

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item #8
DATE: Tuesday, March 26, 2024
SUBJECT: Invasive Carp Deterrent at Lock & Dam #5 (Mississippi River)
PRESENTER: LSOHC Staff, MN DNR, Additional Agencies

Potential Suggested Motion:

Motion by Member XX to approve a recommendation by the LSOHC for appropriation of \$12.1 million to the commissioner of natural resources, for an agreement with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, for a pilot project to design, construct, operate, maintain, and evaluate a structural deterrent for invasive carp at Lock & Dam #5 on the Mississippi River to protect Minnesota's aquatic habitat through an adaptive management approach. If funds remain in excess to those needed for the above, within the availability of this appropriation, those funds may be used to supplement invasive carp tagging, netting, and commercial capture activities within the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix Rivers. A detailed accomplishment plan must be submitted to and approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council prior to release of funds. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2029.

Note: To be considered an "official recommendation" of the LSOHC, the motion must be passed with at least 9 members voting in the affirmative.

Suggested Procedure:

Presentation of draft proposal by MN DNR, to be followed by discussion – with input from other agencies and Council.

Background:

The February 2024 Fiscal Forecast identified an additional \$12 million of OHF monies available for eventual appropriation. LSOHC has been asked to consider potential recommendation of those funds for an invasive carp deterrent project on the Mississippi River at Lock & Dam #5 (Minnesota City).

MN DNR, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, US Army Core of Engineers, and WI DNR have agreed to attend today's Council meeting to discuss their perspectives and potential roles regarding an invasive carp deterrent project. Communications between the agencies in this regard has been robust of late.

Attachments:

- MN DNR Draft Invasive Carp Deterrent Proposal
- Draft Carp Deterrent Appropriation Language