



Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

The State of Minnesota

Centennial Office Building, First Floor
658 Cedar St
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 9, 2026

Sen. Foug Hawj
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3231
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Jennifer A. McEwen
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3217
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Steve Green
Minnesota Senate
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Rep. Roger Skraba
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Rep. Esther Agbaje
Minnesota House of Representatives
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5th Floor, Centennial Office Building
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**Re: Outdoor Heritage Fund Conversion/Conveyance Request: Board of Water and Soil Resources -
Renville County, MN – Easements 65-24-18-01 and 65-04-19-01**

Dear Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of the Legislative Committees and Divisions with Jurisdiction Over the Outdoor Heritage Fund,

Pursuant to M.S. 97A.056, Subdivision 15, this letter notifies you that the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council has received and approved a request from the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) to amend the boundaries and release a portion of two conservation easements funded with Outdoor Heritage Funds. The requests are the result of a proposed bridge replacement over Hawk Creek at CSAH 11 in Renville County.

Easement **65-24-18-01** will result in a 0.13-acre release with \$1,218.88 being returned to the Outdoor Heritage Fund. BWSR acquired the subject property with Outdoor Heritage Funds from ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 2(g) Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Buffers for Wildlife and Water - Phase VI. (https://www.lsohc.mn.gov/FY2017/accomp_plans/2g.pdf).

Easement **65-04-19-01** will result in a 0.04-acre release with \$375.04 being returned to the Outdoor Heritage Fund. BWSR acquired the subject property with Outdoor Heritage Funds from ML 2017, Ch. 91, Art. 1, Sec 2, subd. 4(c) RIM Wetlands Partnership - Phase VIII. (https://www.lsohc.mn.gov/FY2018/accomp_plans/4c.pdf).

Pursuant to statute and the council's approved operating procedures, and in the absence of disapproval by leadership by April 30, 2026, the conveyance will be approved and notification forwarded to BWSR. Please contact me at Kristina.smitten@lsohc.mn.gov or (651)296-6397 if you have questions regarding this matter. I will withhold final notification until May 1, 2026, to hear from you, if you have concerns.

Sincerely,



Kristina Smitten
Executive Director, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

cc: Members of the LSOHC
Sharon Doucette, BWSR

Attachments: Supporting materials from BWSR

February 24, 2026

Kristina Smitten
Executive Director
Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Ms. Smitten,

BWSR is seeking LSOHC approval to amend the boundary of two easements that were obtained with Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations. Both requests are a result of bridge replacement over Hawk Creek on CSAH 11 in Renville County as proposed by the County. Per the County's request to BWSR "This alteration is necessary to address safety concerns, as the steep banks on the south side of the road pose hazards to travelers. We believe this project will substantially benefit the public by upgrading our county's road system and creating safer driving conditions year-round."

BWSR obtained easement **65-24-18-01** partially with ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 2(g) Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Buffers for Wildlife and Water - Phase VI. The easement payment was evenly split between this appropriation and Clean Water funds. The 25.52-acre easement was recorded in 2021. The county is requesting the release of 0.13 acres because of replacement of the Hawk Creek bridge. Following BWSR's alteration policy, the County will compensate the state in the amount of \$1,218.88 for the 0.13-acre release.

BWSR obtained easement **65-04-19-01** with ML 2017, Ch. 91, Art. 1, Sec 2, subd. 4(c) RIM Wetlands Partnership - Phase VIII. The 86.73-acre easement was recorded in 2021. The county is requesting the release of 0.04 acres because of replacement of the Hawk Creek bridge. Following BWSR's alteration policy, the County will compensate the state in the amount of \$375.04 for the 0.04-acre release.

Maps attached include 1) the Renville County Right of Way (ROW) Plat that shows the extent of ROW the county plans to secure for the entire project area; 2) RIM Easement Alteration Request map for 65-24-18-01 visually depicting the location of the 0.13-acre release; and 3) RIM Easement Alteration Request map for 65-04-18-01 visually depicting the location of the 0.04-acre release.

Sincerely,



Sharon Doucette
Easement Section Manager

RENVILLE COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY PLAT NO. 25-01

C.S.A.H. NO. 11
S.P. 065-611-050

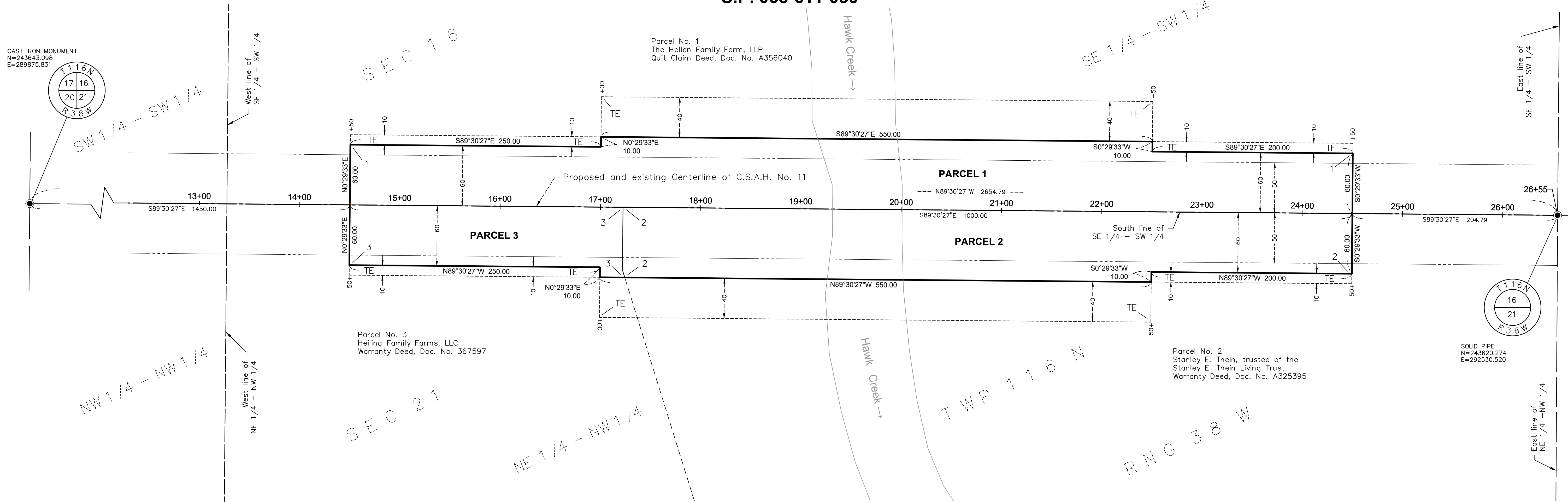
CAST IRON MONUMENT
N=243643.098
E=289875.831

Parcel No. 1
The Holien Family Farm, LLP
Quit Claim Deed, Doc. No. A356040

Parcel No. 3
Heiling Family Farms, LLC
Warranty Deed, Doc. No. 367597

Parcel No. 2
Stanley E. Thein, trustee of the
Stanley E. Thein Living Trust
Warranty Deed, Doc. No. A325395

SOLID PIPE
N=243620.274
E=292530.520



SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE

I, Juergen Brunkhorst, do hereby certify that this plat was prepared by me or under my direct supervision; that I am a duly Licensed Land Surveyor in the State of Minnesota; that this plat is a correct representation of the boundary survey; that all mathematical data and labels are correctly designated on this plat; that all monuments depicted on this plat have been, or will be correctly set within one year; and all public ways are shown and labeled on this plat.

J. Brunkhorst
Juergen Brunkhorst, Land Surveyor
Minnesota License Number 46698
Date: August 27, 2025

APPROVAL BY THE RENVILLE COUNTY HIGHWAY ENGINEER

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 160.085, this plat designated as RENVILLE COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY PLAT NO. 25-01 is hereby approved and recommended for adoption.

Jeffrey S. Martowe, Renville County Highway Engineer
Minnesota License Number 50817
Date: _____

APPROVAL BY THE RENVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

This plat of RENVILLE COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY PLAT NO. 25-01 is hereby approved pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 160.085, and pursuant to the recommendations of the Renville County Highway Engineer by resolution of the Board of Commissioners.

David Hamre, Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners
Date: _____

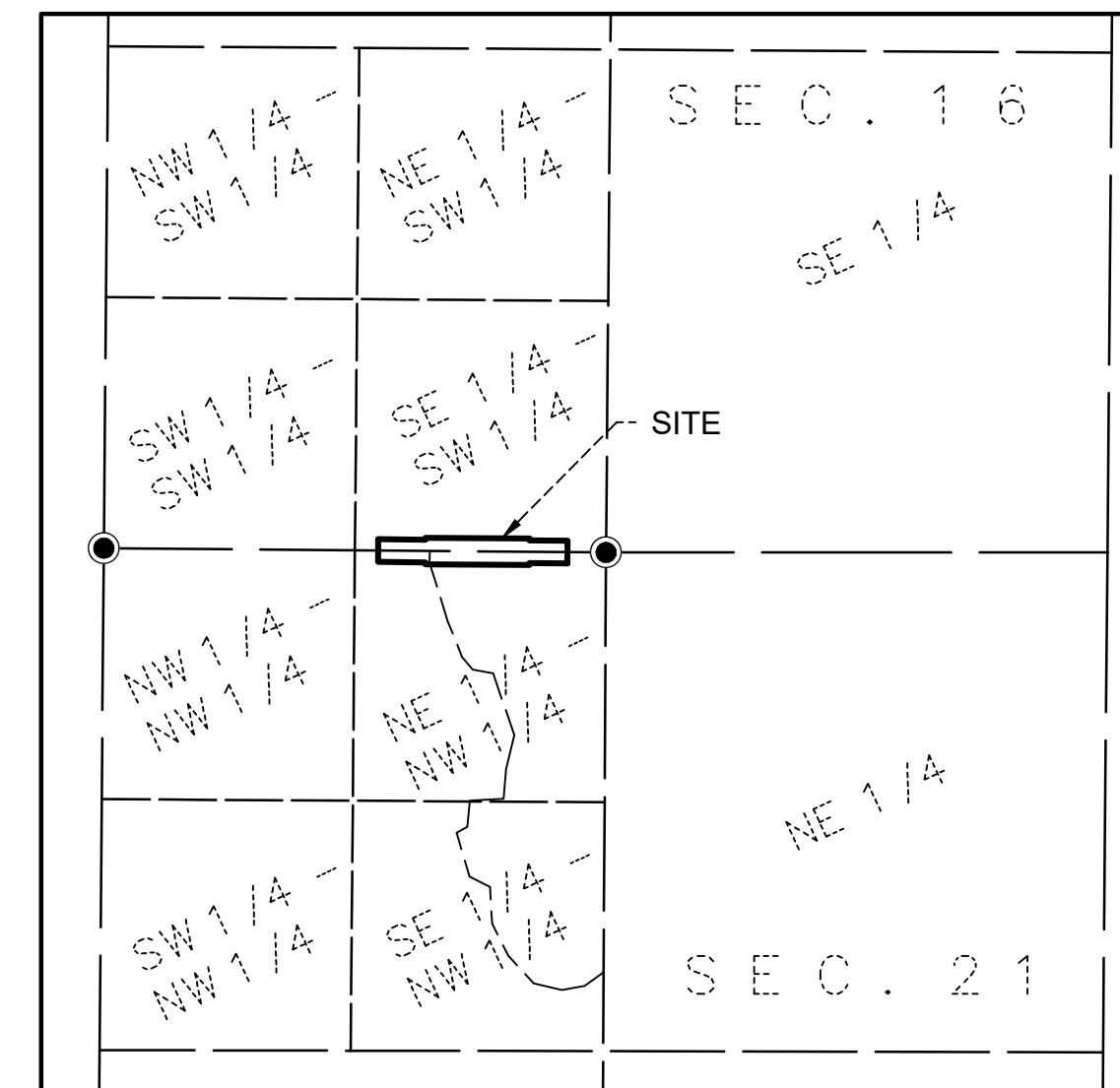
Attest:

Lisa Herges, County Administrator
Date: _____

PARCEL NO.	PID	OWNER	LOCATION	DOC. NO.	EXISTING R/W ACRES ±	NEW R/W ACRES ±	VACATED R/W ACRES ±	TOTAL R/W ACQUIRED ACRES ±	TEMP EASEMENT ACRES ±	PERM R/W INTEREST
1	25-00580-00	THE HOLIEN FAMILY FARM, LLP	SW 1/4, SEC 16-116-38	A356040	1.15	0.35	0.00	1.50	0.61	EASEMENT
2	25-02211-00	STANLEY E. THEIN, TRUSTEE OF THE STANLEY E. THEIN LIVING TRUST	E 1/2-NW 1/4, SEC 21-116-38	A325395	0.83	0.29	0.00	1.12	0.52	EASEMENT
3	25-02210-00	HEILING FAMILY FARMS, LLC	NW 1/4, SEC 21-116-38	A367597	0.31	0.07	0.00	0.38	0.09	EASEMENT

Temporary easements expire 2 years after completion of State Aid Project Number 065-611-050.

VICINITY MAP - NOT TO SCALE Twp 116 N, Rng 38 W



RENVILLE COUNTY RECORDER

Document No. _____

I hereby certify that this instrument was filed in the Office of the County Recorder for record on this ____ day of _____, 20__ at ____ o'clock __ M. and was duly recorded in the Renville County records.

Laurie Abrahamson, Renville County Recorder

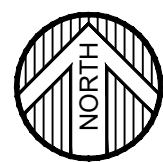


STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS

This instrument was acknowledged before me this ____ day of _____, 2019 by Juergen Brunkhorst.

Notary Public, Douglas County, Minnesota

My commission expires _____



0 50 100
SCALE (IN FEET)

ORIENTATION OF THIS BEARING SYSTEM IS BASED ON THE RENVILLE COUNTY COORDINATE SYSTEM NAD83 (2011 ADJ)

● = DENOTES FOUND SECTION CORNER MONUMENT

LEGEND

- PLAT BOUNDARY
- EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY
- TEMPORARY EASEMENT
- SECTION LINE
- QUARTER LINE
- 1/16TH LINE
- DEED LINE

NOTES:

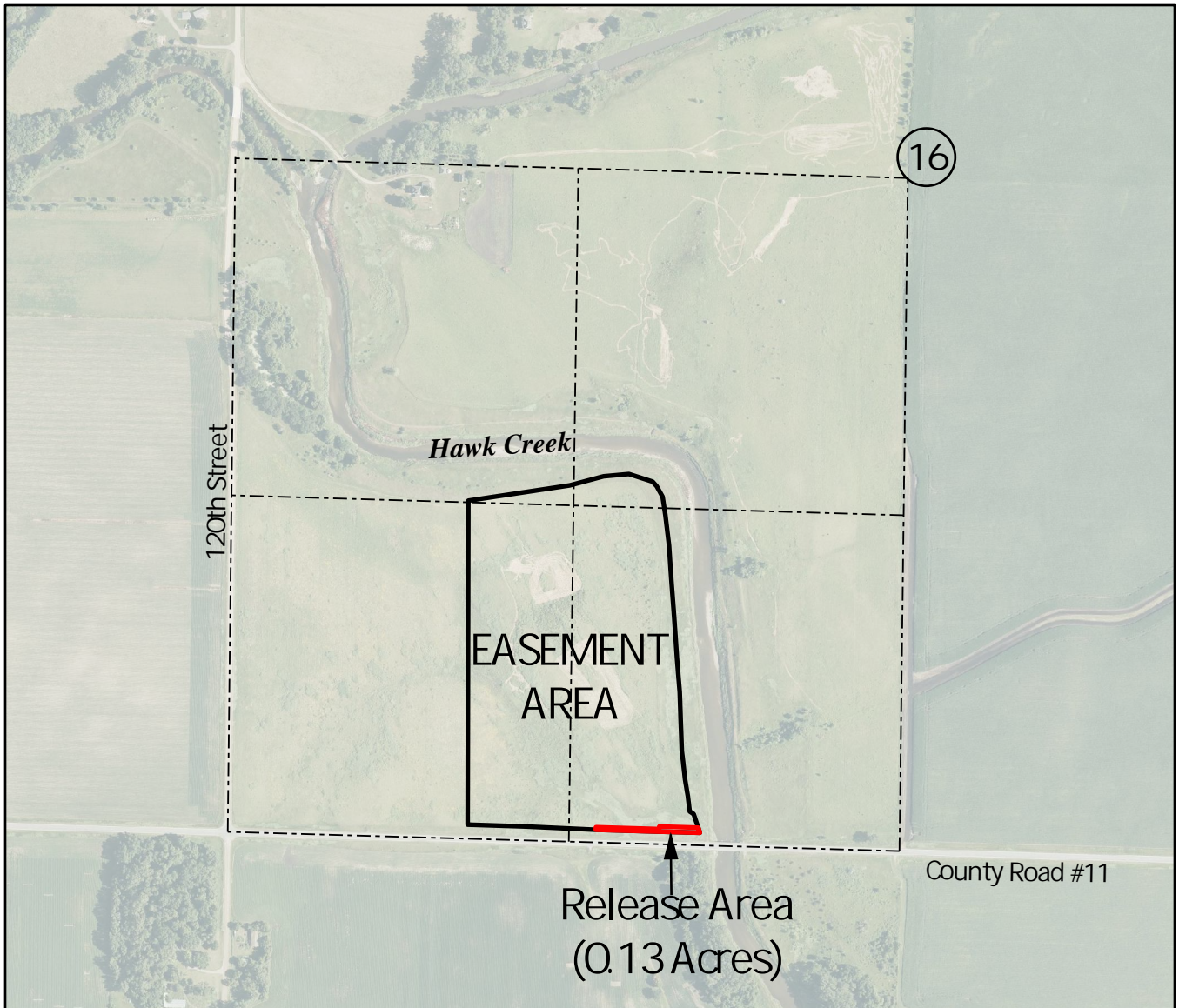
All right angle and radial-to-curve widths shown are to the proposed construction centerline.




- PARCEL NUMBER POINTING TO INDIVIDUAL PARCEL LIMITS
- TEMPORARY EASEMENT LIMITS

RIM Easement Alterat on Request

Easement #65-24-18-01

Sect on: 16, T.116N., R.38W., Renville County

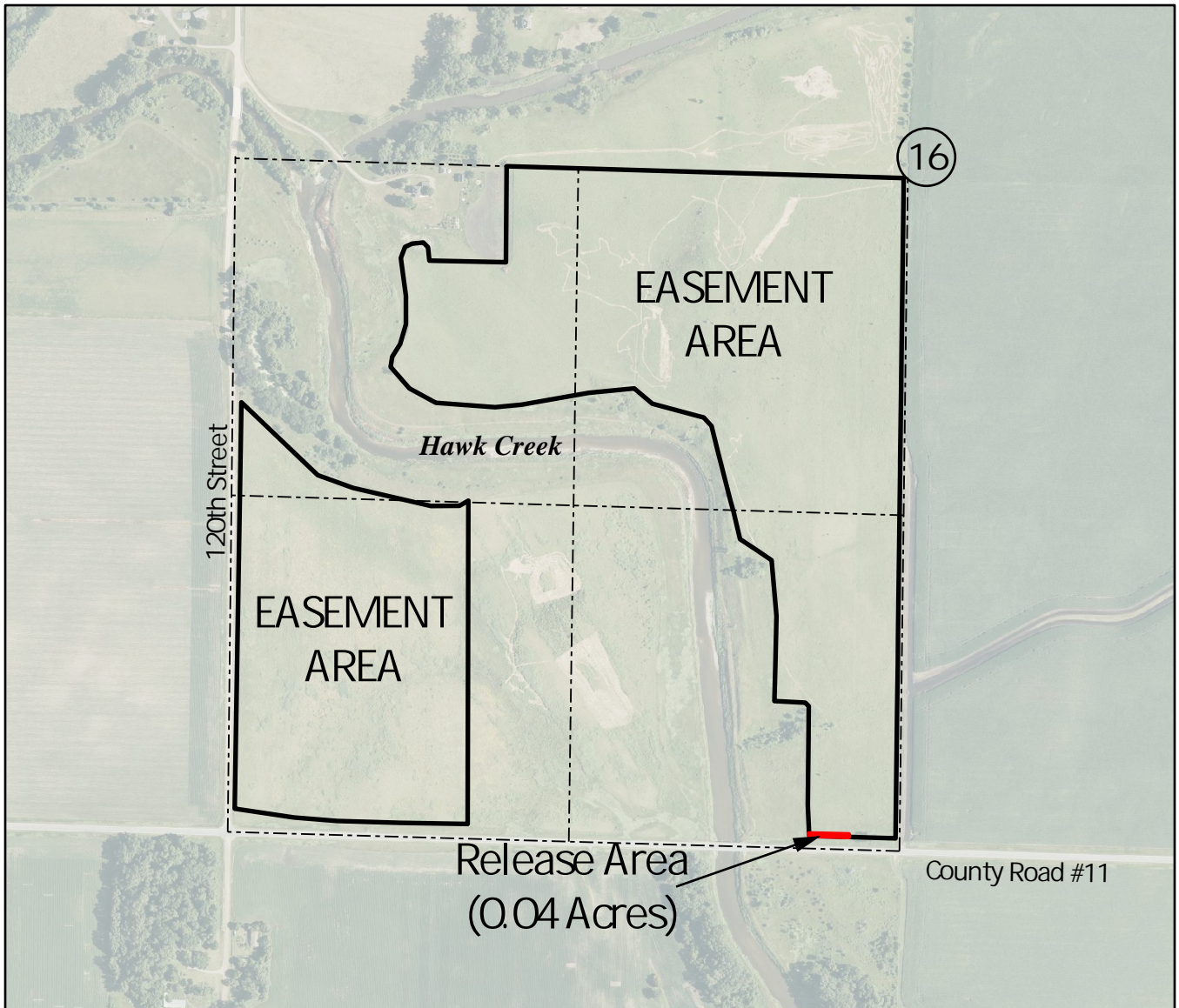





-  Easement Boundary
-  Release Area (0.13 Acres)
-  Sect on/Quarter/Sixteenth Line

RIM Easement Alterat on Request

Easement #65-04-19-01

Sect on: 16, T.116N., R.38W., Renville County



-  Easement Boundary
-  Release Area (0.04 Acres)
-  Sect on/Quarter/Sixteenth Line



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May 5, 2026

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Rep. Esther Agbaje
Minnesota House of Representatives
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St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Outdoor Heritage Fund Conversion/Conveyance Request: Minnesota Land Trust - Fillmore County, MN – MLT Conservation Easement – Juzwiak et. Al. – T103N, R12W, S8

Dear Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of the Legislative Committees and Divisions with Jurisdiction Over the Outdoor Heritage Fund,

Pursuant to M.S. 97A.056, Subdivision 15, this letter notifies you that the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council has received and approved a request from Minnesota Land Trust to approve the placement of a MNDNR trout stream easement on a property that is subject to an existing Minnesota Land Trust conservation easement that was funded with Outdoor Heritage Funds. The MNDNR trout stream easement will provide public angling access and give the MNDNR the authority to restore and enhance the trout stream. The attached supporting documents received from Minnesota Land Trust further describe the action.

The existing conservation easement was originally purchased by Minnesota Land Trust with Outdoor Heritage Funds (ML 2021, First Special Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a), Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration, Phase 9). The accomplishment plan for this program can be found at the following website: https://www.isohc.mn.gov/FY2022/Accomp_Plans/3a.pdf.

Pursuant to statute and the council's approved operating procedures, and in the absence of disapproval by leadership by May 27, 2026, the conveyance will be approved and notification forwarded to Minnesota Land Trust. Please contact me at Kristina.smitten@isohc.mn.gov or (651)296-6397 if you have questions regarding this matter. I will withhold final notification until May 28, 2026, to hear from you, if you have concerns.

Sincerely,



Kristina Smitten
Executive Director, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

cc: Members of the LSOHC
Wayne Ostlie, MLT

Attachments: Supporting materials from MLT

MEMORANDUM



To: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

From: Kris Larson, CEO

Date: April 27, 2026

Re: Approval of DNR Trout Stream Easement over OHF-Funded Conservation Easement

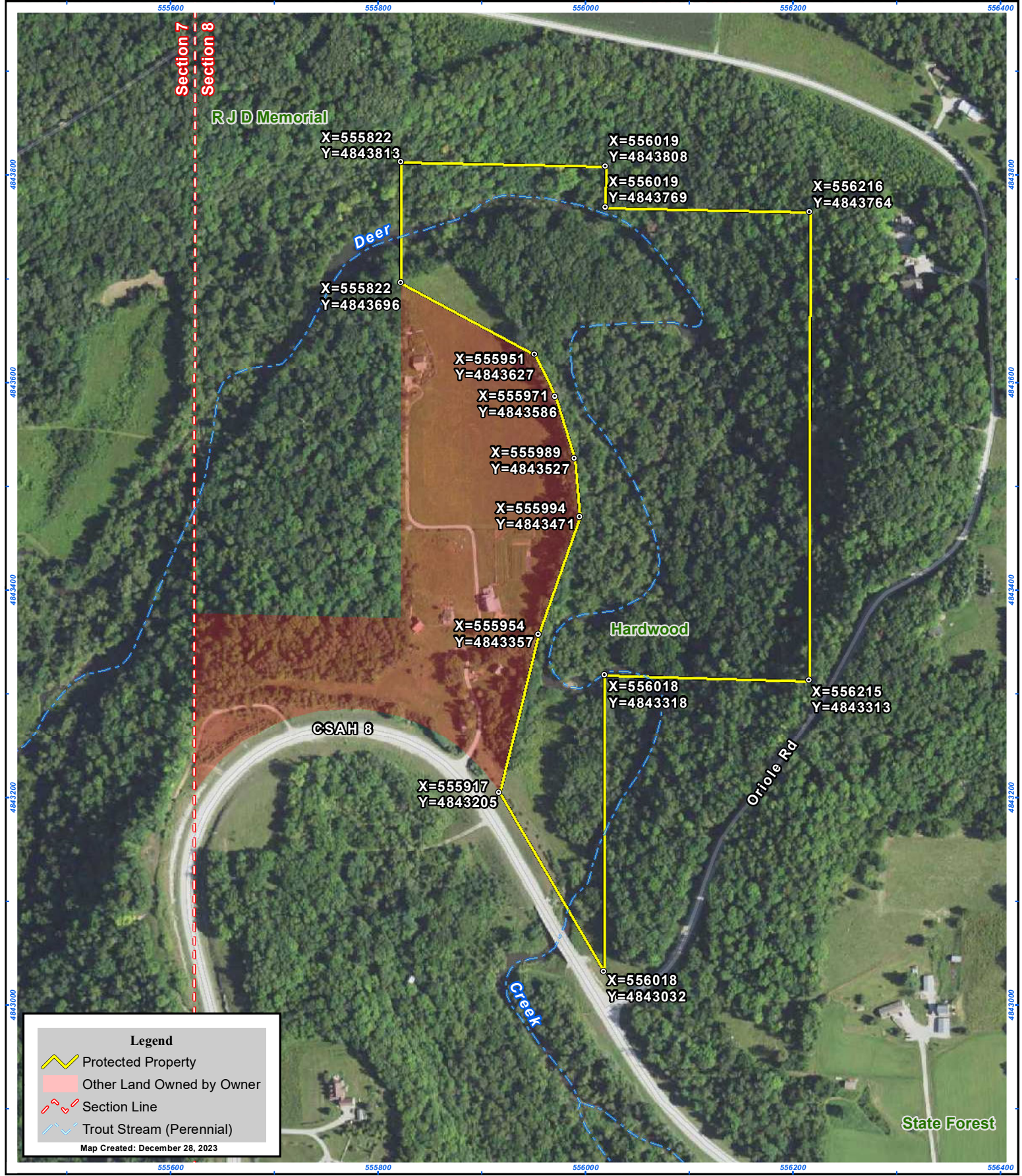
Minnesota Land Trust purchased the Deer Creek (Juzwiak et al) conservation easement in Fillmore County on May 14, 2024, through its Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 9 grant (ML 2021 1st Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a); grant contract #202184). This conservation easement covered approximately 37 acres of upland and floodplain forest along 7,035 feet of Deer Creek, a high-quality state-designated trout stream (see attached Exhibit Map). The entirety of the property falls within a Site of High Biodiversity Significance as identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey.

Recently, the Land Trust received a request from the DNR and the landowner for approval to place a DNR trout stream easement on the property currently subject to the Land Trust's conservation easement. Given that the trout stream easement may be considered an additional encumbrance on the protected property per the LSOHC's interpretation of MN Statute § 97A.056, subd. 15, the Land Trust is reaching out to inform the Council of this request. Below are a few relevant pieces of information related to this request:

- The DNR trout stream easement will be 132 feet in width, 66 feet on either side of the centerline of Deer Creek, and will provide for public angling opportunities, among other benefits.
- The DNR plans to use trout stamp funding for this trout stream acquisition, not funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, so the DNR is not seeking approval from LSOHC.
- Public access rights were not acquired as part of the Land Trust's conservation easement nor were the landowners compensated for these rights at the time of our easement acquisition. As such, these rights are retained by the owner and can be conveyed by the owner to the DNR.
- Per our analysis of this project, the conservation values on the protected property will be enhanced as a result of the trout stream easement.
- The Land Trust has a strong partnership with DNR Fisheries, and we have had multiple projects where an MLT easement and DNR trout stream easement co-occur on a given property. This combination has worked successfully in the past to get maximum public value out of a particular conservation project, and we believe it further advances conservation, public funding, and the purpose of the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

The Land Trust asks LSOHC for approval of the DNR trout stream easement so that we can give our subsequent approval to the landowner and DNR.

Aerial Photography Map



Map Resource Information

Protected Property & Section Lines created by Community GIS Services Inc. All data overlaid 2021 USDA FSA True Color Aerial Imagery. Map & labeled coordinates use projection of: UTM, Zone 15, Datum NAD83

Users of this map agree and acknowledge that Community GIS Services Inc. and the Minnesota Land Trust cannot be held liable for accuracy of GIS material provided. GIS materials should not be relied upon to establish legal title, boundary lines, or locations of improvements.

Site: Deer Creek - Tract: Juzwiak et al.

Fillmore County - Twp. 103 N Rng. 12 W Sec. 8



Scale:
1" = 400'

0 200 400 800 Feet



Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

The State of Minnesota

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May 11, 2026

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Rep. Esther Agbaje
Minnesota House of Representatives
658 Cedar Street
5th Floor, Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Outdoor Heritage Fund Conversion/Conveyance Request: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Itasca County, MN – T61N, R23W, S12 – Private Access Easement Revision

Dear Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of the Legislative Committees and Divisions with Jurisdiction Over the Outdoor Heritage Fund,

Pursuant to M.S. 97A.056, Subdivision 15, this letter notifies you that the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council has received and approved a request from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) to revise an existing private access easement that runs across MNDNR state forest lands funded by the Outdoor Heritage Fund. The revision will reduce impacts to DNR parcels and improve administrative efficiency.

The MNDNR acquired the subject property with Outdoor Heritage Funds from ML 2024, Ch. 106, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 3(a) – Minnesota Heritage Forest – Transition to Public Ownership Program (https://www.lsohc.mn.gov/FY2025/Accomp_Plans/3a.pdf).

Pursuant to statute and the council’s approved operating procedures, and in the absence of disapproval by leadership by June 2, 2026, I will approve the conveyance and forward notification to the MNDNR. Please contact me if you have questions regarding this matter. I will withhold final notification until June 3, 2026, to hear from you, if you have concerns.

Sincerely,



Kristina Smitten
Executive Director, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

cc: Members of the LSOHC
Christine Ostern, MNDNR

Attachments: Supporting materials from MNDNR

Division of Forestry | 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155

December 18, 2025

Mark Johnson
Executive Director
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 95
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Department of Natural Resources is seeking approval for revision of an existing private access easement across a MN Heritage Forest parcel recently acquired by the DNR with Outdoor Heritage Funds. The revised access easement would decrease impacts to the DNR parcel and improve administrative efficiency.

Description: A private landowner who owns land adjacent to a DNR-owned MN Heritage Forest parcel located in the SWSE quarter of T61N R23W Section 12 obtained an access easement crossing the parcel in July 2020 when it was owned by Potlatch-Deltic, prior to the sale of the lands to The Conservation Fund. This private landowner is requesting a revision to the existing access easement, shortening it from 942 feet in length to 542 feet in length (approximate measurements). To do this the landowner is proposing abandoning a portion of the access easement on existing roads and instead make the access easement a straight line using a portion of another existing road. The proposed access easement would be almost half the length and would run along a straight line from the public road immediately along the southern boundary of the DNR parcel. The DNR would like to execute this access easement revision because it is more desirable for resource protection and more administratively efficient. There would be no adverse impacts to the DNR parcel and in fact there would be an overall benefit to the land in addition to both landowners involved (DNR and private). Please see the attached map.

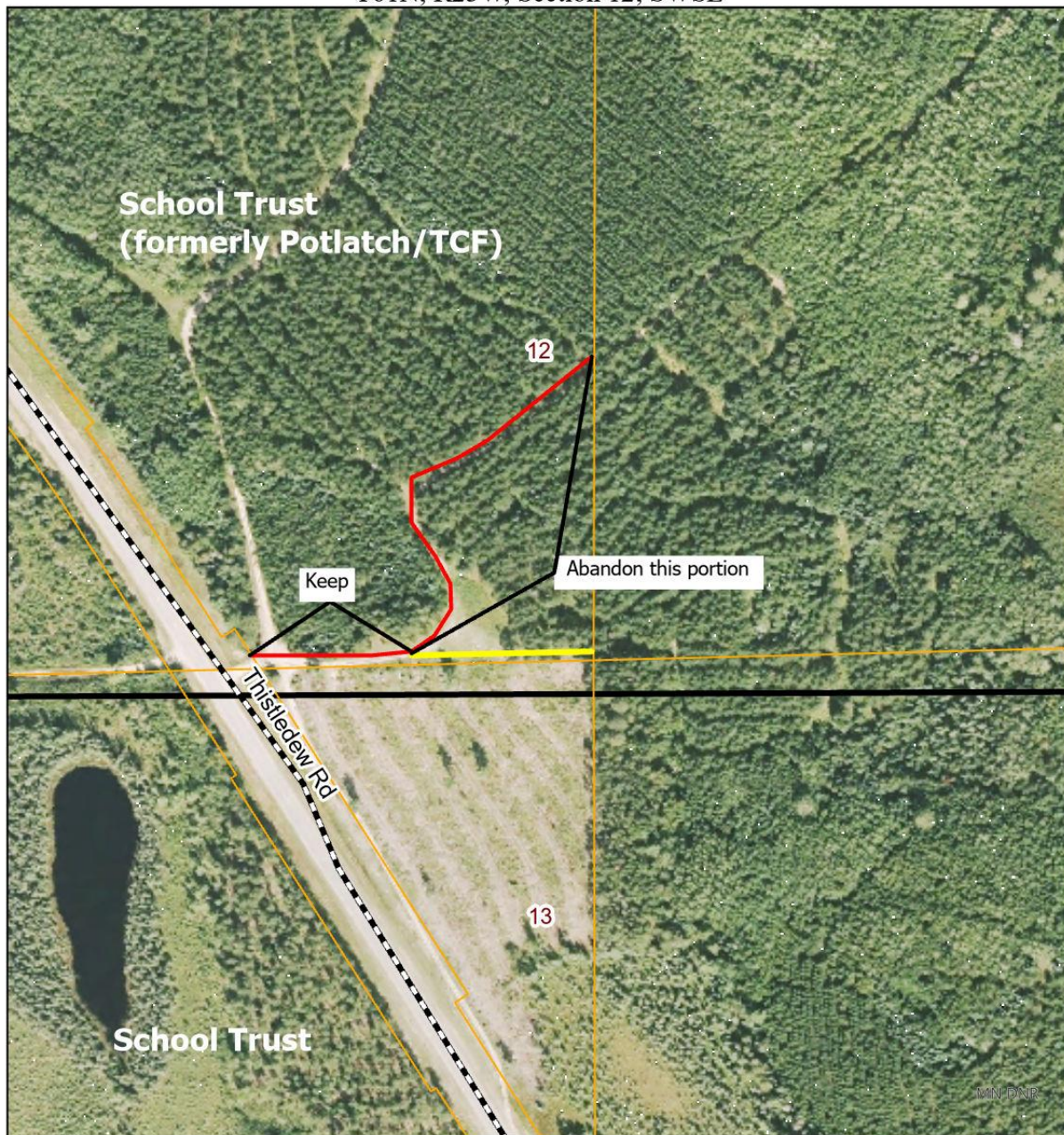
Please keep me informed of your decision and let me know if there is any additional information that is required.

Sincerely,






Christine Ostern, Forest Legacy Program Coordinator
305 East Business Park Drive, Cloquet, MN 55720

CC: Gary Michael
Doug Tillma

T61N, R23W, Section 12; SWSE



Legend

-  County Highway
-  County parcel data
-  Section
-  Potlatch easement
-  Proposed easement amendment

