

MINUTES
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)
January 10, 2024
Hybrid Meeting – MN State Capitol 120/ Zoom, pursuant to MS 13D

Call to Order: Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Sen. Andrew Lang

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 December 7, 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 reminded members that they would be reviewing the ML 2025/FY 2026 Call for Funding Requests at today's meeting.
- 5. Executive Director's Report:** Executive Director Mark Johnson gave the Council an overview of a meeting he attended pertaining to the history of the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape program, along with a meeting that he and Assistant Director Joe Pavelko attended with the Department of Labor and Industry related to the ongoing prevailing wage discussion. Mr. Johnson also noted that updated bill language, reflective of the allocation recommendation package passed by the Council on December 7, 2023 could be found in members' packets. It was also noted by Mr. Johnson that LCCMR had scheduled a meeting that directly conflicted with the planned LSOHC tour in June 2024 and asked members if they had flexibility to adjust the scheduled LSOHC tour/meeting days. Council discussion followed. It was determined that the tour/meeting dates would be moved from June 10/11, 2024 to June 11/12, 2024.
- 6. OHF Roving Crews – Overview & Update of Work:** Greg Hoch, Prairie Habitat Supervisor with MN DNR and Kevin Berens, SE MN Roving Crew Supervisor with MN DNR provided the Council with an update on the work that the DNR roving crews have been doing with the aid of OHF funding, along with some of the outcomes observed so far. Council discussion followed.

7. CPL Overview & Update: David Stein, CPL Coordinator with MN DNR and Rob Rabasco, State Program Administrator Sr. with MN DNR provided the Council with an overview of the Conservation Partners Legacy grant program and an update on its current status. Council discussion followed.

8. Extension of Funding Availability Requests: Jon Lenczewski, Executive Director with MN Trout Unlimited presented an appropriation extension request for the ML 2019 Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement and Restoration, Phase 11 program. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the ML 2019, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd, 5(f) – Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement and Restoration, Phase 11 extension request as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell

Schara

Rep. Burkel

Edmondson

Eggerling

Sen. Hawj

Holsten

Rep. Lillie

Saxhaug

Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Sen. Lang

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

Julie Blackburn, Water Business Unit Leader with ISG, Inc. and Countney Phillips, Program and Project Manager with Shell Rock River Watershed district presented an appropriation extension request for the ML2019 Shell Rock River Watershed Restoration Program - Phase VIII program. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Swenson made a motion to approve the ML2019, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd, 5(j) - Shell Rock River Watershed Restoration Program - Phase VIII extension request as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

NAY:

ABSENT:
Sen. Lang

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

9. Allowable Amendment Budget & Output Acre Changes: Executive Director Johnson gave the Council a summary of staffs' internal process for reviewing amendments with shifts in activities and/or budget lines/outputs and drew the Council's attention to an outline of that internal process that was provided for reference. Mr. Johnson noted that there are times when Council guidance is needed/helpful as part of the review process. Council discussion followed.

10. Review and Approve ML2025 / FY2026 Call for Funding: Assistant Director Pavelko and Chair Hartwell walked the Council through the ML 2025/FY 2026 Call for Funding Requests and called attention to several changes recommended by staff and/or the Chair and Vice Chair:

- The Chairs recommended that answers to proposal questions related to compliance with MN Statutes 97A.056 be visible to staff only, and not appear in the completed proposal reviewed by the Council.
- Staff noted that Item #3 under the "successful applicants must" section in the ML 25/FY 26 Call for Funding Requests had been amended to include a reference to MN Statutes 16B.97-16B.981 to reflect grants management changes made during the 2023 legislative session.
- The Chairs recommended that proposal question related to the use of food plots be amended to ask: Will neonicotinoid pesticides be used for the project as part of restoration and/or ongoing food plots – and – if the project will be using food plots outside of restoration, what is the largest percentage of acquisition that would be under food plot.
- The Chairs recommended that the proposal questions related to scaling be updated to ask for a more specific breakdown of any personnel and DSS adjustments related to scaling.
- Staff noted that applicants for funding, who have previous appropriations that are still open, will be required to fill out a worksheet used to track spending on staff positions for those open appropriations.

Council discussion followed.

Action: Vice Chair Ron Schara made a motion to approve the ML 2025/FY 2026 Call for Funding Requests as presented, along with all staff/Council changes/recommendations as presented, with the addition that the word "of" be changed to "or" in the proposal question currently worded "Insecticides of fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this proposal either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?"

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

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

NAY:

ABSENT:

Sen. Lang
Rep. Lillie

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

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

Continued Council discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19am.

APPROVED:

David Hartwell, Chair

Date

Kristin Eggerling, Secretary

Date