



Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

The State of Minnesota

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

September 4, 2026

Sen. Founq 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
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2319
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. John Marty
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3235
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Nick A. Frentz
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue W.
Building, Room 3109
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Eric R. Pratt
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2217
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Joe McDonald
Minnesota House of Representatives
658 Cedar Street
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Roger Skraba
Minnesota House of Representatives
658 Cedar Street
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

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

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

Rep. Paul Torkelson
Minnesota House of Representatives
658 Cedar Street Minnesota Senate
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Kristin Robbins
Minnesota House of Representatives
658 Cedar Street
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

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

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: MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. – Scott County, MN – Valley View Drive Road Renovation Project

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 Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MNVNWRT) to allow the conversion of 0.35 acres of wooded land to road right-of-way via permanent road easement to facilitate the reroute of Valley View Drive to improve road safety. The project is in Sand Creek Township of Scott County, MN (Township 114, Range 23 West, Section 18). A total of \$25,826.25 will be returned to the Outdoor Heritage Fund. The attached materials from the MNVNWRT provide further information on the proposed request.

MNVNWRT acquired the subject property with Outdoor Heritage Funds from ML 2021, First Special Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(b) Metro Big Rivers – Phase 11 (https://www.lsohc.mn.gov/FY2022/Accomp_Plans/5b.pdf).

Pursuant to statute and the council's approved operating procedures, and in the absence of disapproval by leadership by September 28, 2026, I will approve the conveyance and forward notification to the MNVNWRT. Please contact me if you have questions regarding this matter. I will withhold final notification until September 29, 2026, to hear from you, if you have concerns.

Sincerely,



Kristina Smitten
Executive Director, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

cc: Members of the LSOHC
Neal Feeken, MNVNWRT

Attachments: Supporting materials from MNVNWRT



MINNESOTA VALLEY TRUST

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

August 11, 2026

Kristina Smitten
Executive Director
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Centennial Office Building, 1st Floor
658 Cedar St.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Director Smitten,

Sand Creek Township in Scott County is proposing a Township road renovation project that will impact lands owned by Minnesota Valley Lands, LLC purchased with Outdoor Heritage Funds in 2024. The proposed work will occur on Valley View Drive northeast of the City of Jordan. The project will result in the conversion of wooded land to road right-of-way via the conveyance of a permanent road easement and a temporary construction easement to the Township.

Project Description: The Sand Creek Township Highway Department is proposing to reroute a portion of Valley View Drive during the fall of 2026 and spring/summer of 2027. The proposed work is being undertaken to create safer road passage across the adjacent railroad tracks. The project will require a permanent easement across the southwest most parcel of the protected land in Section Eighteen (18), Township One-fourteen (114) North, Range Twenty-three (23) West, Scott County, Minnesota. The permanent easement requested is approximately 0.35 acres with a temporary construction easement of 0.05 acres.

We do not anticipate that the affected land will be replaced by other conservation lands and propose that the full amount be returned to the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

The estimated values of the easements are:

Permanent Easement: (0.35 acres) X (\$72,750.00/acre) = \$25,462.50

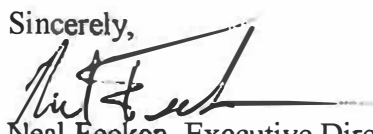
Temporary Easement: (0.05 acres) X (\$7,275.00/acre) = \$363.75

Amount to be returned to OHF: \$25,462.50 + \$363.75 = \$ 25,826.25

This equates to returning approximately 102% of the original value contributed by the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Neal Feeken, Executive Director



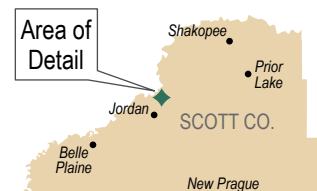
- Tract boundary
- Parcel boundary
- Refuge boundary
- Proposed road alignment
- Railroad

Robling Tract (6.85 acres)

Owner: Minnesota Valley Lands LLC
Address: 18020 Valley View Drive
Sand Creek Township, Scott County
Twp. 114N; Rng. 23W; Secs. 7, 8, 17 & 18

0 500 feet

MATT MILLETT • 8/7/2026 • SCOTT COUNTY COORDINATE SYSTEM (NAD83 HARN)
SOURCES: MVNWR, MNDOT, MNGEO, SCOTT COUNTY, EG RUD, STONEBROOKE, NAIP 2025



MODEL: VALLEY_VIEW - Plan 4 [Sheet]
USER: zmcormick
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PLOT DATE: 2/2/2026 2:59:47 PM

