

DRAFT MINUTES

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)

August 26, 2025

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

Call to Order: Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 08:15 a.m. [\(0:00:12\)](#)

Members Present	Members Absent
David Hartwell (Chair)	Sen. FOUNG HAWJ
Ron Schara (Vice Chair)	
Suzanne Baird	
Rep. John Burkel	
Kristin Eggerling	
Matt Kucharski	
Sen. Andrew Lang	
Darrel Palmer	
Tom Saxhaug	
Ted Suss	
Rep. Samantha Vang	

A quorum was present.

1. Review and Approve Agenda: [\(0:01:28\)](#)

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

2. Review and Approve Minutes: [\(0:01:40\)](#)

Councilmember Saxhaug made a motion to approve the minutes from July 30, 2025 –

Motion Prevailed

3. Conflicts of Interest Reported:

[\(0:02:00\)](#)

Chair Hartwell and Council Palmer noted their previously disclosed conflicts regarding Audubon Society and noted that they will not be participating in funding recommendations on Audubon Upper Mississippi's proposal, HRE 01.

4. Chair's Comments:

[\(0:02:24\)](#)

Chair Hartwell reminded the Council and presenters that the time allotted for question and answer will need to be cut off to maintain the hearing schedule. Chair Hartwell noted that there will be time for the Council to discuss all proposals at the end of the meeting.

5. Executive Director's Report:

[\(0:03:37\)](#)

Executive Director Mark Johnson had nothing to report at this time.

6. Discussion/Action: Dissolution of Executive Committee

[\(00:03:51\)](#)

Chair Hartwell provided background information on this agenda item, referring to challenges related to quorum requirements as related to meetings attended by three or more members of the Executive Committee.

Action: Chair Hartwell moved that the LSOHC Operating Procedures be updated to remove language related to the Executive Committee.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:	NAY:	ABSENT:
Hartwell		Sen. Hawj
Schara		
Baird		
Rep. Burkel		
Eggerling		
Kucharski		
Sen. Lang		
Palmer		
Saxhaug		
Suss		
Rep. Vang		

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

7. Hearings for Funding Requests

(0:07:54)

Members heard the following proposals:

Recording	ID	Title	Request	Manager	Organization
0:08:43	PA01	2026 RIM Grasslands Reserve, Phase 7	\$10,345,000	John Voz	MN BWSR
0:29:56	PA02	Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program, Phase 18	\$15,623,900	Sabin Adams	Pheasants Forever
0:51:27	PA03	DNR WMA & SNA Acquisition, Phase 18	\$8,975,000	Jeff Tillma	MN DNR
1:03:07	PA04	Martin County WMA Acquisition, Phase 10	\$10,213,900	Doug Hartke	Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc.
1:20:33	PA05	ML 2026 Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Phase 16	\$9,886,200	Chris McGrath	The Nature Conservancy
1:36:56	PA06	MN Prairie Recovery Program, Phase 15	\$13,668,300	Liz Beery	The Nature Conservancy
2:04:47	PA07	Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley, Phase 12	\$12,004,600	Sabin Adams	Pheasants Forever
2:22:38	PA08	RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water	\$10,000,000	Dusty Van Thuyne	MN BWSR
2:41:03	PRE01	2026 Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program	\$13,200,000	Logan Shoup	Ducks Unlimited
2:51:33	PRE02	DNR Grassland Enhancement, Phase 17	\$9,962,400	Greg Hoch	MN DNR
3:06:09	PRE03	Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands, Phase 9	\$7,168,000	Sabin Adams	Pheasants Forever

3:13:12	FA01	Northern Forests Legacy Project	\$25,105,400	Christine Ostern	MN DNR
3:42:33	FA02	Sand Lake/7 Beavers Acquisition & Enhancement	\$10,309,600	Rich Biske	The Nature Conservancy
4:43:50	FRE01	DNR Forest Restoration and Enhancement, Phase 6	\$7,622,600	Ted Dick	MN DNR
5:01:10	FRE02	Enhancing Critical Wildlife Forest Habitats and Watersheds on Superior National Forest	\$4,728,000	Candace Leong	Patriot Restoration OPS (PROPS)
5:19:04	WA01	Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program, Phase 18	\$13,980,600	Sabin Adams	Pheasants Forever
5:28:56	WA02	RIM Wetlands - Restoring the Most Productive Habitat in Minnesota	\$14,000,000	John Voz	MN BWSR
5:42:58	WA03	Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program	\$12,995,000	Jon Schneider	Ducks Unlimited
6:03:41	WA04	Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program, Phase 11	\$14,336,000	Wayne Ostlie	Minnesota Land Trust
6:17:54	WRE02	Howard Lake Habitat Restoration	\$711,500	Alicia O'Hare	Wright Soil and Water Conservation District
6:38:57	WRE03	Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement & Restoration Initiative	\$14,975,000	John Lindstrom	Ducks Unlimited
6:54:27	WRE05	Talcot Lake	\$7,590,000	Ricky Lien	MN DNR
7:21:41	WRE06	Roseau Lake Rehabilitation, Phase 3	\$8,685,000	Tracy Halstensgard	Roseau River Watershed District
7:35:23	WRE07	Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements, Phase 18	\$23,795,000	Ricky Lien	MN DNR
7:56:42	HA01	2026 Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds	\$5,000,000	Paul Swanson	Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District
8:11:15	HA02	Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - 15	\$11,769,800	Jennifer Tonko	Clean River Partners
8:29:20	HA03	DNR AMA Fee-Title and Trout Stream Easement Acquisition	\$6,450,000	Rick Walsh	MN DNR

8:39:37	HA04	Washington County Habitat Protection and Restoration Partnership, Phase 2	\$6,917,000	Serena Rath	Washington County
8:54:18	CPL	Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program ML26/FY27	\$15,000,000	David Stein	DNR

8. Council Discussion

[\(9:03:31\)](#)

The Council discussed various aspects of the proposals heard thus far and other relevant topics.

No public testimony was heard.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.