

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item #11

DATE: May 27, 2026

SUBJECT: Amendment Request: Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation – Phase 8 & 9

PRESENTERS: Wiley Buck, Great River Greening and Carrie Taylor, Anoka Conservation District

Action Requested:

To approve or deny the amendment request for ML 2023 and ML 2024 accomplishment plans increasing personnel as presented.

Background:

As per the [Council decision at the May 2023 Council meeting](#), shifts in personnel exceeding the 10% threshold must come before the Council for approval.

ML 2023, 5(b) – Anoka Conservation District is requesting a \$70,000 increase to Personnel (from \$206,000 to \$276,000) decreasing Contracts by \$70,000 (from \$505,000 to \$435,000). This would be an approximately 35% increase in personnel.

ML 2024, 5(p) – Great River Greening is requesting a \$45,000 increase to Personnel (from \$58,000 to \$103,000) and decreasing Contracts by \$20,000 and Capital Equipment by \$25,000. This would be an approximately 75% increase to personnel. The biochar unit was approved in the original AP at \$75,000, the cost was reduced to \$45,000 via previous amendment.

Summary of Rationale

- ACD field crew is leading/assisting with necessary and successful implementation of the Anoka Sand Plain Rare Plant Rescue Program
- Allows ACD crews to mobilize quickly in the spring to control garlic mustard after winter treatments of buckthorn and achieve 26 more acres through a grant from NFWF Monarch Fund
- Cost savings of using Great River Greening (GRG) and Anoka Conservation District (ACD) staff versus subcontractors
- GRG field crew have the most statewide experience with this specialized and emerging biochar technology. Subcontractors and partners are also requesting more frequent guidance and direction in the field from GRG.
- GRG is able to respond with swift mobilization on short notice as compared to subcontractors

Council Staff supports these amendments as they align with the accomplishment plan and program goal, provides efficiencies, and does not increase cumulative personnel and contract costs.

Attachments:

- ML 2023 and ML 2024 Accomplishment Plan Amendments