

Lessard - Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

August 16, 2010

Room 5, State Office Building

Meeting Summary

Members Present:

Chair Michael Kilgore
Les Bensch
Ryan Bronson
Jim Cox

Wayne Enger
Sen. Lisa Fobbe
Rep. Bob Gunther
Rep. Rick Hansen (phone)

David Hartwell
Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen
Darby Nelson
Scott Rall

Members Absent: none

Call to order

Chair Kilgore called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

Review and approve agenda

Motion by Sen. Ingebrigtsen to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Review and approve minutes of May 26, 2010 and June 16, 2010

Motion by D. Hartwell to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report (2:52)

Mr. Becker updated members on the activities of the Council and stated that staff has been reviewing requests and fielding questions. He provided an overview on the Minnesota River joint fact finding tour with the Clean Water Council and LCCMR. The Forest Protection Reserve appropriation status report has been received and will be sent to members this afternoon. Mr. Becker discussed upcoming events and Chair Kilgore authorized travel for one member for the following: Saturday, September 11th – Lake Christina Celebration and Monday, October 4th – Rural Counties Presentation plus Q and A.

Ms. Koop discussed the Joint LCCMR Tour on September 28th and provided details to members.

Mr. Becker made a note to members that the accomplishment plan for the Pass-Through Contract Management Accomplishment plan has not been approved by the Council. Staff is waiting for more detailed data on the make-up of the \$60.00/hr professional services charge to bring before the council for verification that the charges are “direct to and necessary for” the preparation and oversight of contractual arrangements and the related reimbursements. A hearing will be scheduled when the required data is submitted for staff review.

Update: LSOHC 25 Year Plan Process (14:22)

Judy Grew, MMB, Management Analysis and Development presented an update to the Council on the data gathering for the 25 year plan. She explained the three scenarios and the status of that work. She said the group is also identifying future research needs for possible LCCMR funding consideration. Grew explained the GIS layers being put together from various sources; this analysis will be available in the next few weeks. She provided an update on the survey information (expenditures, outcomes of their activities, goals and grant made to other organizations) being gathered from various organizations. Members had the opportunity to ask questions.

Presentation: DNR Wildlife Habitat Land Acquisition Ranking (34:50)

Dennis Simon, DNR, provided a detailed handout explaining the evaluation process for ranking lands for acquisition. Mr. Simon described this as a site specific prioritization tool. In the past DNR had received a modest number of requests which were easy to look at individually. Last spring they received 250 parcels for consideration, so a more formal tool became necessary. This tool is a work in progress and will continue to be reviewed with partners in the near future. Ranking is determined by the package in which they are applying – scoring for the parcels stays the same. Sen.

Ingebrigtsen requested from Mr. Simon provide a summary of past WMA acquisition by acres. Members had the opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Simon.

Update: ML 2009 / FY2010 Accomplishments Update Summary (1:27:00)

Heather Koop provided a two page handout summarizing the accomplishments to date. She stated that 88% of the target acre accomplishments have been attained and that 67% of the appropriations have been legally committed or spent.

Decision Item: ML2010 / FY2011 Accomplishment Plan Approval (1:42:40)

3(b) Protect Key Industrial Forest Land Tracts in Central Minnesota

Joshua Stevenson, Cass County, answered questions and gave detailed information including maps of the four parcels proposed to be purchased by the County, explained the habitat impact, as well as the forestry management goals. Cass County is one of the few counties that has a no net land loss. Mr. Stevenson answered questions posed by members. Motion by R. Bronson to approve the accomplishment plan as revised and presented. Motion passed.

Decision Item: Selections for Hearing (2:04:34)

Members reviewed the ranking and selected requests for hearing. Chair Kilgore put forward a proposal to get the hearing list started and initiated discussion. Motion by D. Hartwell (concurring with the Chairs proposal) to call in for a hearing, from the handout titled "Average Scores Highest to Lowest", requests in the "running number column" 1-26. Motion passed.

Project ID	Project Title	Organization	Fund Request	Average Scores	# members scoring 28 or above	Running Number
W-01	The RIM-WRP Partnership	<i>Bd of Water & Soil Resources</i>	\$18,000,000	38.6	12	1
F-03	La Salle Lake: Protecting Critical Mississippi Headwaters Habitat	<i>The Trust for Public Land</i>	\$4,631,500	36.3	12	2
H-01	DNR Aquatic Habitat Program	<i>MN DNR</i>	\$17,815,000	36.2	10	3
P-10	Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program	<i>Pheasants Forever</i>	\$9,815,000	36.0	10	4
P-07	Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex (Phase I)	<i>The Trust for Public Land</i>	\$2,495,000	34.9	11	5
P-03	Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife & Water	<i>Pheasants Forever</i>	\$5,500,000	34.4	10	6
P-09	Accelerating the Wildlife Mgmt Area Program	<i>Pheasants Forever, Inc.</i>	\$7,690,500	34.4	10	7
H-05	Metro Big Rivers Habitat Phase 2	<i>Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.</i>	\$5,170,558	34.1	8	8
P-02	Accelerated Prairie Restoration and Enhancement on DNR Lands	<i>MN DNR</i>	\$4,082,337	33.9	10	9
P-05	Mustinka River Fish & Wildlife Corridor	<i>Bois de Sioux Watershed District</i>	\$13,100,000	33.9	9	10
H-02	MN Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement Program	<i>MN Trout Unlimited</i>	\$2,332,000	33.7	10	11
P-04	Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition	<i>The Nature Conservancy</i>	\$3,500,000	32.6	10	12

W-04	Shallow Lake Shoreland Protection: Wild Rice Lakes	<i>Ducks Unlimited</i>	\$3,000,000	31.8	9	13
F-01	Minnesota Forests for the Future	<i>MN DNR</i>	\$20,772,000	31.5	8	14
P-06	MN Prairie Recovery Project Phase 2	<i>The Nature Conservancy</i>	\$6,761,798	31.5	10	15
W-02	Marsh Lake Ecosystem Enhancement	<i>MN DNR</i>	\$300,000	31.5	8	16
F-04	DNR Accelerated Forest Habitat Enhancement	<i>MN DNR</i>	\$2,640,030	31.4	11	17
H-06	Protecting Sensitive Shorelands in North Central Minnesota	<i>Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation</i>	\$2,006,000	31.3	8	18
F-06	Lower Mississippi River Habitat Partnership	<i>MN DNR</i>	\$1,587,951	31.1	8	19
P-01	Acquisition: WMA, SNA, Prairie Bank Easement, Forest Lands	<i>MN DNR</i>	\$26,614,000	30.9	9	20
H-04	Land Addition to Janet Johnson Memorial WMA	<i>Chisago Cty Dept of Environmental Services</i>	\$576,500	30.8	9	21
P-11	Green Corridor Legacy Program - Phase III	<i>Redwood Area Communities Foundation dba Green Corridor Inc.</i>	\$6,383,000	30.8	9	22
H-03	Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration	<i>Red Lake Watershed District</i>	\$4,746,000	30.5	7	23
P-08	Seven Mile Creek Watershed Riparian Protection and Enhancement	<i>Nicollet County Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	\$1,203,000	29.7	7	24
F-05	Northeastern Mn Sharp-Tailed Grouse Habitat Partnership	<i>Minnesota Sharp-Tailed Grouse Society</i>	\$3,151,750	29.4	10	25
W-03	Wetlands and Shallow Lakes	<i>MN DNR</i>	\$1,408,020	29.2	7	26

Discussion of Additional programs to add to the Hearing List (2:11:38)

D. Hartwell expressed concern over P-05: Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Corridor's high cost per acre/mile given the comparison to all of the other proposals. Mr. Hartwell suggested a "bang for your buck" measure as a future scoring option.

W. Enger expressed concern over F-01: Minnesota Forests for the Future putting large amounts of the OHF dollars in the Northern Forest section and the estimated \$20 million each year for future requests. Can we continue to sustain other requests outside of the Forest areas?

W. Enger recommended P-15: OTC Habitat Restoration, Improvement and Enhancement Program and explained that this program fills a special niche of management on private land without easement fees. conservation work gets done for much less with a 25 year conveyance on the land.

Motion by Rep. Gunther to include P-12: Conservation on the Prairie for Future Generation on the hearing list. Motion was NOT adopted.

Motion by L. Bensch to include H-09: Rat-Root River Erosion Control and Walleye Spawning Enhancement on the hearing list. Motion was NOT adopted.

Motion by Rep. Hansen to include P-14: Bluffland Restoration on the hearing list. Motion NOT adopted.

Motion by Sen. Ingebrigtsen to include H-12: Lake Zumbro Restoration Project on the hearing list. Motion was NOT adopted.

Motion by R. Bronson to include W-05: Moist Soil Management on the hearing list. Motion NOT adopted.

J. Cox expressed concern over W-02: Marsh Lake Ecosystem Enhancement that this proposal is a substitution to pay for an existing agreement.

Motion by R. Bronson to include F-07: Protect Key Forest Habitat Lands – Cass County on the hearing list. Motion ADOPTED.

Motion by Rep. Hansen to include H-10: Restoring Native Habitat/Water Quality to Shell Rock River on the hearing list. Motion ADOPTED.

Public comment on priority uses of the Outdoor Heritage Fund (2:50:42)

Terri Lee, Olmsted County and Ron Fuller, Lake Zumbro Improvement Association, addressed the Council on the importance of Lake Zumbro as a recreational body. They are looking for a grant programs to make a project like this possible. Mr. Lee thanks the Council for their consideration of their proposal.

Adjournment (2:56:27)

Chair Kilgore adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

APPROVED:

Mike Kilgore, Chair Date

Darby Nelson, Secretary Date