

**Meeting Summary
Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council
Continued Learning Center, Itasca Community College
Grand Rapids, MN
July 15, 2009**

Present: Les Bensch, Wayne Enger, Bob Schroeder, Darby Nelson, Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen, Senator Ellen Anderson, Mike Kilgore (Chair)

Staff present: Bill Becker, Acting Executive Director, Greg Knopff, Senate Council, Janelle Taylor, House Council.

Chair Kilgore called the meeting to order and called Scott Rall on a speaker phone. Scott was connected to the meeting as a non-voting member pursuant to the Open Meeting Law.

Review and Approve Agenda

Wayne Enger moved to approve the agenda. Chair Kilgore pointed out that the Council Operating Procedures call for the Chair to appoint committee members so agenda item 5, the Personnel Committee Report, is not a formal voting action item. Motion passed.

Approval May 21, 2009 of Minutes

Wayne Enger moved approval of the minutes. Darby Nelson asked that, on page 2 under Administrative Budget, line one, the last word "the" needs to be changed to "they." Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

The Acting Executive Director reported on written communications with the Southwest Initiative Foundation. He pointed out that the issues regarding the administrative and consulting budget in the Green Corridors Legacy Program had grown to include questions about the current protection status of the land the program intended to buy. Parcels on the list in the proposed accomplishment report were currently permanently protected by RIM easements. Mr. Becker said he and Chair Kilgore would meet with Ms. Fasching and Mr. Cobb, project manager and consultant, to address these problems.

Mr. Becker also reported on a proposed schedule though May of 2010. After discussion by Bob Schroeder it was agreed to add the Call for Request issuance date and the Deadline for Requests to the list, as well as to provide clarification of the meeting where request priorities and call language will be developed.

Mr. Schroeder asked that Management Analyst and Development be asked to the August meeting to report on progress.

Chair Kilgore asked about the agenda for the October meeting. Becker said the agenda was empty at this time. The Chair asked that the date be saved by members in case action needed to be taken by the full council, but said we might not need the date for a meeting in October.

Personnel Update

Bob Schroeder announced that the search is underway. Applications are closed. Forty-five applications were received. The search process is as follows: non-partisan legislative staff will conduct an initial application screening, interview a selected number of candidates, and develop a list of candidates for second interviews. Representative Hansen, Senator Anderson, Bob

Schroeder, and Chair Kilgore will conduct the second round of interviews leading to a recommendation to the Personnel Committee for consideration at its August 13 meeting. The Personnel Committee will recommend to the full Council the individual to be appointed as executive director at the August meeting. In order to comply with the open meeting law quorum rules, Councilor Schroeder recommended the Personnel Committee be expanded by the Chair to seven members including: Bob Schroeder, Jim Cox, Representative Hansen, Senator Anderson, Wayne Enger, David Hartwell, and Representative Gunther.

Chair Kilgore appointed Enger, Hartwell and Gunther to the Personnel Committee.

Councilor Bensch raised concerns about the full Council receiving only one name. Representative Schroeder said the Personnel Committee would ideally make a recommendation of a single candidate. The Council will vote on that candidate.

LCC will approve or disapprove the Council selection and negotiate with the selected candidate.

Lessard-Sams Conservation Partners Grant Program Update

Denise Anderson and Leslie Tannahill of DNR provided the council with information on the progress on the grants program. Leslie Tannahill has been assigned by the DNR to manage the program. Ms. Tannahill reported that DNR was filling staff positions for the program, developing a communication plan, and developing the request for proposals. The website for the grant program is up. DNR has talked with BWSR staff about how the two agencies can cooperate on this program. The DNR plans to start accepting applications in late September.

Senator Anderson asked if the application was going to be kept simple to allow the average person to apply. Tannahill replied that there is information that is necessary, but that the application will be as simple as possible and DNR personnel around the state will provide assistance.

Senator Anderson asked staff to look into the point in the grant-making process grant applications become public data.

Approve Accomplishment Plans for 2009 Appropriations

Accelerate the Waterfowl Production Area Program in Minnesota: Matt Holland, Senior Field Coordinator, Pheasants Forever (PF), presented the accomplishment plan for the program acquiring land for the Waterfowl Production Area system (WPA) of the USFWS. He pointed out the list of potential acquisitions from which PF will choose and testified that these had been reviewed by USFWS and DU as well as PF. He also indicated these acquisitions were the priority parcels identified in the USFWS Wetland Management District planning process. They meet the biological criteria and generally are additions to existing projects. Mr. Becker asked if these parcels were identified as the result of the USFWS Strategic Habitat Conservation process of adaptive management. Senator Anderson asked if any of the parcels were covered by permanent easements. Holland replied there were some parcels with partial coverage by easements, but that PF would purchase the fee underlying the easement with funds other than OHF dollars. Mr. Schroeder asked why there were more acres on the list than the program intended to acquire. Mr. Holland said it was to ensure there were priority willing sellers approved, and to allow acquisition of more acreage than promised if land prices allow. Chair Kilgore asked about the accuracy of the map accompanying the accomplishment plan. Mr. Holland replied that the map needed to be updated. Chair Kilgore then asked about the effect of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 on the public taking of fish and

wildlife. Mr. Holland indicated taking of game was permitted. Staff was asked to inquire about that Act and prepare a summary. Les Bensch moved adoption. Motion Passed

Contract Management: Denise Anderson, Chief Financial Officer, DNR presented the accomplishment program for the program managing the appropriations passed through DNR to third party non-governmental organizations. Ms. Anderson testified that the DNR would follow the Minnesota Management and Budget, Department of Administration, grants policies. She further testified that services provided will be billed on an hourly basis and DNR will provide periodic reports on the amount of money spent on administration and reimbursed to pass-through recipients. Chair Kilgore expressed concern and asked about the following sentences on the bottom of page 2 of the report, “This staff time is currently unfunded. Other unfunded projected costs include costs for activities necessary for the DNR to receive donated land and technical guidance.” Ms. Anderson replied that the unfunded liabilities will be tracked and reported to the Council and DNR will provide a request for funding in the 2010 session to supplement the available funding for ongoing contract management. Wayne Enger moved adoption. Motion passed.

Contract with DNR for administrative services

Mr. Becker reviewed the specifics of the contract authorizing DNR to provide administrative services to the Council. He pointed out that the contract covered all administrative costs except the travel expense costs and that interagency agreements with the Management Analysis and Development division are under separate agreement with LCC. The period covered is July 1, 2009 through October 1, 2009.

Planning Project – MMB, Management Analysis and Development (MAD) contract

Staff reviewed the interagency agreement for planning and facilitation help for the council’s Phase I strategic plan and the MAD working papers describing the planning sessions, including the session dates. Council members were encouraged to attend these meetings. Travel expenses will be reimbursed, according to the Chair. Les Bensch made a motion to amend to the MAD working papers’ description of the resource allocation matrix and the instructions to the conservation professionals. He requested “for fish, game and wildlife” be added to the row headings in the matrix and that the definitions adopted by the Council be laid before the conservation professionals at the meetings. Bob Schroeder asked whether the Constitutional language would be presented to the conservation professionals. Staff replied in the affirmative. The motion was divided. Part 1, the amending the matrix, failed. Part II, laying the Council’s adopted definitions before the conservation professionals, passed.

Election of Officers

The following Council members were nominated for these positions:

Chair	Mike Kilgore	
Vice-Chair	Jim Cox	
Secretary	Darby Nelson	
Treasurer	David Hartwell	
Legislative Representative	Rick Hansen	Bill Ingebrigtsen

Bob Schroeder moved to suspend the Council operating procedures to allow a voice vote on the uncontested slate and elect the uncontested slate of Mike Kilgore for Chair, Jim Cox for Vice-Chair, Darby Nelson for Secretary, and David Hartwell for Treasurer, unanimously. The motion passed. The uncontested slate was elected unanimously by voice vote.

An election for Legislative Representative was held by written ballot. Bill Ingebrigtsen was elected legislative representative (6 to 5).

Public Input

David Holmbeck of the Dark River Basin organization reviewed concerns with the Dark River project within TU's Cold Water Stream Restoration, Protection and Enhancement program.

Craig Halla, Forest Capital Partners, spoke to the Council about future Forests for the Future project opportunities and the pressures on Forest Capital Partners.

Dale Benes, Starring Township Supervisor, spoke to the council about the potential hardships the UPM-Kymmene Forest for the Future project is liable to work on the budget of his township. He appealed to the Council for assistance.

Presentation: Young forest wildlife management Tom Cooper coordinator

Tom Cooper presented a power point presentation on the wildlife associated with young forests and the age condition of Minnesota forests. The species of concern are the goldwing warbler, woodcock and ruffed grouse.

The Council meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Field Trip

The council inspected examples of ecological forest management being practiced by UPM-Kymmene property near Grand Rapids and young forest succession following harvest.

APPROVED:

Mike Kilgore, Chair Date

Darby Nelson, Secretary Date