

MINUTES
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)
June 21, 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)
Ashley Peters (Vice Chair)
Rep. John Burkel
Dudley Edmondson
Kristin Eggerling
Sen. Foug Hawj
Mark Holsten
Sen. Andrew Lang
Rep. Leon Lillie
Tom Saxhaug
Ron Schara
Jamie Swenson

Members Absent

NONE

A quorum was present.

- 1. Review and Approve Agenda:** Councilmember Tom Saxhaug made a motion to strike item number eight from the agenda due to a presenter conflict and approve the agenda as amended – **Motion Prevailed**
- 2. Review and Approve Minutes:** Councilmember Mark Holsten made a motion to approve the minutes from May 24, 2023 – **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 thanked the members who attended the Council site tour on 6/20/2023 and announced that there would likely be another site tour opportunity later in the summer with details forthcoming.
- 5. Executive Director’s Report:** Executive Director Mark Johnson gave the Council an overview of several events that he and/or Assistant Director Joe Pavelko had recently attended including the ground breaking for the OHF funded Lake Peppin Restoration and the Northcentral Conservation Roundtable. Mr. Johnson also thanked all the project managers, agencies, NGO’S, community members, and Councilmembers who help put on/attended the previous day’s Council field tour on 6/20/2023.
- 6. Roseau Lake WMA Parcel Exchange – ML 2016, Ch.72, Art.1, Sec.2, Subd. 5(j):** Chair Hartwell noted that members had received information about the proposed land exchange in the past and had received additional information as a part of their meeting packets.

Action: Vice Chair Ashley Peters made a motion to approve the land exchange project related to the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation project in accordance with M.S. 97A.056, subd. 15.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:	NAY:	ABSENT:
Hartwell		Sen. Lang
Peters		
Rep. Burkel		
Edmondson		
Eggerling		
Sen. Hawj		
Holsten		
Rep. Lillie		
Saxhaug		
Schara		
Swenson		

11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

7. Accomplishment Plan Amendments (Personnel/DSS Increase): Assistant Director Pavelko gave the Council an overview of the Accomplishment Plan Amendment requests before the Council.

Wayne Ostlie, Director of Land Protection with the MN Land Trust, Karen Galles with Hennepin County, and Kristina Geiger, Associate Director of Land Protection with MN Land Trust presented an Accomplishment Plan Amendment request for ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 5(h), Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program - Phase 2. Council discussion followed.

Action: Vice Chair Peters made a motion to approve the ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 5(h), Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program - Phase 2 Accomplishment Plan Amendment as requested.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:	NAY:	ABSENT:
Hartwell		Sen. Lang
Peters		
Rep. Burkel		
Edmondson		
Eggerling		
Sen. Hawj		
Holsten		
Rep. Lillie		
Saxhaug		
Schara		
Swenson		

11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

Wayne Ostlie, Director of Land Protection with the MN Land Trust and Pat Collins, Conservation Program Manager with MN Land Trust presented an accomplishment plan amendment request for ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sect. 2, subd 5(a), Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota’s North Shore.

Action: Councilmember Holsten made a motion to approve the ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sect. 2, subd 5(a), Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota’s North Shore Accomplishment Plan Amendment as requested.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:	NAY:	ABSENT:
Hartwell		Sen. Lang
Peters		
Schara		
Rep. Burkel		
Edmondson		
Eggerling		
Sen. Hawj		
Holsten		
Rep. Lillie		
Saxhaug		
Schara		
Swenson		

11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

8. Conservation Considerations from BWSR: John Jaschke, Executive Director with MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) gave the Council an overview of BWSR’s current conservation considerations, and how Outdoor Heritage Funds are currently being use/could be used in the future to supplement the work that BWSR is doing around these considerations. Council discussion followed.

9. Panel presentation of Conservation Easement Types: Assistant Director Pavelko gave the Council an overview of how the planed panel presentation would work.

Tom Kerr, Area Manager with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wayne Ostlie, Director of Land Protection with the MN Land Trust, Sharon Doucette, Easement Section Manager with BWSR, Judy Schulte, Scientific and Natural Area Unit Supervisor with MN DNR, Rick Walsh, Land Acquisition Coordinator with MN DNR, and Christine Ostern, Forest Legacy Program Coordinator with MN DNR participated in an informational panel discussion focused on giving Councilmembers a stronger understanding the processes surrounding conservation easements. Council discussion followed.

10. Fisheries Connectivity; Concepts and Examples – Overview of OHF & other Connectivity and Fish Passage work in the Red River Valley (NW MN): Nicholas Kludt, Red River Fisheries Specialist with MN DNR provided information for the Council on the success of fish passage work the MN DNR has been/is continuing to do in the Red River Valley in northwest MN. Council discussion followed.

11. Review and Approve ML2023 Accomplishment Plans : Executive Director Johnson noted that the Accomplishment Plans currently before the Council are final drafts that are reflective of the allocation amounts made by the ML 2023 legislature. Mr. Johnson also drew the Council’s attention to certain budget adjustments, including personnel and DSS increases/acreage decreases made by project managers and the reasoning given by project managers for those differences. Council discussion followed.

Action: Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the Accomplishment Plans currently before the Council as final Accomplishment Plans for the ML 2023/FY 2024 appropriations, with the exception of DNR Forest Habitat Enhancement, Phase III, which was directed to revise their current Accomplishment Plan in accordance with Council comments and present the revisions to the Council at the July meeting for possible approval.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell
Peters
Rep. Burkel
Edmondson
Eggerling
Sen. Hawj
Holsten
Rep. Lillie
Saxhaug
Schara
Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Sen. Lang

11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

12. ML2024 / FY2025 Project Proposals Process Overview – Scoring, Hearings, Discussions, Etc.:

Executive Director Johnson gave Councilmembers a brief overview of the of the upcoming ML 24/FY 25 proposal review and hearing processes. Council discussion followed.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm.

APPROVED:

David Hartwell, Chair

Date

Kristin Eggerling, Secretary

Date