

ML 2026 / FY 2027 - LSOHC Chair Recommendation
September 24, 2025 Meeting

Project ID	Project Title	Organization	Fund Request	# of Members Allocating	Average Allocation (rounded down to nearest 1k)	% of Request	Chair Suggested Adjustment	Chair Recommendation	% of Request	Comments
WRE 03	Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement & Restoration Initiative	Ducks Unlimited	\$14,975,000	12	\$ 5,706,000	38%		\$ 5,706,000	38%	
FA 01	Northern Forests Legacy Project	MN DNR. St. Louis County	\$25,105,400	11	\$ 17,767,000	71%	\$ 4,857,800	\$ 22,624,800	90%	No funding for anything other than acquisition
WA 01	Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program, Phase 18	Pheasants Forever	\$13,980,600	11	\$ 4,666,000	33%		\$ 4,666,000	33%	
WA 03	Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program	Ducks Unlimited	\$12,995,000	11	\$ 5,354,000	41%		\$ 5,354,000	41%	
HA 18	St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase 7	Wild Rivers Conservancy, MLT, TPL	\$13,859,000	11	\$ 3,375,000	24%		\$ 3,375,000	24%	
HRE 02	Bone Lake South, Phase 2	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District	\$1,625,000	11	\$ 1,227,000	76%		\$ 1,227,000	76%	
HRE 04	DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement, Phase 9	MN DNR	\$16,558,200	11	\$ 5,583,000	34%		\$ 5,583,000	34%	
HRE 05	Little Cannon River Stream Habitat Restoration	MN TU, Great River Greening, Clean River Partners	\$5,174,800	11	\$ 2,085,000	40%	\$ (1,585,000)	\$ 500,000	10%	Only fund engineering and permitting and come back when shovel ready
HRE 09	Swift Coulee Channel Restoration/ Enhancement, Phase 2	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed Dist.	\$3,564,000	11	\$ 2,288,000	64%		\$ 2,288,000	64%	
HRE 10	Woods Creek Restoration	Cook County	\$750,000	11	\$ 662,000	88%		\$ 662,000	88%	
CPL	Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program ML26/FY27	MN DNR	\$15,000,000	11	\$ 11,822,000	79%		\$ 11,822,000	79%	
PA 02	Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program, Phase 18	Pheasants Forever	\$15,623,900	10	\$ 4,000,000	26%		\$ 4,000,000	26%	
PA 03	DNR WMA & SNA Acquisition, Phase 18	MN DNR	\$8,975,000	10	\$ 3,000,000	33%		\$ 3,000,000	33%	
PA 04	Martin County WMA Acquisition, Phase 10	Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc., DU, The Cons.Fund	\$10,213,900	10	\$ 2,666,000	26%		\$ 2,666,000	26%	
PA 05	ML 2026 Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Phase 16	The Nature Conservancy	\$9,886,200	10	\$ 2,645,000	27%		\$ 2,645,000	27%	
PA 06	MN Prairie Recovery Program, Phase 15	The Nature Conservancy	\$13,668,300	10	\$ 3,020,000	22%		\$ 3,020,000	22%	Staffing should be scaled in proportion to reduction from request
PA 08	RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water	MN BWSR	\$10,000,000	10	\$ 3,208,000	32%		\$ 3,208,000	32%	All budget categories to be prorated from requested amount, especially personnel costs.
PRE 01	2026 Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program	Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever	\$13,200,000	10	\$ 3,863,000	29%		\$ 3,863,000	29%	
PRE 03	Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands, Phase 9	Pheasants Forever	\$7,168,000	10	\$ 2,541,000	35%		\$ 2,541,000	35%	
FA 02	Sand Lake/7 Beavers Acquisition & Enhancement	TNC, Rajala Woods Foundation	\$10,309,600	10	\$ 6,310,000	61%		\$ 6,310,000	61%	Only fund acquisition costs
WRE 06	Roseau Lake Rehabilitation, Phase 3	Roseau River Watershed District	\$8,685,000	10	\$ 3,044,000	35%		\$ 3,044,000	35%	
HA 02	Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - 15	Clean River Partners, TPL, Great River Greening	\$11,769,800	10	\$ 2,558,000	22%		\$ 2,558,000	22%	Only fund acquisition costs with dollars allocated.
HA 03	DNR AMA Fee-Title and Trout Stream Easement Acquisition	MN DNR	\$6,450,000	10	\$ 1,870,000	29%		\$ 1,870,000	29%	2 suggestions - only fund easements and only fund fee with PILT - discussion needed
HA 04	Washington County Habitat Protection and Restoration Partnership, Phase 2	Washington County, Minnesota Land Trust	\$6,917,000	10	\$ 2,409,000	35%		\$ 2,409,000	35%	
HA 07	Hardwood Hills Habitat Conservation Program, Phase 3	MLT, Stearns Conservation District, St. Johns University	\$5,554,000	10	\$ 2,192,000	39%		\$ 2,192,000	39%	
HA 09	Metro Big Rivers 16	Minnesota Valley NWR, TPL, Great River Greening, Friends of the Mississippi River	\$21,386,800	10	\$ 5,889,000	28%		\$ 5,889,000	28%	
HA 17	Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration, Phase 14	TPL, TNC, MLT	\$19,044,000	10	\$ 6,059,000	32%	\$ 941,000	\$ 7,000,000	37%	\$6.2M for Wacouta Bay before anything else
PA 07	Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley, Phase 12	Pheasants Forever	\$12,004,600	9	\$ 2,708,000	23%		\$ 2,708,000	23%	
PRE 02	DNR Grassland Enhancement, Phase 17	MN DNR	\$9,962,400	9	\$ 1,833,000	18%		\$ 1,833,000	18%	
WA 02	RIM Wetlands - Restoring the most productive habitat in Minnesota	MN BWSR	\$14,000,000	9	\$ 3,000,000	21%		\$ 3,000,000	21%	
WA 04	Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program, Phase 11	Minnesota Land Trust	\$14,336,000	9	\$ 2,750,000	19%		\$ 2,750,000	19%	
WRE 05	Talcot Lake	MN DNR	\$7,590,000	9	\$ 2,174,000	29%	\$ (1,174,000)	\$ 1,000,000	13%	Fund engineering only and come back for construction funding when ready to do construction
HA 05	Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - ML2026	Northern Waters Land Trust	\$8,567,700	9	\$ 2,062,000	24%		\$ 2,062,000	24%	
HA 11	Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project, Phase 10	Mississippi Headwaters Board, TPL, MN BWSR	\$9,800,000	9	\$ 2,420,000	25%		\$ 2,420,000	25%	
PA 01	2026 RIM Grasslands Reserve, Phase 7	MN BWSR, Ducks Unlimited	\$10,345,000	9	\$ 2,000,000	19%		\$ 2,000,000	19%	All budget categories to be prorated from requested amount, especially personnel costs.
HA 16	Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program	Shell Rock River Watershed District	\$5,336,700	9	\$ 1,771,000	33%		\$ 1,771,000	33%	2 conflicting recommendations - only fund acquisition and only fund restoration - council discussion needed. Need to explain why they did not disclose in previous appropriations that they would not spend funds but hold them until they received more.
HA 19	Upper Mississippi Flyway Habitat Conservation Program	Minnesota Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy	\$5,169,800	9	\$ 1,847,000	36%		\$ 1,847,000	36%	2 council members supported removing the restoration part of this which has \$180K of staff cost to handle \$240K of contracts. 1 council member only wanted to fund restoration (\$421K total). Council discussion needed.
HRE 01	A River of Birds in the Sky: Conserving Minnesota's Flyway	Audubon Minnesota	\$1,443,000	9	\$ 1,052,000	73%		\$ 1,052,000	73%	
HRE 07	Mud River Enhancement Project	Red Lake Watershed District	\$5,100,000	9	\$ 2,533,000	50%		\$ 2,533,000	50%	Fund only engineering and design. Figure out how to make this scaleable or implemented over time when they come back.
HRE 08	Oak Savanna Restoration for Living Landscapes	MN BWSR	\$3,623,200	9	\$ 1,458,000	40%		\$ 1,458,000	40%	
FRE 01	DNR Forest Restoration and Enhancement, Phase 6	MN DNR	\$7,622,600	8	\$ 1,666,000	22%		\$ 1,666,000	22%	The Contract Coordinator position (full time) seems out of line to oversee contract. Want to see no more than .33 FTE for this proposal.
WRE07	Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements, Phase 18 (Habitat Projects/Critical Staff Combination)	MN DNR	\$23,339,500	8	\$ 3,208,000	14%		\$ 3,208,000	14%	Staff funding just for OHF funded project work. Personell and DSS limited to 11.5% of allocated dollars.
HA 01	2026 Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds	Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District, MN BWSR	\$5,000,000	8	\$ 975,000	20%		\$ 975,000	20%	
HA 06	Greenbelt, Phase 1	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District	\$3,300,000	8	\$ 1,258,000	38%		\$ 1,258,000	38%	Recommendation to just fund acquisition but combined allocation is less than single parcel cost of \$2M - discussion needed
HA 08	Integrating Habitat and Clean Water	MN BWSR	\$10,000,000	8	\$ 1,566,000	16%		\$ 1,566,000	16%	
HA 10	Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat Enhancement & Protection	Minnesota Trout Unlimited	\$4,800,000	8	\$ 1,435,000	30%	\$ (685,000)	\$ 750,000	16%	Significant concern of unspent funds which seem to be from long permitting cycle. Allocation all funds this year to just engineering/permitting with expectation that projects will come back when shovel ready.
HA 12	Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota's North Shore, Phase 4	Minnesota Land Trust	\$4,044,000	8	\$ 1,453,000	36%		\$ 1,453,000	36%	

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HA 13	Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance, Phase 5	MLT, Northern Waters Land Trust	\$9,176,000	8	\$ 2,608,000	28%		\$ 2,608,000	28%	Exclude cost of purchasing buildings.
HRE 06	Mission Creek Watershed Connectivity	MN DNR, Minnesota Land Trust	\$3,442,200	8	\$ 1,111,000	32%		\$ 1,111,000	32%	Full funding for culvert replacement.
HA 15	Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 2	Red River Watershed Management Board	\$21,300,000	7	\$ 3,358,000	16%		\$ 3,358,000	16%	
HA 14	Protection and Restoration of Money Creek and its Natural Riparian Communities	RES Great Lakes, LLC, MN BWSR	\$2,966,100	6	\$ 881,000	30%	\$ (881,000)	\$ -	0%	Landowner/access concerns, no bid a concern, no landowner contribution (or other match)
HRE 03	City of Delano - Crow River Restoration and Enhancement	City of Delano	\$2,050,000	5	\$ 658,000	32%	\$ (658,000)	\$ -	0%	Generally the comments were encouraging the applicant to come back with more of a habitat related project
FRE 02	Enhancing Critical Wildlife Forest Habitats and Watersheds on Superior National Forest	Patriot Restoration OPS (PROPS)	\$4,728,000	4	\$ 541,000	11%	\$ (541,000)	\$ -	0%	Exclude capital equipment that is just to grow long term program
WRE 02	Howard Lake Habitat Restoration	Wright Soil and Water Conservation District	\$711,500	4	\$ 236,000	33%	\$ (236,000)	\$ -	0%	
O1	Contract Management	MN DNR	\$450,000	12	\$ 450,000	100%		\$ 450,000	100%	
O2	DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions	MN DNR	\$129,000	12	\$ 129,000	100%		\$ 129,000	100%	
O3	Restoration Evaluations - ML 2026	MN DNR	\$204,000	12	\$ 204,000	100%	\$ (38,800)	\$ 165,200	81%	
Totals			\$512,979,800	\$ 165,154,000			\$ 165,154,000			