

**MINUTES**  
**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)**  
**July 25, 2023**  
**Hybrid Meeting – MN Senate Building 1100/ Zoom, pursuant to MS 13D**

**Call to Order:** Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 8:33am.

**Members Present**

David Hartwell (Chair)  
Ashley Peters (Vice Chair)  
Rep. John Burkel  
Dudley Edmondson  
Kristin Eggerling  
Sen. FOUNG 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 approve the agenda – **Motion Prevailed**

**2. Review and Approve Minutes:** Vice Chair Ashley Peters made a motion to approve the minutes from June 21, 2023 – **Motion Prevailed**

**3. Conflicts of Interest Reported:** Vice Chair Peters declared a perceived conflict of interest with the Ruffed Grouse Society. Chair Hartwell declared an actual conflict of interest with the ML 2024/FY 2023 American Bird Conservancy proposal and stated that he would not be participating in the evaluation of that proposal.

**4. Chair's Comments:** Chair Hartwell informed Councilmembers that details would be coming soon regarding an upcoming Northwest Minnesota tour opportunity. Chair Hartwell also noted that at the upcoming October 5, 2023 meeting, voting on allocations – which usually takes place during the later part of the meeting – would be taking place earlier in the meeting to accommodate a Councilmember conflict.

**5. Executive Director's Report:** Assistant Director Joe Pavelko provided info for the Council on several items:

- Mr. Pavelko reminded Councilmembers of two recent invitations extended to them – one from the Clean Water Council and one from MN Ducks Unlimited – and noted that if Members would like to participate in either of those opportunities, it is requested that they inform staff to assure Open Meeting Law compliance.

- Mr. Pavelko drew Members’ attention to a summary/flow chart of the annual Council meeting schedule that was provided with the Council’s meeting materials at Vice Chair Peter’s request.
- Mr. Pavelko also noted that the Northwest Minnesota Council tour was officially scheduled for September 6, 2023.
- Information was also provided by Mr. Pavelko regarding the new MN DNR Nongovernment Land Acquisition Continuous Improvement Project and noted that he would be participating in the project as a representative for LSOHC.

**6. LSOHC Public Member Per Diem Increase:** Chair Hartwell noted that the legislature recently approved an increase in the allowable per diem for public members of certain councils/commissions – including the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and noted that it was recommended that the Council take formal action if should they like to accept the increase. Assistant Director Pavelko noted that if the Council accepted the increase, the new per diem amount for public members would be \$125 and acceptance could be made retroactive to July 1, 2023. Mr. Pavelko also clarified that the increase only applies to public members and does not affect the per diems of legislative members.

**Action:** Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to accept the public member per diem increase as established by the legislature, retroactive to July 1, 2023.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

12 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**7. Review and Approve ML2023 Accomplishment Plan - ML 2023, Chap. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(d) - DNR Forest Enhancement, Ph. 3:** Ted Dick, Forest Habitat Supervisor with MN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife and Heather Baird Fisheries and Forest Habitat Consultant with MN DNR presented an amended Accomplishment Plan for the ML 2023, Chap. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(d) - DNR Forest Enhancement, Ph. 3 appropriation. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the ML 2023, Chap. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(d) - DNR Forest Enhancement, Ph. 3 Accomplishment Plan as amended.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

NAY:

ABSENT:

10 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**8. Open Meeting Law Review:** Chelsea Griffin, Legislative Analyst with the MN House of Representatives Research Department gave the Council an overview of the MN Open Meeting Law requirements as they pertain to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Council discussion followed.

**9. Retroactive Accomplishment Plan Amendment - ML 2021, First Special Session, Ch.1, Art.1, Sec.2, Subd. 5(o) – Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase 3:** Assistant Director Pavelko and Project Analyst Manager Sandy Smith gave the Council an overview of the retroactive amendment before the Council. Steve Zeece III, Water Resource Manager with Sauk River Watershed District, Jon Roeschlein Administrator with Sauk River Watershed District, and Shawn Papon with US Fish and Wildlife Service provided additional information regarding the amendment. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Vice Chair Peters made a motion to approve the retroactive Accomplishment Plan Amendment to ML 2021, First Special Session, Ch.1, Art.1, Sec.2, Subd. 5(o) – Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase 3 as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

NAY:

ABSENT:

12 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**10. Accomplishment Plan Amendment - Pheasants Forever Habitat Management Areas (HMAs)  
- ML 2023, Ch. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 2(f) Accelerating the Wildlife Management**

**Area Program - Phase XV:** Assistant Director Pavelko gave the Council an overview of the amendment before the Council. Sabin Adams, MN Public Lands Manager with Pheasants Forever provided additional information regarding the amendment.

**Action:** Councilmember Mark Holsten made a motion to approve the Accomplishment Plan amendment to ML 2023, Ch. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 2(f) Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program - Phase XV as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell

Peters

Rep. Burkel

Edmondson

Eggerling

Sen. Hawj

Holsten

Sen.Lang

Rep. Lillie

Saxhaug

Swenson

NAY:

ABSENT:

Schara

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

**11. Conservation Partner Legacy Grant Program – Overview:** David Stein, CPL Coordinator with MN DNR provided a detailed overview for the Council of the Conservation Partner Legacy Grant Program. Council discussion followed.

**12. ML2024 / FY2025 OHF Proposal Review:** Assistant Director Pavelko gave Councilmembers a brief overview of the of the upcoming ML 24/FY 25 hearing process and noted that the Council must select which proposals they wish to call in for hearings and the specific format/schedule for the hearings. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Councilmember Jamie Swenson made a motion that the Council hear all 53 proposals submitted for ML24/FY22 and use the 15 min presentation/two-day hearing schedule as recommended by staff – with the understanding that MN DNR would provide an opinion on the feasibility/legality of funding project HA06, LSOHC staff would provide a personnel cost report, and proposal managers would provide up to date information on spending of prior appropriations prior to or at the hearings.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

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

NAY:

ABSENT:

12 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43am.

APPROVED:

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David Hartwell, Chair

Date

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Kristin Eggerling, Secretary

Date