

MINUTES
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)
January 27, 2023
Hybrid Meeting – State Capitol 120/ Zoom, pursuant to MS 13D

Call to Order: Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 8:35am.

Members Present

David Hartwell (Chair)
Ron Schara (Vice Chair)
Dudley Edmondson
Kristin Eggerling
Mark Holsten
Sen. Andrew Lang
Ashley Peters
Tom Saxhaug
Jamie Swenson

Members Absent

Rep. John Burkel
Sen. D. Scott Dibble

A quorum was present.

- 1. Review and Approve Agenda:** Councilmember Tom Saxhaug made a motion to amend the agenda to remove item number six – election of officers, as the Council had not yet received all 2023 position appointments, and approve the agenda as amended – **Motion Prevailed**

- 2. Review and Approve Minutes:** Councilmember Mark Holsten made a motion to approve the minutes from December 12, 2022 – **Motion Prevailed**

- 3. Conflicts of Interest Reported:** No new conflicts of interest were reported by Councilmembers. Previous reports of conflicts still stand.

- 4. Chair’s Comments:** Chair Hartwell drew members’ attention to several requests for extension of appropriation availability on the day’s agenda and noted that he and Vice Chair Ron Schara wished to have a more extensive conversation regarding requests for extension at a future Council meeting, with the intent of creating guidelines for the Council when making decisions about granting extensions.

- 5. Executive Director’s Report:** Executive Director Mark Johnson reported to the Council that he and Assistant Director Joe Pavelko had given a presentation on the Outdoor Heritage Fund to the House Legacy committee and had also attended the DNR round table on January 20, 2023. Mr. Johnson also noted that he and Councilmember Saxhaug had recently attended an informational meeting in Duluth with MN Association of County Land Commissioners.

- 6. Requests for Extension of Appropriation Availability:** Executive Director Johnson introduced two requests for extension of appropriation availability. Council discussion followed.

Karen Galles, Natural Water Resources Manager with Hennepin County, Kristine Mauer, Senior Natural Resources Ecologist with Hennepin County, and Wayne Ostlie, Director of Land Protection with

Minnesota Land Trust presented a request for extension of appropriation availability for ML 2020 Subd. 5(h) Hennepin County Habitat Protection Program Phase 2. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to grant a one-year extension to the ML 2020 Subd. 5(h) Hennepin County Habitat Protection Program Phase 2 program, with an understanding that all acquisition commitments must be in place by the end of FY 2024, with an additional year to close on those commitments until the end of FY 2025.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell
Schara
Edmondson
Eggerling
Holsten
Sen. Lang
Peters
Saxhaug
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Rep. Burkel
Sen. Dibble

9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

Wanye Ostlie, Director of Land Protection with Minnesota Land Trust presented a request for extension of appropriation availability for ML 2020 Subd. 5(a) Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota’s North Shore. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Jamie Swenson made a motion to grant a one-year extension to the ML 2020 Subd. 5(a) Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota’s North Shore program, with an understanding that all acquisition commitments must be in place by the end of FY 2024, with an additional year to close on those commitments until the end of FY 2025.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell
Schara
Edmondson
Eggerling
Holsten
Sen. Lang
Peters
Saxhaug
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Rep. Burkel
Sen. Dibble

9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

7. Request to Amend Accomplishment Plan: Executive Director Johnson and Assistant Director Pavelko gave the Council an overview of the Accomplishment Plan Amendment requests before the Council.

Sabin Adams, MN Programs Manager with Pheasants Forever, Steve Zeece with Sauk River Watershed District, and Ben Anderson with Stearns County presented an Accomplishment Plan Amendment request for ML 2020 Subd. 5(p) Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase II and ML 2021 Subd. 5(o) Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase III. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Swenson made a motion to approve the Accomplishment Plan Amendments to ML 2020 Subd. 5(p) Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase II and ML 2021 Subd. 5(o) Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase III, subject to receipt of a \$500,000 donation to be used specifically for park development.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell

Schara

Edmondson

Eggerling

Holsten

Sen. Lang

Peters

Saxhaug

Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Rep. Burkel

Sen. Dibble

9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

8. Acquisition of Parcel with Existing Protection: Wayne Ostlie, Director of Land Protection with Minnesota Land Trust presented an acquisition of parcel with existing protection request to the Council regarding ML 2021 Subd. 5(b) Metro Big Rivers, Phase 11. Item was tabled due to lack of nine voting members present.

9. Hearing Criteria Subcommittee report/recommendations: Executive Director Johnson gave the Council a report on recent Proposal Criteria / Scoring Subcommittee meetings and presented the recommendations that the subcommittee was making to the larger Council. Chair Hartwell gave additional information. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Ashley Peters made a motion to approve the new proposal format and hearing criteria as recommended by the subcommittee.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell
Edmondson
Eggerling
Holsten
Peters
Saxhaug
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Schara
Rep. Burkel
Sen. Dibble
Sen. Lang

7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 4 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

10. Review and Approve ML2024 / FY2025 Request for Proposals: Assistant Director Pavelko drew the Council’s attention to the ML 24/FY 25 draft Call for Funding Request currently before the Council and noted that the newly approved hearing criteria would be inserted by staff. Mr. Pavelko also noted that currently, some acquisitions are allowed three years to secure agreements and one additional year to close on those agreements. Mr. Pavelko stated that the current Call for Funding removes the additional year for closing and simply allows four years total to make acquisitions, resulting in the three year/one year additional system being slowly phased out. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the Call for Funding Request as presented, with the addition of the new hearing criteria, the revision of the acquisition timeline to four years total, the revision of the total dollars estimated available to be more reflective of actual monies available over the last few years, and the allowance of staff edits as necessary.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell
Edmondson
Eggerling
Holsten
Peters
Saxhaug
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Schara
Rep. Burkel
Sen. Dibble
Sen. Lang

7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 4 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

11. Public Comments: Chair Hartwell noted that no public comments had been submitted to the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08am.

APPROVED:

David Hartwell, Chair

Date

Kristin Eggerling, Secretary

Date