

Lessard - Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Meeting Summary
December 13, 2011

Members Present:

Les Bensch
Ryan Bronson
Jim Cox
Wayne Enger

Chair David Hartwell
Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen
Jane Kingston
Rep. Leon Lillie

Rep. Denny McNamara
Scott Rall
Ron Schara
Sen. Tom Saxhaug

Members Absent: none

Call to order: Call to order at 8:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

Review and approve agenda: Motion by W. Enger to approve the agenda. Motion adopted.

Review and Approve Minutes: November 15, 2011: Motion by Senator Saxhaug to approve the minutes. Motion adopted.

Members report any Conflict of Interest on Today's Agenda: No conflicts were reported.

Executive Director's Report (2:24)

- 2011 Schedule. A reminder to members that the next meeting is January 25 when the Council will finalize FY 14 priorities.
- 2012 Schedule
Motion by J. Kingston to adopt the schedule as presented. Motion adopted
- Baseline OHF awareness survey (U of MN Survey Research Center) is near completion.
- NGO contract meeting. A summary is enclosed in meeting packets and is being sent to the DNR commissioner. The problems seem solvable and DNR working on solutions.
- Mississippi River Northwoods Habitat Project. Enclosed in members packets is a letter from the DNR commissioner and letter from TPL regarding the land appraisal

(14:14) Update: November Forecast Update

Mike Roelofs, MN Management and Budget, gave an update and answered questions posed by members. There was very little change in the sales tax receipts and anticipated forecast.

(24:04) Action: Accomplishment Plan Amendment - ML 2011, First Special Session, Ch. 6, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd 4(c) Shallow Lake Shoreland Protection – Wild Rice

Rick Walsh, DNR, presented the request to grant funds to Cass County to acquire land to be managed by Cass County. Council members expressed concern that allowing this purchase would result in the liquidation of other lands. Members asked that staff clarify with Cass County the intent of the Council. Motion by Senator Saxhaug to approve the amendment as presented. Motion adopted.

(47:54) Action: Accomplishment Plan Amendment - ML 2009, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd 2(b) Green Corridor Legacy Program

Nancy Fasching, Southwest Initiative Foundation, presented the retroactive approval request and answered questions posed by members. Motion by W. Enger to approve the amendment as presented. Motion adopted.

(01:01:31) Discussion/Action: 2012 Legislative Appropriation Recommendations Bill

S. Rall made a suggestion on 2(a) MN Buffers for Water and Wildlife Programs, Phase 2, page 1, line 21 to include "easements" for clarification in the appropriation.

\$2,090,000 in the second year is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources in cooperation with Pheasants Forever to acquire permanent conservation easements to enhance habitat by expanding Clean Water Fund riparian wildlife buffers on private land. A list of proposed permanent conservation land acquisitions easements must be provided as part of the required final accomplishment plan. as part of the required accomplishment plan. The accomplishment plan must include an easement stewardship plan. Up to \$90,000 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment

plan and subject to new Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 16. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund and a description of annual monitoring and enforcement activities.

J. Kingston made a suggestion on 2(g) Green Corridor Legacy Program, Phase 4, per the testimony of Brad Cobb, on page 2, line 23 to 26 to include aquatic management areas and statutory references.

\$1,730,000 in the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Redwood Area Development Corporation to acquire land in fee for wildlife management areas purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8 and for aquatic management areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Motion by Scott Rall to approve the appropriation language as amended and allow staff to make any necessary technical changes before forwarding to legislative leadership for consideration during the 2012 session. Motion Adopted (12-0)

(2:10:35) Update: Legislative Audit and Program Evaluation of Legacy Funds

Jim Nobles, Legislative Auditor and Judy Randall, Evaluation Coordinator, presented a summary of the two reports and answered questions posed by members.

Opportunity for Public to Address the Council: none

(3:14:01) Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

APPROVED:

Wayne Enger, Secretary

Date