



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Wetland Management District
49663 County Road 17
Windom, MN 56101
PH: 1-507-831-2220

August 24, 2022

David Hartwell
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, Chairman
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Hartwell

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service), Windom Wetland Management District Office is pleased to write this letter in support of the Shell Rock River Watershed Districts proposal, Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program – Phase 12, to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

With this proposal, the Shell Rock River Watershed District is proposing several projects that align with our agency goals. These include restoring wetlands and prairie in an agricultural landscape. This will result in habitat for wildlife, erosion control, improved water quality, slow runoff and reduce flooding, carbon sequestration as well as provide hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities for the public.

The Windom WMD Office has partnered with the watershed district on several past projects including acquisition and restoration of the Pierce Lake WPA and extension to the ICE WPA. Each of these projects were well managed and restoration completed within Service guidelines using sound science and appropriate techniques. This proposal includes a project associated with our Goose Lake WPA. If selected, the Service would work with the Shell Rock River Watershed District to evaluate priorities for the site.

The Windom Wetland Management District Office would appreciate the Council's support for continued habitat restoration projects within the Shell Rock River Watershed.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Beyer
Wetland District Manager
USFWS - Windom Wetland Management District



September 1, 2022

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Mn 55155

Dear Chair Hartwell,

The Albert Lea Lakes Foundation is writing in support of Phase 12 of the Shell Rock River Watershed District's proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

The Shell Rock River Watershed District has a strong history of success and cooperation with many partners, including the Foundation in enhancing, restoring, and protecting essential lake, wetland, and streambank habitat.

We appreciate the efforts the Shell Rock River Watershed has put into developing and implementing projects to transform our lakes and wildlife habitat. This proposal includes projects for wetland restorations, habitat improvements, enhancements to upland game and waterfowl nesting, land acquisitions for habitat protection, and streambank restorations. Projects in this phase will build upon previous work completed, and will increase wildlife areas, reduce invasive species, and protect fish and wildlife within the Shell Rock River Watershed.

The Albert Lea Lakes Foundation wishes the District continued success in conservation efforts and this proposal.

Sincerely,

Laura Cunningham

Laura Cunningham
President, Albert Lea Lakes Foundation