

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

**MEMO:**           **Agenda Item #8**  
**DATE:**           November 19, 2024  
**SUBJECT:**       Legislative Extensions of Time

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### **Suggested Motion:**

Motion by Member XX to approve / deny the legislative extension requests (separate motion for each request) for inclusion in the ML 2025 recommendations bill.

- 1) ML 2020, 5(k) St. Louis River Restoration Initiative – DNR - **Melissa Sjolund**
- 2) ML 2020, 5(o) Roseau River Habitat Restoration – RRWD - **Tracy Halstengard**
- 3) ML 2021, 5(c) Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration - Buffalo-Red River Watershed District - **Kristine Goeden and Bennett Uhler**
- 4) ML 2020, 5(b) - MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust - Metro Big Rivers - **Deb Loon**

### **Considerations:**

At the Council's May 24, 2023 meeting, a motion was adopted placing restrictions on requests for extensions to OHF appropriations. The restrictions are outlined in the following points:

- Appropriation extension requests will only be considered with delineated extraordinary circumstances related to weather or unforeseen last-minute circumstances.
- Appropriation extension requests must be submitted for Council review no later than the Council's November meeting to provide necessary time for Council consideration and potential bill language inclusion
- Extension requests must be accompanied by a well-defined plan toward project completion that provides the Council with confidence in project success.
- Appropriation extension amendments should not include an increase in personnel or DSS.

### **Attachments:**

- Staff comments and spending to date
- Memo from DNR
- Memo from Roseau River Watershed District
- Memo from Buffalo-Red River Watershed
- Memo from MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust

**ML 2020, 5(k) St. Louis River Restoration Initiative – DNR – Melissa Sjolund**

**LSOHC Staff Notes:**

- This program has closed phases 1-5 and spent 99.9% of the OHF dollars received. The first phases have leverage over \$21 million to the \$14 million in OHF dollars awarded.
- DNR is requesting a 1-year extension on restoration in the ML 20 appropriation until June 30, 2026.
- This program did NOT request funding in the current ML 2025 cycle.
- This program has NOT received a previous extension of time and no pandemic extension.
- The status of the open appropriations in the most recent update are below.

ML Year	Subd	Phase #	Appropriation Amount	Dollars Spent in Last Status Update	Balance of Unspent Open Funds	% Spent	Availability Until
2019	5(h)	Phase 6	\$3,777,000	\$2,598,100	\$1,178,900	69%	June 2024
2020	5(k)	Phase 7	\$2,280,000	\$236,900	\$2,043,100	10%	June 2025
2021	5(l)	Phase 8	\$2,024,000	\$377,500	\$1,646,500	19%	June 2026
2022	5(q)	Phase 9	\$4,916,000	\$178,400	\$4,737,600	4%	June 2027
2023	5(t)	Phase 10	\$2,596,000	\$0	\$2,596,000	0%	June 2028
2024	5(t)	Phase 11	\$2,163,000	\$0	\$2,163,000	0%	June 2029

**ML 2020, 5(o) Roseau River Habitat Restoration – Roseau River Watershed District – Tracy Halstensgard**

**LSOHC Staff Notes:**

- RRWD is requesting a 2-year extension on the ML 2020 restoration until June 2027.
- The status of the open appropriations as reported in the most recent update are below.
- This program did not request dollars in ML 2025.
- The ML 2016 appropriation to the DNR in collaboration with RRWD received 3 separate extension totaling an additional 3 years.

ML Year	Subd	Program Title	Appropriation Amount	Dollars Spent in Last Status Update	Balance of Unspent Open Funds	% Spent
2020	5(o)	Roseau River Habitat Restoration	\$3,036,000	\$769,200	\$2,266,800	25%
2024	5(u)	Roseau Lake Rehabilitation: Phase II	\$3,054,000	\$0	\$3,054,000	0%

**ML 2021, 5(c) Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration - Buffalo-Red River Watershed District - Kristine Goeden and Bennett Uhler**

**LSOHC Staff Notes:**

- ML 2017 Wolverton Creek Habitat Restoration was completed on time and leveraged nearly double the OHF appropriation amount.
- ML 2018 Stream Habitat program received a 2-year extension in the laws of ML 2023 until June 2025. See previous [Council Memo](#) from December 2021.
- BRRWD is requesting a 2-year extension on easement acquisition until June 2027.
- The status of the open appropriations as reported in the most recent update are below.

ML Year	Subd	Program Title	Appropriation Amount	Dollars Spent in Last Status Update	Balance of Unspent Open Funds	% Spent
2018	5(n)	BRRWD Stream Habitat Phase 1	\$1,195,000	\$1,089,100	\$105,900	91%
2021	5(c)	Lower Otter Tail River Restoration - Phase 1	\$2,335,000	\$285,300	\$2,049,700	12%
2022	5(p)	BRRWD Stream Habitat Phase 2	\$2,407,000	\$228,400	\$2,178,600	9%
2023	5(d)	BRRWD Stream Habitat – Phase 3	\$3,748,000	\$0	\$3,748,000	0%

**ML 2020, 5(b) - Metro Big Rivers - MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust - Deb Loon**

- MBR is requesting a 1-year extension on restoration and enhancement until June 2026.
- The Council approved a substantial change in this program in [May 2023](#) to shift acquisition dollars into restoration/enhancement, and Ikes Creek was added to the parcel list. At that time, it was stated that all work would be completed within the appropriation availability.
- The ML 2016 this appropriation received an extension, in addition they received two pandemic extensions for their ML 15 and ML 18 appropriations.
- The status of the programs open appropriations in the most recent update are below.

ML Year	Subd	Program Title	Appropriation Amount	Dollars Spent in Last Status Update	Balance of Unspent Open Funds	% Spent
2019	5(b)	Metro Big Rivers Phase 9	\$4,163,000	\$3,639,200	\$523,800	87%
2020	5(b)	Metro Big Rivers Phase 10	\$6,473,000	\$5,619,600	\$853,400	87%
2021	5(b)	Metro Big Rivers Phase 11	\$4,229,000	\$2,477,000	\$1,752,000	59%
2022	5(j)	Metro Big Rivers Phase 12	\$8,200,000	\$4,332,900	\$3,867,100	53%
2023	5(j)	Metro Big Rivers Phase 13	\$15,339,000	\$10,765,700	\$4,573,300	70%
2024	5(o)	Metro Big Rivers Phase 14	\$8,123,000	\$0	\$8,123,000	0%