

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)
Tuesday, December 15, 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

Member Absent: Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen

Call to order – Chair

Chair Kilgore called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. A quorum was present.

Review and approve agenda

Motion by D. Hartwell to approve the agenda with the deletion of item #6 because Matt Holland was unable to present due to a family emergency. Motion passed.

Executive Director's report

Bill Becker reminded members of the upcoming meeting schedule: January 4 Executive Committee Meeting and the full Council Meeting on January 7. He also announced staff will provide a breakdown of recommendations by section and conservation action based on information provided in the accomplishment plans being requested from project managers this week. He updated members on information received at the House Cultural Resources Finance Division hearing on Monday, Dec. 14. The committee heard public input on M.S. Law Chapter 172 Definitions of protect, enhance, and restore and distributed a draft of the committee's draft Legislative Guidelines. Comments on the draft guidelines are due by Dec. 31, 2009 to Nancy Conley. There was discussion concerning the \$20 million decrease in the November sales tax receipts. Mr. Becker informed members that he will be making a presentation at a meeting in Bemidji on December to the Northern Counties Joint Powers Board. A draft of the accomplishments plan template was passed out and members were asked to get suggested changes to Heather Koop by the end of the day. There was also a summary sheet prepared by the DNR regarding the Conservation Partners Grant Program grant requests.

Chair Kilgore expanded on the discussion at the House Cultural and Outdoor Resources Finance Division hearing the previous evening regarding definitions of restore, protect and enhance. Some testimony wanted the definition to be broadened and others wanted the definition more focused. Overall some members of that committee felt that protect should be defined as more than just acquisition by fee or permanent conservation easement.

Allocation and Recommendation Funding Process

Members discussed the process in which they were going to review the preliminary averages of members individual allocations to projects heard, provided on the spreadsheet.

Motion by Chair Kilgore to adopt the spreadsheet (attached) those projects receiving 7 or more members' support totaling \$53,973,000 as a starting point of discussion. He noted that his motion left \$2,291,000 to allocate and that members could motion to amend average allocations to projects in the motion.

Sen. Anderson spoke to her support for proposal #35, Lower Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Partnership. Members discussed that proposal. Project manager Tim Schlagenhaft answered questions posed by members. Members discussed that projects with more of a majority of member support should be discussed first and also the unique or special features to justify this acquisition.

Motion by Sen. Anderson to amend the spreadsheet to allocate \$1 million to proposal #35. Motion not adopted. Division requested: 6 yes, 3 no, 1 abstain. Motion adopted.

Motion by W. Enger to amend the spreadsheet to allocate the remaining \$1,291,000 million to proposal #31, Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands, Enhancement, Restoration and Protection Partnership. Members discussed this proposal and asked questions of project managers Ray Norrgard and Jon Schneider. Motion adopted. Division requested: 7 yes, 4 no. Motion adopted.

Members discussed proposal # 36, Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program. Members discussed the administrative costs, the possibility of National Wildlife Federation administering the program as recommended in FY2010, the possibility of requiring a match for grantees receiving money under this program, and the privacy laws that have made it difficult for members to obtain information regarding who will be recipients of the grants.

Motion by R. Bronson to reduce the allocation of proposal # 36 to \$4 million for grants and \$160,000 for administrative costs. Members asked questions of Leslie Tannahill, DNR Conservation Partners Grants manager.

A friendly amendment was offered by S. Rall to amend Bronson's motion to retain the funding at \$4.386 million but to cap the administrative fee to 4%. Mr. Bronson accepted the amendment. Motion adopted.

Rep. Hansen asked members to consider limiting the administrative costs of other proposals to 4%.

Motion by D Hartwell to require a 4 to 1 hard match for grantees receiving money from the Conservation Partners Legacy Program (#36). Members discussed the ratio of this match. A friendly amendment was offered by S. Rall to require a 10% hard match instead as it would be difficult for smaller clubs to come up with a 4 to1 hard match. Amendment to the motion accepted by D. Hartwell. Motion passed.

R. Bronson asked question of Kevin Lines, BWSR, about proposal # 5, RIM Wetlands Reserve Program Leveraging Project. Mr. Lines explained the rating process and the leverage of the federal match. Mr. Bronson asked Chair Kilgore to include in the bill cover letter sent to legislative leadership that bonding dollars be considered for this important project. Members agreed this was important to include.

Motion by D. Hartwell that dollars not be used for the seed nursery propagation facility for proposal # 9, The Green Corridor Legacy Program. Motion adopted.

Motion by S. Rall to remove roadside restoration from funding for proposal #34, Accelerated Prairie Grassland Restoration and Enhancement Program on DNR Lands. Motion adopted.

Motion by D. Hartwell that proposal #7, Washington County St. Croix River Land Protection be subject to a 2 local dollars to 1 state dollar match. Members heard testimony from Al Singer, Dakota County and Jane Harper, Washington County. Mr. Hartwell amended his motion for a 1 to 1 match for proposal # 7 and #23. Motion adopted.

Rep. Hansen asked members to consider matches on other proposals. Several project managers were called to the table to testify on how a 1 to 1 match would impact their program.

Motion by D. Hartwell to exclude funding for dock/pier installation for proposal #23, Riparian and Lakeshore Protection Restoration and Access in Dakota County. Motion adopted.

Motion by Chair Kilgore for the priority to fund acquisition to access to the three landlocked parcels in proposal #22 Protect (Acquire) Key Industrial Forest Land Tracts in Central Minnesota. Motion adopted.

Motion by Rep. Hansen to require a 20% hard or soft match from the Potlach Corporation for proposal #22. Members discussed the match requirement for all proposals. Motion not adopted. Members continued discussion on match requirements of various proposals.

Motion by D. Hartwell to reconsider his previous motion for a 1 to 1 match for #7, Washington County and # 23, Dakota County proposals. Motion to reconsider adopted.

D. Hartwell withdrew his previous motion for a 1 to 1 match for #7, Washington County and # 23, Dakota County proposals.

Motion by Rep. Hansen to advise project managers to maintain restoration and enhancement proportions in accomplishment plans for reduced project allocations. Motion adopted.

Renewed Motion by Chair Kilgore to adopt the spreadsheet (attached) with those projects receiving seven or more members' support totaling \$53,973,000 (with the inclusion of the adopted amendments). Roll call vote requested. 11 -yes, 0-no. Motion adopted.

Public comment on priority uses of the Outdoor Heritage Fund

No comments were made before the Council.

Prior to adjournment members clarified that proposal #1, 550 Acre Land Acquisition along the Rum River and Cedar Creek in Anoka County would be included in the appropriation language per the motion to adopt the spreadsheet and allocation amount at the previous meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Kilgore adjourned the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mike Kilgore, Chair Date

Darby Nelson, Secretary Date