

**Lessard - Sams Outdoor Heritage Council**  
**Meeting Summary**  
June 17, 2014

**Members Present:**

Jim Cox	Jane Kingston	Ron Schara
David Hartwell, Chair	Rep. Denny McNamara	Elizabeth Wilkens
Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen	Sue Olson	
Rep. Rick Hansen	Scott Rall	

**Members Absent:** Bob Anderson and Sen. Tom Saxhaug

**Call to order:** Call to order at 8:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Review and approve agenda:**

Motion by S. Rall to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

**Review and approve minutes:**

Motion by Rep. Hansen to approve the 3/14/2014 minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**Members Report any Conflict of Interest on Today's Agenda**

No new conflicts were noted.

**Update: Council Personnel and Hiring**

Greg Hubinger, Director of LCC, gave an update on the process and timeframe for the Executive Director search.

**(00:06:13) Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Becker informed members of the promotion of Sandy Smith to Project Analyst Manager and explained the process for hiring the a Administrative Assistant. Mr. Becker also requested approval of an addition to the contract with Houston Engineering for IT programming and services for the on-line system. The contract addition will be funded from the Council's FY 14 and 15 administrative budgets.. Motion by J. Kingston to approve an increase in the on-line system development contract by \$150,000. Motion adopted.

**(00:10:58) Update: Session Report Outdoor Heritage Appropriations Bill and others**

Heather Koop described the OHF bill and other pertinent legislation passed in the 2014 session. Rep. Hansen discussed the conference committee resolution of the following items: haying and grazing, pollinator habitat language, increase in appropriation amount for restoration evaluations, and the assessed value of land. S. Rall asked questions regarding PILT and changes in the tax law. Greg Knopff spoke to these changes.

**(00:24:32) Action: Accomplishment Plan Approvals, ML 2014, Ch. 256, Art. 1, Sec. 2** Motion by Rep. Hansen to approve the following consent list of accomplishment plans for ML 2014, Ch. 256, Art. 1, Sec. 2 Motion adopted.

**Consent Agenda**

Appropriation	Amount
2b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area Program, Ph. VI	\$10,350,000
2c) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project, Ph. V	\$3,940,000
2d) Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR Land Acquisition, Ph. V	\$2,450,000

2e) Accelerated Protection of Grassland and Prairie Habitat with RIM and NPB Easements	\$5,450,000
2f) Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife and Water, Ph. IV	\$2,200,000
2g) Cannon Rivers Headwaters Habitat Complex, Ph. IV	\$1,430,000
2h) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and Enhancement on DNR Lands, Ph. VI	\$1,530,000
2i) Anoka Sandplain Habitat Restoration and Enhancement, Ph. III	\$1,190,000
2j) Crow-Hassen Prairie Complex Restoration and Enhancement	\$370,000
2k) Prairie and Oak Savanna Restoration along Mississippi and Rum Rivers	\$380,000
3a) Preventing Forest Fragmentation and Protecting and Restoring Lake and Stream Habitat in St. Louis River	\$2,800,000
3b) Northeastern Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Program, Ph. IV	\$3,150,000
3c) Protecting Pineland Sands Aquifer Forest Lands	\$1,05,000
3d) Protect Key Forest Habitat Lands in Cass County, Ph. V	\$880,000
3e) State Forest Acquisition, Ph. II	\$950,000
3f) Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration, Ph. II	\$5,770,000
3g) Camp Ripley Partnership, Ph. IV	\$1,200,000
3h) Floodplain Forest Enhancement on Mississippi River	\$300,000
4b) Accelerating Waterfowl Production Area Acquisition, Ph. VI	\$7,280,000
4d) Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Program, Ph. III	\$1,060,000
4e) Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement, Ph. VI	\$1,050,000
5a) DNR Aquatic Habitat, Ph. VI	\$2,560,000
5b) Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes	\$2,130,000
5d) Metro Big Rivers, Ph. V	\$2,650,000
5e) Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation	\$2,440,000
5f) MTU Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement, Ph. VI	\$1,900,000
5h) Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation, Ph. II	\$1,410,000
5i) Restoration and Enhancement of Washington County Public Lands	\$430,000
5j) Wirth Park Enhancements	\$600,000
5k) Evaluate Effectiveness of Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Strategies	\$4,040,000

6a) Contract Management	\$150,000
6c) Technical Evaluation Panel	\$100,000
6d) High-Priority Pre-Transaction Service Acceleration for LSOHC	\$50,000

(00:53:09) Members discussed the non-consent list individually.

2a) DNR Wildlife Management Area and Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition, Ph. VI	\$8,145,000
4a) RIM-WRE, Ph. VI	\$9,710,000
4c) Living Shallow Lakes & Wetlands Initiative, Ph. IV	\$4,910,000
5c) Habitat Protection in Dakota County, Ph. V	\$1,190,000
5g) St. Louis River Restoration Initiative, Ph. II	\$2,290,000
5m) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program, Ph. VI	\$4,550,000
5n) Conservation Partners Legacy Metro Grant Program	\$4,000,000

(00:54:58) Pat Rivers described the issues of mining, trail alignment, and the division of the acquisition with Dakota County. Rep. McNamara wanted to go on the record in support of the portion to be acquired by Dakota County being included in the WMA. Motion by S. Rall to approve 2(a) DNR Wildlife Management Area and Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition, Ph. VI accomplishment plan. Motion adopted.

(01:08:19) Bill Penning, BWSR, requested that the 4(a) RIM-WRE, Ph. VI accomplishment plan not be approved and that they come back at a later date when the rulemaking has been completed with the US farm bill and the impact on the RIM program is understood. Members agreed.

(01:10:23) Jon Schneider, DU, spoke to the direct support services (DSS) addition to the accomplishment plan. The DSS rate was previously included in the personnel line item, but was pulled out separately for transparency; the DSS has been approved by DNR contract management. Motion by Rep. Hansen to approve 4(c) Living Shallow Lakes & Wetlands Initiative, Ph. IV accomplishment plan. Motion adopted

(01:11:27) No one spoke on behalf of 5c Habitat Protection in Dakota County, Ph. V's accomplishment plan; the accomplishment plan was not approved due to delinquent status reports. Rep. Hansen encourage Dakota County to complete and submit their past due reports.

(01:13:35) John Lindgren, DNR, and Kris Larson, MLT, explained the change in outputs in their accomplishment plan from the original draft plan was due to sequencing of federal leverage and the restoration components. Motion by S. Rall to approve the 5(g) St. Louis River Restoration Initiative, Ph. II accomplishment plan. Motion adopted.

(01:18 :38) Jessica Lee explained the administrative costs and division of the costs between the two Conservation Legacy Grant programs. Motion by Rep. Hansen to approve 5m) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program, Ph. VI and 5n) Conservation Partners Legacy Metro Grant Program accomplishment plans with the requirement that the DNR return to the August 5, 2014 council meeting with an amendment modifying the personnel and administration per legislative intent, with input from House and Senate counsel. Motion adopted.

**(01:46:30) Update: Clean Water Roadmap**

Sarah Strommen, BWSR, and Barb Naramore, DNR, presented the Clean Water Fund's "Clean Water Roadmap" to the Council and answered questions posed by members.

**(02:19:30) Discussion: Accomplishment Plan Update, ML 2011, First Special Session, Ch. 6, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4a, RIM-WRP Habitat Partnership, Ph. III**

John Jaschke and Sarah Strommen, BWSR, presented changes in the accomplishment plan, specifically addressing the substantial reduction of acres protected and restored in the accomplishment plan and answered questions posed by members.

**(03:00:43) Update: Office of the Legislator Auditor Report, DNR Internal Controls and Compliance Audit – July 2010 – Feb 2013.** Brad White and Cecile Ferkul presented to the Council and answered questions posed by members.

**(03:13:36) Discussion/Action: Amend Council Procedures for participation at non-council sponsored events**

Motion by J. Cox to approve the travel and tour policies as presented by staff. Motion adopted.

**(03:16:46) Discussion: Trails on OHF Acquired Land**

David Hartwell, LSOHC Chair, suggested that members consider drafting a policy about trails on OHF land purchases, as it has been an issue on several acquisitions in the recent past. Members discussed options for trails. Rep. McNamara stated that current law does allow some protection. Chair Hartwell stated the need to look through the lens of habitat protection and trail use compatibility. It was suggested that this issue be placed on a future council agenda for more discussion and possible action.

**(03:29:44) Discussion: Wildlife Management Habitat Tools (food plots)**

Bob Welsh, DNR, presented to the Council and answered questions posed by members. Members discussed the constitutionality of using OHF money for plots. Members decided to place this item on the agenda for the August 5 council meeting for further discussion and possible action.

**(04:01:49) Discussion: Accomplishment Plan Budget Changes in last six months of appropriation**

Bill Becker described to members the issues around budget shifts in the last six months of appropriation availability. Motion by S. Rall that budget shifts greater than \$50,000 or ½% of the total appropriation, whichever is lesser, needs to be approved by the Council at the April meeting prior to final report submission. Motion adopted.

**(04:18:53) Update: Review upcoming process timeline (July – December)**

Heather Koop reviewed the upcoming schedule.

**Opportunity for Public to Address the Council**

No public comment was heard

Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Susan Olson, Secretary

Date