

DRAFT MINUTES

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)

January 3, 2025

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.

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

A quorum was present.

1. Review and Approve Agenda:

Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the agenda. – **Motion Prevailed**

2. Review and Approve Minutes:

Councilmember Schara made a motion to approve the minutes from December 10th, 2024 – **Motion Prevailed**

3. Conflicts of Interest Reported: No conflicts of interest were reported.

4. Chair’s Comments: [\(00:00:05\)](#)

Chair Hartwell briefed the Council on a discussion between himself, Assistant Director Joe Pavelko, and the MN DNR on the DNR Core Functions funding and process. Chair Hartwell noted that in order to account for management costs, a cancellation could be added as an amendment to the OHF Bill to be applied to Core Functions. Chair Hartwell reminded members that approval of this cancellation would require nine aye votes.

5. Executive Director’s Report: [\(00:02:31\)](#)

Executive Director Mark Johnson made the Council aware of an article published in Outdoor News related to land exchange near Upper Sioux Agency State Park. The legislature appropriated funds to the DNR for similar land exchanges. Two stipulations were added to the funds, requiring that the Land Water Conservation Act funds be appropriately overlaid on another property, which was accomplished by the Keystone Woods property purchased with OHF funds. Second, there is required to be a replacement of any lost outdoor activities around a land exchange.

6. Discussion/Action: Request for Land Exchange – ML 2022, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 2(d) - Northern Tallgrass Prairie, Phase X; The Nature Conservancy [\(00:04:25\)](#)

Executive Director Mark Johnson briefed the Council on the request for land exchange, which arose after discovery of a minor encroachment on recently purchased lands. The proposed exchange would allow .15 acres of land to be exchanged with the neighboring property owner.

Action: Councilmember Edmondson made a motion to approve the request for land exchange as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:	NAY:	ABSENT:
Hartwell		Sen. FOUNG Hawj
Schara		
Baird		
Rep. Burkel		

Edmondson		
Eggerling		
Holsten		
Sen. Lang		
Rep. Lillie		
Saxhaug		
Swenson		

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

7. Discussion / Action: Revisiting Tabled Extension Request - ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 5(o), Roseau River Habitat Restoration; Roseau River Watershed District [\(00:08:42\)](#)

At the December 10, 2024 Council meeting, discussion of an extension request on Roseau River Habitat Restoration was tabled until the January meeting to leave time for a meeting between stakeholders and Representative Burkel. While Representative Burkel noted that he intended to support the extension request, the Roseau River Watershed District sent a letter on January 2, 2025 withdrawing their request for extension. No action was taken.

8. Discussion / Action: Discussion/Action: Council Funding Recommendations – ML2025/FY2026 [\(00:11:15\)](#)

Chair Hartwell outlined the process by which a cancellation of \$120,000 from the Heron Lake project would be redirected to the DNR Core Functions budget.

Action: Councilmember Holsten moved to approve the cancellation as presented, redirecting funds to the DNR Core Functions budget.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:	NAY:	ABSENT:
Hartwell		Sen. Foung Hawj
Schara		
Baird		

Rep. Burkel		
Edmondson		
Eggerling		
Holsten		
Sen. Lang		
Rep. Lillie		
Saxhaug		
Swenson		

9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSENT – Motion Prevailed

Assistant Director Joe Pavelko provided background information to the Council on preparation of the final OHF bill language. Mr. Pavelko noted that OHF funds may not be used on parcels not included in the parcel list. There are two carry forwards in subdivision 9, plus an additional extension for ML 2023’s DNR Core Functions appropriations. Executive Director Mark Johnson described the process by which he expects a clause regarding Pittman-Robertson and other federal funds used for additional conservation efforts and land protections be added to the OHF bill. This would allow these funds to be used and applied for without requiring additional approval by the Council per MS [97A.056](#).

Action: Councilmember Saxhaug moved to approve the draft OHF bill, including additions related to the cancellation of funds and use of federal funds as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

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

9. Discussion / Action: Lock & Dam #5 Invasive Carp Barrier Update ([00:22:28](#))

Kelly Pennington, Invasive Species Unit Supervisor, MN DNR, joined by Dr. Grace Loppnow, Invasive Fish Program Coordinator, MN DNR, gave the Council an update on ongoing work on an invasive carp barrier at Lock & Dam #5. At this stage of the project, MN DNR, in working with the US Army Corps of Engineers, is looking into permitting and engineering components. A monitoring program is to be implemented to observe and tag fish to identify where fish passage is occurring and to determine areas of greatest need. In response to Council questions on timelines, Kelly Pennington described the deadlines outlined in statute and practical issues associated with completing the planned carp barriers.

10. Presentation / Discussion: CPL Overview & Update ([00:33:11](#))

David Stein, CPL Coordinator, MN DNR, provided a presentation on the Conservation Partners Legacy grant program to the Council. The CPL grant program uses funds appropriated by the Council to offer grants below \$500,000 to non-profits throughout the state for wildlife, restoration, and enhancement projects. Mr. Stein gave an overview on the program, application review, evaluation criteria, and details on upcoming changes. Council discussion followed.

11. Update / Discussion: DNR-Partner Acquisition Continuous Improvement Project ([01:05:00](#))

Kerstin Larson, Strategic Land Asset Management (SLAM) Supervisor, Katherine Sherman-Hoehn, DNR Grants Manager, and Greg Heyblom, Appraisal Unit Supervisor, at MN DNR presented details on the partner acquisition continuous improvement project. The project seeks to lower turnaround times for appraisals, acquisitions, and conveyance of land to DNR. Presenters gave the Council information on several solutions provided to lessen delays and bring down timelines as well as preliminary data on average turnaround times for appraisal review. Council discussion followed.

12. Discussion/Action: Review and Approve ML2026 / FY-2027 Call for Funding
(01:41:45)

Assistant Director Joe Pavelko provided an overview of documents related to the Call for Funding for ML26/FY27.

Action: Vice Chair Schara moved to approve the Call for Funding as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

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

No public testimony was heard.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.