phase 12
- O3 – DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

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

NAY:

ABSENT:

Holsten  
Rep. Lillie  
Schara

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57am.

APPROVED:

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David Hartwell, Chair

Date

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Kristin Eggerling, Secretary

Date