

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Meeting
Meeting Summary
April 28, 2017

Members Present

Bob Anderson, Chair	Julie Blackburn	Rep. Dan Fabian
David Hartwell	Denny McNamara	Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen
Jamie Swenson	Ron Schara	Sen. David Tomassoni
Jane Kingston	Rep. Leon Lillie	

Members Absent

Barry Tilley (proxy vote for elections by Sen. David Tomassoni).

Call to Order: Call to order at 8:16 a.m. A quorum was present.

Review and Approve Agenda

Motion by Sen. Ingebrigtsen to approve the agenda for April 28, 2017 as presented. **Motion adopted.**

Review and Approve Minutes – December 14, 2016

Motion by Mr. Hartwell to approve the minutes. **Motion adopted.**

Conflicts of Interest:

No new conflicts were noted.

(00:06:55) Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mark Johnson discussed recent staff changes and noted several recent staff appearances.

Executive Director Mark Johnson provided a legislative update, specifically relating to HF707 and HF04. Discussion followed.

(00:50:50) Update: Outdoor Heritage Funds Outcomes Workgroup

Council member Julie Blackburn provided a description of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Workgroup's mission. Ms. Blackburn explained the goal is to demonstrate in practical terms how money from the Outdoor Heritage Fund has met the constitutional requirements.

The Outdoor Heritage Fund Outcomes Workgroup has met twice and two additional meetings are scheduled. The Workgroup anticipates reporting back to the Council in June.

(00:54:10) Action: Mississippi River Northwoods Update

Executive Director Mark Johnson provided background information regarding the Mississippi River Northwoods. Mr. Johnson introduced Sarah Strommen, DNR Assistant Commissioner, who provided additional background information and explained the DNR's position. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. McNamara to acknowledge receipt of the Crow Wing County (CWC) Board Resolution, dated February 14, 2017, establishing changes to the Mississippi River Northwoods (MRNW) trail designation and recreational uses and approve LSOHC staff to work with CWC and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) on a potential land exchange between LSOHC and CWC specifically relating to approximately 134 acres currently part of the MRNW property along Highway 210 and other adjacent CWC owned lands. Final land

exchange approval will be considered by the full LSOHC council and will follow all LSOHC statutory requirements. **Motion adopted.**

(01:10:15) Action: Conversion for Little Grand Lake AMA

Rick Walsh, MN DNR Fish & Wildlife Acquisition Coordinator, explained the reasoning behind the DNR's request to sell the Little Grand AMA back to St. Louis County. Discussion followed.

Motion by Ms. Kingston to approve the request by DNR to sell a parcel of state-owned land purchased with ML 2009 OHF appropriation, otherwise known as Little Grand AMA, to St. Louis County, the entity from which the parcel was originally purchased. **Motion adopted.**

(01:19:38) Action: Accomplishment Plan Amendment - Capital Equipment approval

Ricky Lien, Wetland Habitat Supervisor MNDNR, and Captain Tom Buker, MNDNR Chief Pilot, provided an explanation for why the DNR is requesting to shift funding from Supplies/Materials to Capital Equipment. Captain Buker explained what the piece of equipment they are hoping to purchase accomplishes. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Hartwell to approve the accomplishment plan amendment as presented. **Motion adopted.**

(01:34:09) 15 Minute Recess

(01:34:14) Action: Elections of Council Officers

As per the Council's operating procedures, the Council held its election for officers which is done every two years.

Gavel was given to Sen. Tomassoni during the election of Council officers.

Nominations for Chair of the Executive Committee were as follows: Bob Anderson, nominated by Denny McNamara, and Jane Kingston, nominated by Julie Blackburn. Members voted using a ballot process and vote were tallied. Bob Anderson was elected Chair of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council with a vote of 8 to 4.

Nominations for Vice Chair of the Council were as follows: Jane Kingston, nominated by Julie Blackburn. Jane Kingston was the only nominee and unanimously elected Vice Chair of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council by voice vote.

Discussion regarding the distribution of appointed officers in accordance with Council operating procedures ensued. Nominations for Secretary of the Council were as follows: Ron Schara, nominated by Jane Kingston. Ron Schara was the only nominee and unanimously elected Secretary of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council by voice vote.

Nominations for Treasurer were as follows: Julie Blackburn, nominated by Jane Kingston. Ms. Blackburn was the only member nominated and was elected as the Treasurer of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council by voice vote.

Senator David Tomassoni was nominated and unanimously elected as the Legislative Member of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council by voice vote.

*Note: Proxy for Barry Tilley provided in advanced by Mr. Tilley designating Senator David Tomassoni to cast the proxy vote.

(01:43:52) Review: LSOHC Completed Program Accomplishment Maps

Assistant Director Joe Palvelko presented updated accomplishment maps. The maps display the type (easement, fee acquisition, restore and/or protect/enhance) of projects the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council has funded based on geographic location.

(01:50:34) Presentation: Legacy Funds Restorations/Enhancements Evaluations Report

Wade Johnson, MN DNR, provided an overview of the Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation program. It is a shared responsibility between the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The MN DNR and BWSR have a shared statutory requirement to seek a panel of experts to review projects in relation to the law, science, and the goals outlined in the plan. The objective is to determine if the projects are meeting their goals, identify issues with implementation, and make recommendations for future projects. The purpose of the evaluation and reporting process is to improve conservation efforts, continue to learn and improve techniques, identify gaps in knowledge, and distribute knowledge.

Mr. Johnson provided a review of the most recent Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation Report, completed in 2015, and highlighted key projects. Discussion followed.

(02:05:35) Action: Review and Approval of 2017 Council Meeting Calendar

Council members reviewed the drafted 2017 meeting calendar. The Council agreed to move the August 3rd meeting to July 31st with an 8am start. Council members discussed doing a tour in June which staff will work on coordinating.

Calendar approved by consent.

(02:17:17) Presentation: DNR – “SLAM” Strategic Land Asset Management

The Strategic Land Asset Management program is an interdisciplinary program working to upgrade the DNR’s land asset portfolio through acquisition, sales, reinvestment and exchange. Trina Ziemann, MN DNR, provided a thorough overview of the SLAM program. Discussion followed.

(02:59:51) Opportunity for Public to Address the Council

Les Bench addressed the Council to encourage the members to uphold their responsibility in following the constitutional amendment (Legacy Amendment).


Lance Ness addressed the Council to express concerns over language included in the House Legacy bill. Mr. Ness noted support in favor of the Outdoor Heritage Fund supporting land acquisition for wildlife, and opposition of using the Outdoor Heritage Fund for payments in-lieu of taxes and no net gain of public lands. Council members discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.


APPROVED:



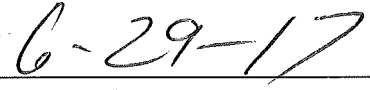
Bob Anderson, Chair



Date:



Ron Schara, Secretary



Date: