Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Meeting Meeting Summary November 5, 2015

Members Present

Bob Anderson, Chair

Jane Kingston

Susan Olson

Julie Blackburn

Rep. Leon Lillie

Barry Tilley

David Hartwell

Rep. Denny McNamara

Elizabeth Wilkens

Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen

Members Absent: Ron Schara, Sen. Tom Saxhaug

Call to Order: Call to order at 12:10 p.m. A quorum was present.

Review and Approve Agenda

Motion by Ms. Kingston to approve the agenda for November 5, 2015 as presented. Motion adopted.

Review and Approve Minutes - October 6, 2015

Motion by Ms. Kingston to approve the minutes. Motion adopted.

Conflicts of Interest:

No new conflicts were noted.

(00:03:49) Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mark Johnson reviewed the 2016 Council draft calendar, including a presentation to the Council by Dr. Peter Sorensen scheduled for February 11, 2016. Mr. Johnson reported a minor land conversion and conveyance in St. Louis County pertaining to ML 2009, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3 which he will approve by December 1, 2015, subject to any objections by Council members or legislative leadership. Mr. Johnson provided a status update on the Land Acquisition Report mandated by ML 2015, First Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Subd. 6(d).

(00:08:02) RFP/Call Criteria Discussion

Project Analyst Manager Sandy Smith reviewed the timeline for issuing the Call for Funding Request and the purpose of bringing the discussion forward. Members discussed the Call and criteria. Council members asked staff to seek input from members and project managers on the Request process and criteria and to compile additional considerations for the December 3rd, 2015 Council meeting.

(00:19:20) Rider Language for ML 2016

Mr. Johnson reviewed potential rider language for the ML 2016 Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) bill.

(00:26:20) Review and Progress Draft Accomplishment Plans for ML 2016

Mr. Johnson outlined the implications of funding shortfall for ML 16 FY 17 proposal WRE 02, Marsh Lake Phase II. Members discussed the issue.

Dave Trauba, DNR Southern Region Wildlife Manager and Shahin Khazrajafari, project manager with the US Army Corp of Engineers provided testimony on behalf of the Marsh Lake project.

(0:32:09) Motion by Rep. McNamara to recommend \$309,000 from the OHF 5% reserve be allocated to proposal WRE 02, Marsh Lake Phase II, bringing the project up to full funding at \$2,000,000. Members discussed the motion.

(00:42:10) Motion adopted.

(00:42:48) Ms. Smith summarized the draft accomplishment plans review process. Members discussed an analysis provided by staff of the draft accomplishment plans. Members discussed their current allocation recommendation package with regard to proposal FA 09, Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the Wild Rice River Watershed.

(01:12:50) Motion by Ms. Kingston to direct LSOHC staff to proceed with the bill draft based on draft accomplishment plans as presented. Members discussed the motion and the process of drafting the OHF bill. Rep. McNamara expressed concern about proposals HA 03, Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project, FA 02, Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River Watershed Habitat Acquisition and FA 09, Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the Wild Rice River Watershed, suggesting it would be better for the State of Minnesota to hold lands acquired with these projects rather than the entities submitting the proposals.

(01:23:55) A roll call vote was requested.

Roll call vote on the motion:

Bob Anderson, Chair - No

Jane Kingston - Yes

Barry Tilley - Yes

Elizabeth Wilkens - Yes

Julie Blackburn - No David Hartwell - Yes Rep. Leon Lillie - Yes Rep. Denny McNamara - No

Sen. Bill Ingebrigsten - No

Susan Olson - Yes

Motion adopted (6-yes, 4-no).

Members continued to discuss the draft accomplishment plans. Testimony was given by the following project managers:

(01:32:23) Kim Nelson of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association and Steve Hobbs, The Conservation Fund, offered testimony regarding FA 02, Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River Watershed Habitat Acquisition. Members discussed their testimony.

(01:37:06) Tim Terrill of the Mississippi Headwaters Board and Bob McGillivray, Trust for Public Land, offered testimony regarding HA 03, Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project.

(01:42:00) Chris Knopf, Indian Land Tenure Foundation and Lorena Vogt, White Earth Natural Resources Department offered testimony regarding FA 09, Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the Wild Rice River Watershed. Members discussed their testimony.

(02:00:24) Grant Wilson, DNR, offered testimony on behalf of all DNR project managers with proposals before the Council.

(02:07:05) Rich Johnson, The Nature Conservancy, offered testimony regarding PA 04, Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR Land Acquisition, Phase VII.

(02:09:40) Mr. McGillivray offered testimony regarding PA 05, Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex, Phase VI.

(02:11:40) Bill Penning, Board of Soil and Water Resources, offered testimony regarding PA 07, Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife and Water, Phase VI, WA 03, RIM Wetlands, Phase II, and FA 03, Camp Ripley ACUB, Phase VI. Members discussed his testimony.

(02:16:30) Mr. Hobbs offered testimony regarding PA 10, Grasslands Conservation Partnership.

(02:21:50) Wylie Buck of Great River Greening offered testimony regarding PRE 02, Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation, Phase IV.

(02:23:15) Ms. Nelson offered testimony regarding FA 02, Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River Watershed Habitat Acquisition.

(02:24:26) Rich Biske of The Nature Conservancy, Wayne Ostlie of The Minnesota Land Trust and Mr. McGillivray offered testimony regarding FA 04, Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration, Phase IV.

(02:28:20) Jon Schneider of Ducks Unlimited offered testimony regarding WA 02, Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection Program, Phase V. Members discussed his testimony.

(02:31:38) Mr. Ostlie and Mr. McGillivray offered testimony regarding HA 02, Metro Big Rivers Habitat, Phase VII.

(02:37:58) Mr. Ostlie offered testimony regarding HA 04, Fisheries Habitat Protection North Central Minnesota Lakes, Phase II.

(02:39:35) Jamison Wendel, DNR, offered testimony regarding HRE 04, Sand Hill River Fish Passage Restoration and Habitat Enhancement, Phase II.

(02:43:22) Opportunity for Public to Address the Council No public comment was heard.

Meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

APPROVED:

Bob Anderson, Chair

David Hartwell, Secretary

Date:

Date.