

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Meeting
Meeting Summary
November 16, 2017**

Members Present

Bob Anderson, Chair
David Hartwell
Jane Kingston
Jamie Swenson

Julie Blackburn
Denny McNamara
Rep. Leon Lillie
Rep. Dan Fabian

Barry Tilley
Sen. David Tomassoni

Members Absent

Ron Schara, Sen. Andrew Lang

Call to Order: Call to order at 8:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

Review and Approve Agenda

Motion by Mr. Hartwell to approve the agenda for November 16, 2017 as presented. **Motion adopted.**

Review and Approve Minutes – September 28, 2017

Motion by Rep. Lillie to approve the minutes. **Motion adopted.**

Conflicts of Interest:

Mr. Hartwell noted a Conflict of Interest with ML 2018 / FY 2019 PA 10: Protect and Restore MN IBAs within the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands. He will recuse himself from any decision on that individual project.

(00:02:39) Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mark Johnson provided an overview of several recent staff activities. Assistant Director Joe Pavelko and Member Barry Tilley attended the Meger WMA dedication ceremony on October 13, 2017. The event corresponded with the 2017 Governor's Pheasant Opener. On October 17, 2017, staff members attended the Upper Mississippi River & Great Lakes Region Joint Venture management board meeting. On October 25, 2017, Staff attended a Science and Policy Forum hosted by the Environmental Initiative. On October 30, 2017, *Getting to Green: Saving Nature: A Bipartisan Solution* author Fred Rich was in Minneapolis to talk about bipartisan approaches to environmental issues. Staff and Council members David Hartwell and Barry Tilley attended. On October 31, 2017, Executive Director Mark Johnson and members Jane Kingston and Bob Anderson had the opportunity to go to Voyageurs for an OHF site tour of invasive cattail removal. Most recently on November 14, 2017, staff attended the University of Minnesota Terrestrial Invasive Species seminar on Buckthorn.

Mr. Johnson summarized a request received from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) concerning a minor conveyance of a minimum maintenance township road right-of-way located in Swift County. The land was purchased by TNC using Outdoor Heritage Funds (ML 2011, First Special Sessions, Ch. 6, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(e)). No objections were noted, and thus the minor conveyance is approved.

(00:13:19) Action: Review and Approval of 2018 Council Meeting Calendar

Executive Director Mark Johnson presented the draft 2018 calendar. Council members requested to move the tentative February 15, 2018 meeting to February 8, 2018.

Motion by Mr. Tilley to approve the 2018 Council Meeting Calendar with the change to the tentative meeting date in February. **Motion adopted.**

(00:15:31) Information: OHF Fee Title Acquisition & Local Government Notification/Approval

Executive Director Mark Johnson provided a brief introduction and welcomed Greg Knopff, Lead Analyst. Mr. Knopff provided the Council with historical context for providing local government notification and approval.

Assistant Director Joe Pavelko reviewed the requirements for notifying and/or obtaining local government approval prior to a fee title acquisition for a number of different entities. Mr. Pavelko compared the requirements of the following organizations: Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), Legislative – Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Executive Director Mark Johnson welcomed Jennifer Berquam, Environment & Natural Resources Policy Analyst, Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), and Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner for Policy & Government Relations Director, MN DNR. Ms. Berquam provided an overview of AMC's legislative policy position referring to public land acquisition/ownership. Mr. Meier presented the DNR's position on public land acquisition/ownership. Council members discussed at length.

Ms. Blackburn noted that the conversation was missing the input from two perspectives: nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and private landowners. Acknowledging Ms. Blackburn's concern, Chair Anderson invited NGOs present to testify regarding their requirements for notifying and/or obtaining local government approval prior to a fee title acquisition. Neal Feeken, The Nature Conservancy, provided a sample letter that is sent to the local government prior to a fee title acquisition and spoke to TNC's standard of practice.

Motion by Rep. Fabian to have staff put together an outline of what NGOs are doing with respect to county board notification. Amendment by Ms. Swenson to have staff get a legal opinion on private landowner rights. **Motion adopted.**

(01:42:53) 15 Minute Recess

(01:43:15) Action: Approval to Purchase – Purchase of “previously protected” land – ML 2015, First Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Subd. 3(b) Southeast MN Protection and Restoration – Phase 3

Rich Biske, Freshwater Conservation Program Director, The Nature Conservancy, provided an overview of the request before the Council. Mr. Biske explained that the land the TNC is attempting to purchase includes an existing trout stream easement held by the State of Minnesota.

Motion by Mr. McNamara to approve the fee title acquisition. **Motion adopted.**

(01:47:24) Action: Review and Progress Draft Accomplishment Plans for ML 2018

Executive Director Mark Johnson provided a brief introduction and walked Council members through project specific questions staff had. Council members discussed the ML 2018 Draft Accomplishment Plans and directed questions to program managers.

Motion by Rep. Lillie to progress the ML 2018 Draft Accomplishment Plans and allow staff to proceed with drafting the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) bill based on the draft accomplishment plans as discussed and directed. **Motion adopted.**

(02:50:33) Opportunity for Public to Address the Council

No public testimony was heard.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

APPROVED:



Bob Anderson, Chair

12/12/17

Date:



Ron Schara, Secretary

Dec 10 '17

Date:

