Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: **Agenda Item #8**

DATE: November 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Accomplishment Plan Amendment with Legislative Change
Heron Lake Area Conservation Partnership:
ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 2(i)

Suggested Motion:

Motion by Member XX to approve/deny the Accomplishment Plan budget amendment as presented, which would increase the Minnesota Land Trust's original appropriation by $131,000. In doing so the Council is also advancing a change to the legislative appropriation to be included in the ML 2027 Recommendations bill, subject to Council approval of the final bill. This approval is contingent on the Heron Lake Watershed District Board closing out final invoices at their November 18th meeting and reconciliation by DNR Grants Management.

Background:

- Heron Lake Watershed District has gone through staff and organizational shifts in the last several years making completion of restoration and enhancement difficult.
- MLT is requesting an increase to their appropriation of $131,000 to finish restoration and enhancement activities on the Heron Lake (Thompson) parcel.
- If this is approved, it will be included in the ML 2027 appropriation recommendation bill.
- Pheasants Forever (PF), Ducks Unlimited (DU), and Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) were the acquisition partners.
- HLWD was the restoration partner.

History of previous budget shift:

In September 2024 LSOHC staff approved an amendment as follows, after discussions with MLT:

> "MLT requests a budget amendment to assist in the grant management of Heron Lake Watershed District's remaining Restoration/Enhancement work.
>
> - Personnel increased $5,000 (from $92,000 to $97,000)
> - Direct Support Services increased $2,000 (from $25,000 to $27,000)
> - Professional Services reduced $7,000 (from $76,000 to $69,000)
>
> This amendment and legislative change will allow for the final restoration of the South Heron Lake (Thompson) parcel."

In July 2026 MLT requested that the program be revisited to discuss options for closing out the program while still completing the agreed upon restorations. From those discussions, MLT and HLWD propose the following amendments:

Program Information:

- Original Program appropriation was $4,493,000
- Acquisition for this program expired on June 30, 2024.
- Fee Title return to OHF (PF and DU) approx.: $2,571,000
- HLWD return to OHF approx.: $550,000
- MLT has a balance of $133,000 and is requesting an increase of $131,000 (total $259,000)
- Restoration of this parcel expires November 29, 2028, this is allowing the additional 5+ years after acquisition to restore.

Attachments:

- Letter of Request from MLT
- MLT Amendment Budget shift
- MLT e-mail to HLWD