

**MINUTES**  
**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)**  
**June 12, 2024**  
**Hybrid Meeting – MN State Capitol 120/ Zoom, pursuant to MS 13D**

**Call to Order:** Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 8:31am.

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

A quorum was present.

- 1. Review and Approve Agenda:** Councilmember Tom Saxhaug made a motion to remove the Open Meeting Law review/conflict of interest information/discussion item from the agenda due to a presenter conflict and approve the agenda as amended – **Motion Prevailed**
- 2. Review and Approve Minutes:** Councilmember Kristin Eggerling made a motion to approve the minutes from May 22, 2024 – **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 organizing the June 11, 2024 tour and drew members' attention to the discussion of the Keystone Woods federal encumbrance request that would be presented later in the meeting.
- 5. Executive Director's Report:** Executive Director Mark Johnson reported three minor conversation/conveyance requests to the Council. The requests came from Trust for Public Land, MN DNR, and The Nature Conservancy. Council discussion followed. It was decided by the Council that more information was needed regarding the conversion/conveyance request from The Nature Conservancy, prior to staff seeking legislative approval. Staff was directed to bring the additional information to the Council for discussion at the July 2024 meeting. Mr. Johnson also announced that Commission Assistant Amanda Schnabel had accepted a job with the Legislative Budget Office and would be transitioning out of her current role with the Council. Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. Schnabel for her four years of Council service. Mr. Johnson also thanked all OHF partners who participated in the previous day's tour.

**6. DNR-Partner Acquisition Continuous Improvement Project:** Kerstin Larson, Strategic Land Asset Management Supervisor, Division of Lands and Minerals with MN DNR and Katherine Sherman-Hoehn, Grants Manager with MN DNR provided the Council with an update on the work that the Joint DNR-Partner Land Acquisition Continuous Improvement Project has done to date. Council discussion followed. DNR Staff was directed to return to the Council within 6 months to deliver an update on progress made.

**7. Request for North Country Trail Easement – Carlton County Lands:** Mark Westphal, Land Commissioner with Carlton County Land Department and Matt Davis with the North Country Trail Association presented a request for a North Country Trail easement related to the ML 2019, First Special Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(p) – Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program, Phase 11 appropriation. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the North Country Trail easement request as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell

Schara

Baird

Rep. Burkel

Edmondson

Eggerling

Sen. Hawj

Holsten

Rep. Lillie

Saxhaug

Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Sen. Lang

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

**8. Request for Approval of Conversion/Conveyance – DNR Request for Federal Encumbrance to be placed on 450 acre parcel within Keystone Woods WMA acquisition.:** Ann Pierce, Parks and Trails Director with MN DNR, Sarah Wennerberg, Senior Grants Specialist with MN DNR, and Dave Olfelt Fish and Wildlife Division Director with MN DNR presented a request for approval to place a federal encumbrance on a 450 acre parcel within the Keystone Woods WMA acquisition, related to the ML 2023, Ch. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(h) – Metro Big Rivers, Phase 13 program and the ML 2023, Ch. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(k) – St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase 4 program appropriations. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Sen. Fong Hawj made a motion to approve the placement of the requested 450 acre federal encumbrance on the Keystone Woods WMA as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

8 AYES, 3 NAYS, 1 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**9. Review and Approve ML 2024 Accomplishment Plans:** Project Analyst Manager Sandy Smith reported all changes made to ML24/FY25 final Accomplishment Plans to the Council. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Councilmember Saxhaug Made a motion to approve the ML24/FY25 final Accomplishment Plans, with the exception of 5aa – Protecting Upper Mississippi River from Invasive Carp, which was scheduled to come before the Council for approval at the July 30, 2024 meeting.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

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

**10. ML 2025 / FY 2026 Project Proposals – Process Overview: Scoring, Hearings, Discussions, Etc.:** Executive Director Johnson gave the Council an overview of the ML25/FY26 Proposals received and walked members through the upcoming review, scoring, and allocation recommendation process. Council discussion followed. It was decided that the currently scheduled Monday, August 26, 2024 hearing date would be dropped and the hearings would be completed in the two remaining scheduled days - Tuesday, August 27 and Wednesday, August 28, 2024.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52am.

APPROVED:

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David Hartwell, Chair

Date

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Kristin Eggerling, Secretary

Date