

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Meeting
Meeting Summary
August 4, 2016**

Members Present

Bob Anderson, Chair
Julie Blackburn
David Hartwell
Jane Kingston

Rep. Leon Lillie
Rep. McNamara
Susan Olson
Sen. Tom Saxhaug

Barry Tilley
Elizabeth Wilkens

Members Absent

Ron Schara, Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen

Call to Order: Call to order at 8:15 a.m. A quorum was present.

Review and Approve Agenda

Motion by Mr. Hartwell to approve the agenda for August 4, 2016 as presented. Motion adopted.

Review and Approve Minutes – June 29, 2016

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

Conflicts of Interest:

No new conflicts were noted.

(00:02:35) Executive Director's Report

Sandy Smith, Project Analyst Manager reviewed the current round of program status updates and stated a full report would be provided to the council before the August 23-24 proposal hearings. Executive Director Mark Johnson called members' attention to an Aquatic Invaders Summit on August 5-6, 2016. Mr. Johnson reviewed a draft outcomes process recommendation. Members discussed the recommendation at length. Mr. Johnson provided an update on the status of the Mississippi River Northwoods property issues. Members discussed the issue. Mr. Hartwell asked that a discussion of potential trail policy language be added to the agenda. Chair Anderson added a discussion of trail policy language to the agenda as item nine, appearing after the Proposal Evaluations and Hearing Selection discussion, item eight.

(00:29:15) Assistant Director Joe Pavelko reviewed the status of potential modifications to language on revenues generated by the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF). Members discussed the issue.

(00:39:14) Mr. Johnson requested the council approve a \$15,000 expenditure to participate in a University of Minnesota public survey which would provide data on public opinion regarding the OHF. Members discussed the survey. Ms. Kingston requested the council be provided with the list of questions submitted for the previous survey in 2011.

(00:41:54) Motion by Ms. Kingston to allocate \$15,000 from the OHF administrative budget to participate in the University of Minnesota survey. Motion adopted.

Mr. Johnson briefly reviewed the August 3rd, 2016 staff habitat tour to the West Metro.

(00:44:50) Accomplishment Plan Amendment, ML 2013, Ch. 137, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(b), Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration, Phase IV

Lisa West, Senior Project Manager, Dakota County Environmental Resources Department and Al Singer, Dakota County Land Conservation Manager, presented to the council on the amendment. Members discussed the presentation at length. Rep. McNamara stated that the project must have a certified DNR appraisal to move forward. Mr. Singer confirmed. Members continued to discuss the project.

(01:49:00) Rep. McNamara withdrew his motion tabled at the June 29, 2016 council meeting. Motion by Mr. Hartwell to approve the easement subject to no building site being allowed for an educational building(s) within the easement and subject to approval of the easement by the DNR. Ms. Blackburn asked the motion be amended to make implementing the Natural Resource Management Plan a requirement. The amendment was accepted by Mr. Hartwell. Rep. McNamara stated funding is available for some specific habitat restoration besides that which would be at an owner's expense, for example, CPL funding.

(01:58:42) Roll call vote requested on Mr. Hartwell's motion:

Bob Anderson, Chair - Yes
Julie Blackburn - Yes
David Hartwell - Yes
Jane Kingston - No

Rep. Leon Lillie - Yes
Rep. McNamara - Yes
Susan Olson - No
Sen. Tom Saxhaug - Yes

Barry Tilley - Yes
Elizabeth Wilkens - Yes

Motion adopted (8-yes, 2-no).

(01:59:30) Motion by Mr. Hartwell to approve the accomplishment plan amendment to allow the budget shifts as outlined in the staff memo. Motion adopted.

(02:02:02) Proposal and Hearing Selection

Ms. Smith outlined the process for selecting proposals for hearings. Members agreed on presentations being 20 minutes each over two days. Ms. Blackburn requested members submit questions they may have to program managers ahead of the hearings so proposers can address them during their presentations. Members decided not to hear presentations from projects O1, Contract Management 2017, or O2, Restoration Evaluations.

(02:18:25) Trail Policy Language Discussion

Mr. Pavelko reviewed state administrative rules and US Forest Service trail language, as well as separate proposed trail language for discussion, a version provided by staff and a version provided by Mr. Hartwell. Mr. Hartwell suggested trail language should be determined prior to allocation decisions for this year's funding round. Members discussed the issue and agreed to add discussion to a future agenda before allocations.

(02:32:08) Easements

Ms. Blackburn opened a general discussion on easements and the OHF. Members discussed various aspects of using easements to protect wildlife habitat and directed staff to convene a working group made up of council members and stakeholders to examine the issues further.

(02:45:20) Consideration of ML 2016 Accomplishment Plan Approvals

Josh Stevenson, Cass County Administrator and Kirk Titus, Cass County Land Commissioner provided testimony regarding ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(f), Protect Key Forest Lands in Cass County - Phase VII. Members discussed their testimony.

(03:06:20) Motion by Mr. Tilley to approve the accomplishment plan. Motion adopted.

Craig Engwall, Executive Director of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association provided testimony regarding ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(b), Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River Watershed Habitat Acquisition. Members discussed his testimony.

(03:15:14) Motion by Mr. Tilley to approve the accomplishment plan. Motion adopted.

Tim Terrill, Executive Director of the Mississippi Headwaters Board and Bob McGillivray of the Trust for Public Land provided testimony regarding ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(c), Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Partnership - Phase II. Members discussed their testimony. Bill Penning, Easement Section Manager, BWSR, provided testimony to the council regarding BWSR program trail language.


(03:28:10) Motion by Mr. Tilley to approve the accomplishment plan. Motion adopted.

(03:28:50) Opportunity for Public to Address the Council

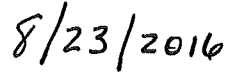
Ray Bohn, representing the All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota, provided public comment to the council regarding the council's discussions of trails and trail policy. Members discussed the issue.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

APPROVED:



Bob Anderson, Chair



Date:



David Hartwell, Secretary



Date:

