

MINUTES
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)
August 29, 2023
Hybrid Meeting – MN State Capitol 120/ Zoom, pursuant to MS 13D

Call to Order: Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 8:34am.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Rep. John Burkel

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 July 25, 2023 – **Motion Prevailed**
- 3. Conflicts of Interest Reported:** Chair Hartwell declared a conflict of interest with the ML 2024/FY 2023 American Bird Conservancy proposal and stated that he would not be participating in the evaluations of that proposal.
- 4. Chair’s Comments:** Chair Hartwell encouraged Councilmembers to ask questions throughout the proposal presentation process and noted that the time needed to answer those questions would be prioritized.
- 5. Executive Director’s Report:** Executive Director Mark Johnson informed the Council of a Minnesota Department of Transportation condemnation proceeding on a portion of an OHF funded MN BWSR easement bordering part of State Highway 93. Mr. Johnson noted that the condemned portion of the easement was needed to do flood mitigation work on that road. Mr. Johnson also reported on three non-controversial conversation/conveyance requests that had been submitted to the Council. Commission Assistant Amanda Schnabel gave the Council a brief overview of the handouts related to the project hearings in their packets.

6. Hearings for Funding Requests: Members heard the following proposals:

PA01 – Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Phase XIV: \$8,651,000

Chris McGrath, The Nature Conservancy

Rich Biske, The Nature Conservancy

Mike Budd, US Fish and Wildlife Service

PA02 – Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program - Phase XVI: \$10,116,100

Sabin Adams, Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Tanner Bruse, Pheasants Forever, Inc.

PA03 – Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley - Phase X: \$9,336,400

Sabin Adams, Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Dr. Bill Faber, MN Prairie Chicken Society

PA04 – Martin County WMA Acquisition Phase 8: \$11,466,900

Emilee Nelson, The Conservation Fund

Jake Chronister, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Josh Eisenmenger, Fox Lake Conservation League

PRE01 – DNR Grassland Enhancement - Phase 16: \$6,828,600

Greg Hoch, MN DNR

PRE02 – Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands - Phase VII: \$2,286,800

Jake Granfors, Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Scott Glup, US Fish and Wildlife Service

WA01 – Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Phase IX: \$3,000,000

Bill Penning, MN BWSR

WA02 – Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program - Phase XIII: \$12,500,000

Jon Schneider, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

John Lindstrom, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Scott Glup, US Fish and Wildlife Service

WA03 – RIM Wetlands - Restoring the most productive habitat in Minnesota: \$5,000,000

John Voz, MN BWSR

Sharon Doucette, MN BWSR

WA04 – Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program - Phase XVI: \$15,471,100

Sabin Adams, Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Scott Glup, US Fish and Wildlife Service

WRE01 – DNR Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements – Phase: 16 \$12,713,000

Ricky Lien, MN DNR

John Maile, MN DNR

WRE02 – Nelson Slough - East Park WMA: \$6,302,500
Morteza Maher, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
Tony Norby, Houston Engineering
Jason Wollin, MN DNR

WRE03 – Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 9: \$3,180,000
Emilia Kenow, MN Land Trust
Kathy Varble, MN Land Trust
John Reins, US Fish and Wildlife Service

WRE04 – Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement & Restoration Initiative - Phase X:
\$14,900,000
John Lindstrom, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Jon Schneider, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Scott Glup, US Fish and Wildlife Service

WRE05 - Lake Alice - Fergus Falls: \$686,000
Klara Beck, City of Fergus Falls
Matt Harrington, City of Fergus Falls
Brian Yavarow, City of Fergus Falls
Joel Carlson, Legal Research

FA01 – Minnesota Heritage Forest - Transition to Public Ownership Program: \$22,647,000
Christine Ostern, MN DNR
Aaron Hebeisen, Back Country Hunters and Anglers
Adam Munstenteir, MN DNR
Mike Lichter, MN DNR
Bob Karls, Northern Waters Land Trust
Jason Meyer, St. Louis County
Kathy DonCarlos, Northern Waters Land Trust
Dennis Thompson, Aitkin County
Mark Gossman, Cass County
Cory Kimball, Hubbard County
Deana Malone, Wadena County
Murlyn Kreklau, Wadena County

FA02 – Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape ACUB Protection Program - Phase 12: \$4,500,000
Shannon Wettstein, Morrison SWCD
Todd Holman, The Nature Conservancy
Bill Penning, MN BWSR
John Pennington, Camp Ripley
Col. Troy Fink, Camp Ripley

FA03 – Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds: \$3,033,800
Paul Swanson, Pine County SWCD
Bill Penning, MN BWSR

FRE01 – DNR Forest Enhancement and Restoration - Phase 4: \$6,482,600
Ted Dick, MN DNR
Heather Baird, MN DNR

FRE02 – Young Forest Conservation Phase IV: \$3,110,000
Peter Dieser, American Bird Conservancy
Shawn Graff, American Bird Conservancy
Mark Westphal, Carlton County

FRE03 – Floodplain and Upland Forest Enhancement - Mississippi River, Phase 5: \$4,211,000
Dale Gentry, Audubon Minnesota

O1 – Contract Management: \$350,000
Katherine Sherman-Hoehn, MN DNR

O2 – Restoration Evaluations - ML 2024: \$200,000
Wade Johnson, MN DNR
Jason Moeckel, MN DNR

O3 – DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions: \$815,400
Jennifer Olson, MN DNR
Rick Walsh, MN DNR
Joe Stangel, MN DNR

CPL – Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Ph. 16 Statewide and Metro Habitat: \$11,575,400
David Stein, MN DNR

HA03 – Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance - Phase 3: \$7,798,000
Pat Collins, Minnesota Land Trust
Annie Knight, Northern Waters Land Trust
Kathy DonCarlos, Northern Waters Land Trust

HA08 – Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - Phase X: \$7,798,000
Annie Knight, Northern Waters Land Trust
Ruurd Schoolderman, MN Land Trust
Terry Tripp, Northern Waters Land Trust
Kathy DonCarlos, Northern Waters Land Trust

7. Council Discussion: Chair Hartwell lead the Council in continued discussion of the proposals heard throughout the day. An informal decision was made to allow WRE05 - Lake Alice - Fergus Falls to repeat their presentation the following day (8/30/2023) due to the technical issues they experienced during their original presentation.

8. Public Comments: Chair Hartwell announced that no public comments had been submitted to the Council for either today or tomorrow's meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52pm.

APPROVED:

David Hartwell, Chair

Date

Kristin Eggerling, Secretary

Date