

MINUTES

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)

December 10, 2024

Hybrid Meeting – MN State Capitol 120 & Zoom, pursuant to MS 13D

Call to Order: Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 08:30 a.m. [\(00:00:07\)](#)

Members Present	Members Absent
David Hartwell (Chair)	Ron Schara (Vice Chair)
Suzanne Baird	Rep. Leon Lillie
Rep. John Burkel	
Dudley Edmondson	
Kristin Eggerling	
Sen. Foung Hawj	
Mark Holsten	
Sen. Andrew Lang	
Tom Saxhaug	
Jamie Swenson	

A quorum was present.

1. Review and Approve Agenda: [\(00:01:05\)](#)

Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of an agenda item after the Executive Director's Report for discussion on the Roseau River Habitat Restoration Extension Request. – **Motion Prevailed**

2. Review and Approve Minutes: [\(00:01:52\)](#)

Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the minutes from November 19th, 2024 – **Motion Prevailed**

3. Conflicts of Interest Reported: [\(00:02:12\)](#) No conflicts of interest were reported.

4. Chair's Comments: [\(00:02:18\)](#)

Chair Hartwell briefed the Council on the upcoming presentation regarding the Office of Management and Budget's November Forecast. Chair Hartwell noted that while sales tax receipts are projected to have decreased, investment income and the carryforward amount is projected to have increased. Chair Hartwell reminded members that today's agenda includes approval of Council funding recommendations for insertion into the OHF bill, which requires nine aye votes for approval. Additionally, Chair Hartwell disclosed an informational meeting set to take place later today with a few members of the Clean Water Council.

5. Executive Director's Report: [\(00:03:32\)](#)

Executive Director Mark Johnson did not have comments for the Council at this meeting.

6. Discussion: ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 5(o), Roseau River Habitat Restoration Extension Request [\(00:03:41\)](#)

Council members discussed the extension request which had not been approved at the November 19, 2024 Council meeting. Executive Director Mark Johnson summarized comments provided by the Roseau River Watershed District, which stated that having been delayed by permitting, it is unlikely that they would be able to complete the full scale of the original project by the current end date of their appropriation. Chair Hartwell commented that he would support providing a one-year extension to allow that work to be completed. Councilmember Holsten proposed revisiting this issue at the January meeting after a meeting between Representative Burkel and community stakeholders. Tracy Halstensgard, Administrator, Roseau River Watershed District, provided comments to the Council that the Watershed District had been working towards engaging the community on this project for several years. Tracy Halstensgard also spoke to the potential that addressing this in January instead may delay the work and require a two-year extension as opposed to a one-year extension. Council discussion followed. Representative Burkel requested that the extension request be tabled until the January meeting. The discussion was tabled.

7. Information: November Fiscal Forecast Results and Review, MN OMB [\(00:16:16\)](#)

Ryan Merz, Executive Budget Officer, joined by Nick Lardinois, both with the MN Office of Management and Budget, testified to the Council regarding the November fiscal forecast update, which showed additional funds available in the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Mr. Merz outlined the primary reasons for additional available funds, including increases to investment income, which offset the decrease in sales tax revenue. Increased investment income is sourced primarily from increased cash balance of the Outdoor Heritage Fund, and historically high interest rates. Council discussion followed.

8. Discussion / Action: Review and Approve Council Funding Recommendations [\(00:25:57\)](#)

Chair Hartwell outlined the revised Chairs' Proposal, which is based on the appropriation amounts approved at the October meeting, including adjustments made to account for additional OHF dollars available after the November forecast. Council discussion followed, including discussion of the bill drafting process and revisions required after fiscal updates are received.

Action: Councilmember Saxhaug moved that the adjusted Chairs' Proposal appropriation amounts be approved as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

9. Discussion / Action: Review and Approval of OHF Recommendations Bill
Language [\(00:39:02\)](#)

Noting no opposition, Chair Hartwell directed staff to continue drafting the OHF bill in conjunction with legal staff, making edits as necessary.

No public testimony was heard.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m.

APPROVED:

David Hartwell, Chair

Date

Kristin Eggerling, Secretary

Date