

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item #8a

DATE: January 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Request for 1-year Extension of Funding Availability

M.L. 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 5(f) –
Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement and Restoration,
Phase 11

PRESENTER: John Lenczewski, Executive Director, Minnesota Trout Unlimited

Suggested Motion:

Motion by Member XX to approve/deny the request for an extension of availability of funding for one additional year (until June 30, 2025).

No motion being presented constitutes a denial of the requested extension.

Background:

Minnesota Trout Unlimited is requesting a one-year extension of funding availability related to its ML2019 Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement & Restoration, Phase 11 OHF appropriation, to ensure completion of its habitat enhancement projects. MN TU Executive Director John Lenczewski reports, “Due to changes in federal regulations for Northern Long Eared Bats and recent changes in MPCA permitting requirements, it is uncertain whether we will be permitted to follow our usual construction schedule and sequence in time to complete installation by June 30, 2024. Extending the appropriation a year (or at least until Dec 31, 2024), would ensure that we can complete all habitat enhancement projects and exhaust all enhancement dollars in the grant.”

Considerations:

At the Council’s May 24, 2023 meeting, a motion was adopted placing restrictions on requests for extensions to OHF appropriations. The restrictions are outlined in the following points:

- Appropriation extension requests will only be considered with delineated extraordinary circumstances related to weather or unforeseen last-minute circumstances.
- Appropriation extension requests must be submitted for Council review no later than the Council’s November meeting to provide necessary time for Council consideration and potential bill language inclusion.
- Extension requests must be accompanied by a well-defined plan toward project completion that provides the Council with confidence in project success.
- Appropriation extension amendments should not include an increase in personnel or DSS.

Over the past several years, extensions have been granted for the preceding four (4) phases of this program (ML2015, ML2016, ML2017, ML2018). Each of these are now closed and final reports filed.

Attachments:

- Extension request from Minnesota Trout Unlimited Executive Director John Lenczewski
- ML2019 Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement & Restoration, Phase 11 Accomplishment Plan