

DRAFT MINUTES

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)

August 26, 2026

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

Call to Order: Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. [\(0:00:00\)](#)

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: [\(0:00:55\)](#)

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

2. Conflicts of Interest Reported: [\(0:01:05\)](#)

No new conflicts of interest were reported at this time. Previously disclosed conflicts of interest relating to ML 2027 funding requests remain applicable.

3. Hearings for Funding Requests [\(0:01:16\)](#)

The Council heard the following proposals:

Time	ID	Title	Request	Manager	Organization
<u>0:01:27</u>	WRE02	DNR Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements Phase 19	\$23,483,000	Ricky Lien	MN DNR
<u>0:43:49</u>	WRE03	DNR Statewide control and reduction of invasive Phragmites Phase I	\$1,422,500	Michael Verhoeven	MN DNR
<u>1:05:29</u>	WRE04	Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement & Restoration Initiative	\$11,776,000	John Lindstrom	Ducks Unlimited
<u>1:21:55</u>	WRE05	Mud River Enhancement Phase II	\$3,200,000	Tammy Audette	Red Lake Watershed District
<u>1:35:10</u>	WRE06	Otter and Campbell Lakes Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Phase 1	\$3,000,000	Michael Stifter	City of Hutchinson
<u>1:45:22</u>	FRE02	Enhancing Black Ash Forests for Resilience and Habitat	\$4,164,000	Dale Gentry	Audubon Upper Mississippi River
<u>2:05:45</u>	HA01	2027 Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds	\$4,000,000	Paul Swanson	Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District
<u>2:12:34</u>	HA02	2027 St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 8	\$11,167,000	Kristin McElligott	Wild Rivers Conservancy
<u>2:20:06</u>	HA03	Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program	\$12,138,000	Jennifer Tonko	Clean River Partners
<u>2:29:06</u>	HA04	Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase IX	\$4,942,400	Alexander Scurto	Dakota County
<u>2:46:45</u>	HA05	Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - ML2027	\$8,476,000	Annie Knight	Northern Waters Land Trust

Time	ID	Title	Request	Manager	Organization
<u>3:00:32</u>	HA06	Metro Big Rivers Phase 17	\$20,569,000	Neal Feekan	MN Valley Trust
<u>3:13:51</u>	HA07	Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance – Phase 6	\$7,330,000	Annie Knight	Northern Waters Land Trust
<u>3:28:51</u>	HA08	RIM Priority Habitat	\$7,500,000	Kevin Roth	MN BWSR
<u>3:48:34</u>	HA09	Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 15	\$16,585,600	David Ruff	The Nature Conservancy
<u>4:33:12</u>	HA10	Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Phase X	\$3,500,000	Kevin Roth	MN BWSR
<u>4:37:50</u>	HRE01	Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Enhancement and Restoration – Phase 11	\$5,502,000	Wiley Buck	Great River Greening
<u>4:48:50</u>	HRE02	Beaver Creek Habitat Restoration	\$1,777,000	Jennifer Biederman	Minnesota Trout Unlimited
<u>5:01:10</u>	HRE03	Daylighting Phalen Creek – Phase 2	\$6,781,400	Gabby Menomin	Wąkaŋ Típi Awaŋyaŋkapi
<u>5:22:20</u>	HRE04	DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Phase 10	\$16,328,000	Dean Paron	MN DNR
<u>5:36:29</u>	HRE05	DNR Fish Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Phase 1	\$7,112,300	Heather Baird	MN DNR
<u>5:44:53</u>	HRE06	DNR Irish Creek Watershed Enhancement, Phase 1	\$3,370,000	Jeramy Pinkerton	MN DNR
<u>5:55:51</u>	HRE08	Enhancing Agate Bay's Coastal Wetland Habitat along the Lake Superior Shore in Lake County, Minnesota	\$745,300	Tara Solem	Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District

Time	ID	Title	Request	Manager	Organization
6:28:49	HRE09	Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation Project – PH VII	\$2,661,000	Kevin Bovee (LSSA); Blake Francis (RWF)	Lake Superior Steelhead Association (LSSA) with Rajala Woods Foundation (RWF)
6:43:49	HRE10	Little Cannon River Stream Habitat Restoration – Construction Phase	\$4,952,000	John Lenczewski	Minnesota Trout Unlimited
6:58:09	HRE12	Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat Enhancement & Protection – Construction	\$4,085,000	John Lenczewski	Minnesota Trout Unlimited
7:13:24	HRE13	Protection and Resiliency in the Rainy River Headwaters	\$3,000,000	Robert Kimmel-Hass	Cook County
7:20:48	HRE14	Restoring priority habitats for Hennepin County's sensitive wildlife	\$6,691,400	Kristine Maurer	Hennepin County
7:30:56	HRE15	Swift Coulee Channel Restoration / Enhancement – Phase 2	\$2,043,000	Morteza Maher	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
7:47:13	HRE16	Tamarac River Enhancement Project – Phase 1	\$7,876,000	Lon Aune	Marshall County

4. Council Discussion

[\(7:59:53\)](#)

The Council discussed various aspects of the ML 2027 proposals heard thus far and other topics related to this year's funding requests and the allocation process.

No public testimony was heard.

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.