

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)
Tuesday, December 8, 2009
Room 5, State Office Building
Meeting Summary

Members Present: Chair Michael Kilgore, David Hartwell, Representative Rick Hansen, Representative Bob Gunther, James Cox, Wayne Enger, Scott Rall, and Senator Ellen Anderson, Lester Bensch, Darby Nelson, Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen

Call to order – Chair

Chair Kilgore called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m. A quorum was present.

Review and approve agenda

Motion by Chair Kilgore to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Chair Kilgore welcomed new member Ryan Bronson who introduced himself and gave his background. Chair Kilgore also informed members of a letter he received from Senator Baak asking the Council to keep in mind the importance of job creation as it makes its funding recommendations. The letter was copied and distributed to all members.

Approval of November 12, 2009 minutes

Motion by J Cox to approve the minutes of November 12, 2009. No changes were noted. Motion passed.

Executive Director's report

Bill Becker informed members that Ben Bagdon has been brought on staff on a short term basis to provide statistical analysis on the final allocations. The analysis will include the distribution of dollars spent in various areas of the state, the amount of funds, and types of funding. Ben Bagdon is the same intern that provided this information to the Council last year.

Mr. Becker introduced new staff member Heather Koop to the Council. Bill informed members of her tasks and projects. Mr. Becker also informed members of an additional meeting that has been tentatively scheduled for January 13th if needed, and also drew attention to the member list included in the packet that will be posted on the web.

Members were provided a list of bonding projects and balances for review prior to allocations.

Mr. Becker informed members of the possible move and co-location of LSOHC with LCCMR. Chair Kilgore expressed concerns on sharing a location with LCCMR as a matter of perception from the stakeholders, diversion of the staff, and the different missions of the two groups. Several members also expressed their concern over this co-location. It was also mentioned that as a new council, LSOHC is still in the process of defining their identity and didn't want to be confused with LCCMR's mission. Potential cost savings was brought up. Members also felt that the current 1% administration costs was very low and cost effective for the LSOHC. Rep. Hansen asked for the operating budgets of the other Legislative Councils. Mr. Becker said that staff would work on getting that information together over the next couple of weeks.

November Forecast Update – Mike Roelofs, MMB

Mike Roelofs from MN Management and Budget gave an update on cash receipts and expenditures from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. He stated that the fund had sufficient of cash as there has been a small amount of money that has been spent to date. Mr. Roelofs stated that the fund credits seem to be delayed with the July collections being sent in August and posted in October. MMB is working with Department of Revenue on posting receipts in a more timely manner. He also pointed out the need for reserves. Although income tax has seen a decline, the sales tax has stayed fairly flat. Mr. Roeloffs stated that a reserve was necessary to protect against changes from the forecast to the actual, he felt a good

reserve would be between 5 -10%.

Update: 550 Acre Land Acquisition along the Rum River and Cedar Creek in Anoka

John VonDeLinde, Anoka Parks and Recreation gave an update on the FY2010 funded project and highlights from his FY2011 project. He answered questions posed by members.

Update: DNR Funding Requests

Dave Schad, DNR Director of Fish and Wildlife, reviewed the DNR proposal package for members. He stated that they approached the four main habitat types and bundled those into one proposal per area. He stated that flexibility is needed to determine whether easement or fee title acquisitions is the most appropriate tool. He emphasized the need and capacity in working with partners throughout the state to get the job done. He also addressed the staff requests in the proposals. These additional staff requests reflect the need to do work above and beyond and to increase capacity to get the work done. He explained that the Professional Shared Service Fee includes fleet support, IT, maintenance and HR needs. Members asked about the older bonding money not spent to date. He answered that there are specific situations where a project or parcel was delayed for some reason. He also stated that DNR outsources much of the on-the-ground work to the private sector.

Hearings

Members heard the following testimony from proposers and posed questions to presenters.

33 - DNR Aquatic Habitat Program, *DNR*

17 - Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project, *The Nature Conservancy*

10 - Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program in MN: Protecting Our Investment, *USFWS*

38 - Prairie Heritage Fund, *Pheasants Forever*

9 - The Green Corridor Legacy Program, *Redwood Area Communities Foundation*

8 - Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR Land Acquisition, *US Fish and Wildlife Service*

34 - Accelerated Prairie Grassland Restoration & Enhancement Program on DNR lands & roadsides, *DNR*

31 - Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement, Restoration, and Protection Partnership, *DNR and Ducks Unlimited*

20 - Metro Big Rivers Habitat, *Minnesota National Wildlife Refuge Trust Inc.*

18 - Valley Creek Protection Partnership, *Minnesota Land Trust*

5 - RIM Reserve – Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Leveraging Project, *BWSR and USDA*

Adjournment

Chair Kilgore adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mike Kilgore, Chair

Date

Darby Nelson, Secretary

Date

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)
Wednesday, December 9, 2009
Room 5, State Office Building
Meeting Summary

Members Present: Chair Michael Kilgore, David Hartwell, Representative Rick Hansen, Representative Bob Gunther, James Cox, Wayne Enger, Scott Rall, and Senator Ellen Anderson, Lester Bensch, Darby Nelson, Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen

Call to order – Chair

Chair Kilgore called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. A quorum was present.

Hearings

Members heard the following testimony from proposers and posed questions to presenters.

39 - Porter Creek Conservation Area, *Scott County*

35 - Lower Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Partnership, *DNR*

29 - Restoring and Enhancing Wildlife Habitat on Key Public Lands Across the Anoka Sand Plain through Collaborative Partnerships, *Great River Greening*

37 - Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish Habitat Restoration & Enhancement Program, *Minnesota Council of Trout Unlimited*

19 - Critical Shoreline Habitat Protection Program, *Minnesota Land Trust*

15 - RIM for Forest Habitat, *Aitkin County SWCD*

23 - Riparian and Lakeshore Protection, Restoration and Access in Dakota County, *Dakota County*

2 - Little Nokasippi River Wildlife Management Area, *BWSR*

22 - Protect (Acquire) Key Industrial Forest Land Tracts in Central MN, *Cass County*

30 - Accelerated Forest Wildlife Habitat Program, *DNR - Fish and Wildlife*

32 - Restoring Fish & Wildlife Populations in the Lower St. Louis River Knowlton Creek Fishery Restoration and Enhancement Project, *DNR - Duluth Area Fisheries*

14 - Northeastern Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat, *Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society*

7 - Washington County St. Croix River Land Protection, *Washington County*

36 - Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program, *DNR*

Allocation worksheet and process review

Members discussed the allocation process in terms of quality verses quantity of projects and possibility of funding fewer projects at the full amount. Member Hartwell mentioned reducing the funding to an annual amount with a possible carry-forward amount for the programs. Sen. Anderson suggested having an alternating biennial schedule with LCCMR for future discussion. Rep. Hansen emphasized again the need to consider the job creation as members look at programs for funding. Member Nelson emphasized the pride he has in this process. He feels the council has done an excellent job in narrowing the priorities and the quality of the proposals received demonstrates that. He also thought that the 30 minute presentations really helped in understanding the proposals better. Chair Kilgore also stated that he felt that 95% of those responding to the call for funding took the priorities seriously.

Mr. Becker reviewed the Treasurers Proposal as a starting point to determine the amount of money available for allocation.

Motion by Rep. Gunther to adopt the Treasurers Proposal as the amount to recommend for appropriation in FY 2011 as \$56,264,000.

Members discussed the reserve amount, cash flow concerns, and that possible rider language might help with the management of the grants.

Rep Gunther renewed his motion. Motion adopted.

Mr. Becker explained the process that will be used to tally the allocation selections from members. He also reminded members that individual member's allocation will be posted on the web. Members agreed that the list will be made available to the public and members at Tuesdays meeting. Rep. Hansen explained the importance of evaluating each project against the criteria.

Public comment on priority uses of the Outdoor Heritage Fund

No public comments.

Adjournment

Chair Kilgore adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mike Kilgore, Chair Date

Darby Nelson, Secretary Date