

**Lessard - Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Meeting Summary
January 26, 2012**

Members Present:

Les Bensch (phone)
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 10:07 a.m. A quorum was present.

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

Review and Approve Minutes: December 13, 2011: Motion by J. Kingston to approve the minutes. Motion adopted.

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

(1:42) Executive Director's Report

Mary Robison presented the revised fund statement. She stated that MN Management and Budget would recommend 5% of the appropriation amount be left in reserve (\$4.8 million); other legacy funds have left approximately 3% in reserves, however this is not recommended. She said the reserve acts to assist with cash flow issues related to the accuracy of the projection and economic changes.

(9:32) Discussion: Lands Open to Hunting

Heather Koop provided background information. Janelle Taylor, House Legislative Analyst and Greg Knopff, Senate Lead Analyst explained the language recommendations outlined in the staff memo. Jim Leach, USFWS, stated for the record that the language was acceptable to the federal government. Members discussed the parameters for changing the rules for being open to hunting and fishing. R. Bronson moved to amend the recommendations bill, retroactive to ML 2009, adopting the language regarding the various ownership of land purchased with Outdoor Heritage Funds to be open to hunting, as presented in the staff memo. Motion adopted. (10-1)

(24:56) Presentation: Asian Carp Summit and Update

Peter Sorenson, U of M, presented an Invasive Species Research Center Proposal to the Council. He talked about past and current research on invasive species. And the need for investment in long-term research to combat aquatic invasive species.

(51:44) Dr. Sorenson answered questions posed by members based on his expertise on aquatic invasive species, including barrier and deterrent options; work being done and collaboration efforts with UW-LaCrosse; research and funding being done in Australia.

(1:16:34) Tim Schlagenhaft, DNR, addressed the Council specifically on the electrical barriers at various dams along the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix Rivers. Mr. Schlagenhaft answered questions about feasibility, cost and benefits on various locations for barriers, timing of getting barriers up, and permitting with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

(1:25:00) Commissioner Landwehr spoke to the Council on the commitment of the DNR to get work done on invasive species.

(1:33:49) Rep. McNamara addressed the Council on their commitment to consider further funding for aquatic invasive species and various options for consideration for the funding of barriers, as well as a research center at University of Minnesota.

(1:41:19) Commissioner Landwehr addressed the issue of timing and permitting necessary to issue an RFP for barriers, simultaneous to funding being finalized, as well as coordinating with federal government. These were the highest priorities to accomplish.

Members continued discussed the highest priorities for barrier locations, cost specifics, timing, and potential funds for the

projects, options that are currently being considered for funding, fishing licensing permit fees and boating AIS license fees increase.

(2:04:08) Chair Hartwell summarized the discussion and the options for Council consideration.

(2:11:26) Rep. McNamara informed members of the Council of a new information on the Mississippi Northwoods Habitat Complex Protection project. (2:18:43) Susan Schmidt from the Trust for Public Land provided an update to the Council. She testified as the management plan for the property has developed that a state trail will be part of the property estimated to cost \$2 million, explaining that that the request could be reduced by that much as an option for Council consideration.

Break – (end of AM recording 2:25:00)

(0:00:00) Discussion/Decision: Consider Amending Asian Carp Recommendation

W. Enger moved to increase the funding to Protect Habitat from Asian Carp from \$3 million to \$8 million with the additional \$5 million coming from reducing RIM-WRP by \$2.5 million and taking \$2.5 million from the projected carry forward balance.

Members discussed the motion.

(7:07) Kevin Lines, BWSR, testified reminding members that RIM-WRP comes with a \$1.6 dollar federal match to the OHF recommended appropriation.

Members discussed the possibility of reducing Mississippi Northwoods Habitat Complex Protection by the \$2.5 million as testified prior to break. Members discussed losing control of trail placement if the trail went on a parcel not purchased with Outdoor Heritage Fund money.

(19:50) Motion to R. Bronson to amend the Enger motion to increase the funding to Protect Habitat from Asian Carp from \$3 million to \$8 million with the additional \$5 million coming from reducing Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program by \$2.5 million and taking \$2.5 million from the reserves.

W. Enger's motion withdrawn.

(33:15) W. Enger moved to increase the funding to Protect Habitat from Asian Carp from \$3 million to \$5.5 million for structural deterrents with the additional \$2.5 million being taken from the reserves. Motion adopted. (12-0)

Members discussed potentially meeting again during session possibly with the LCCMR. The joint meeting could address redirecting money from the ML 2011 Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund (ENRTF) RIM appropriation to the Outdoor Heritage Fund and use the ENRTF money for invasive species research at the University of Minnesota. It could also consider a reduction in funding for the Mississippi Northwoods Habitat Complex project. Members decided that they wanted to conclude business as it relates to this appropriation bill. Members were split on meeting during session for further discussion or modification to the recommendations bill.

(59:07) Motion by Rep. McNamara to change language from "state" trail to "paved" trail in the recommended appropriation 3(b) Mississippi Northwoods Habitat Complex Protection. Motion adopted.

(1:05:54) Decision: Accomplishment Plan Amendments

ML 2011, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 6, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(f) - Restoring Native Habitat & Water Quality to Shell Rock River Andy Henschel, Shell Rock River Watershed District, presented the plan change and answered questions posed by members. S. Rall moved to approve the amendment as presented. Motion adopted.

ML 2010, Ch. 361, Art.1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(b) – DNR Aquatic Habitat Program (1:16:10)

Mike Duval, DNR, presented the plan change and answered questions posed by members. R. Bronson moved to approve the amendment as presented. Motion adopted.

(1:17:49) Opportunity for Public to Address the Council

David Cuzzi, Capable Partners, addressed the council on accessibility to the outdoors.

(1:20:52) Decision: Review and Approve Call for Funding Request

Motion by R. Bronson to make the following change on page 2 under Proposal Requirements "6. Are for a minimum of \$150,000 \$400,000". Motion adopted.

Motion by D. Hartwell to make the following change on page 3 under Statewide Priority Criteria "8. Address wildlife species of greatest conservation need, Minnesota County Biological Survey data, and rare, threatened and endangered species inventories in land and water decisions, as well as long-term or permanent solutions to aquatic invasive species." Motion adopted.

Motion by S. Rall to move the Call for Funding Request be published as presented with the changed discussed. Motion passed.

(1:42:12) Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Wayne Enger, Secretary

Date