

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item #7

DATE: September 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Accomplishment Plan Amendment: ML 2022, Ch. 77, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(a)

PRESENTER: Alex Scruto, Dakota County

Suggested Motion:

Motion by Member XX to approve/deny the Dakota County amendment as presented.

Background:

As has been past practice, programs requesting large budget shifts that change the intended activity of the program come before the Council for approval.

This request includes:

- Increasing Contracts by \$1,283,400 – the majority increase is coming out of Easement Acquisition.
- Restoration Acres – originally anticipated 920, it was amended down to 819, this amendment increases by 705 (from 819 to 1524)
- Easement Acres - originally anticipated 465. Acquisition expired on June 30, 2026, accomplishing 3 easements totaling \$196,200 and 47 acres.

Considerations:

- Restoration / Enhancement (R/E) expires June 30, 2027.
- Manager clearly explains how this can be accomplished within the short time frame.
- The most recent status update shows a balance of \$4,030,000 – this DOES NOT include encumbered contracts.
- The increased costs for R/E parcels already progressing are clearly explained by the Manager and support the overall Dakota County Habitat Plans for the different areas.
- In just a few months, the new project manager has clearly proven his organizational ability to accomplish program work.
- There is no other Dakota County OHF program that has the monetary balance to complete this. ML 2027 request is pending, and this work is shovel ready and inefficient to wait.

Historical Program Information:

Program has six past appropriations that have closed, spending 85% of what was allocated.

Program currently has two open appropriations.

ML Year	Subd	Appropriation Amount	Actual Dollars (Last Status Update)	Balance of Unspent Open Funds	% Spent
2019	5(c)	\$3,516,000	\$3,026,200	\$489,800**	86%
2022	5(a)	\$6,066,000	\$2,036,000	\$4,030,000	34%

**** remains open for restoring easements acquired – contracts encumbered**

Attachments: ML 2022 Amended Accomplishment Plan