Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: **Agenda Item #7**

DATE: October 29, 2026

MTG DATE: November 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Legislative Extension of Time:
DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration & Enhancement, Ph 5
ML 2022, Ch. 7, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 5(n)

Suggested Motion: Motion by Member XX to approve/deny the 1-year extension of time to June 30, 2028 for DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration & Enhancement Ph 5.

Background:

- DNR Aquatic Habitat – R/E expires on June 30, 2027.
- This program has not previously requested an extension of time.
- The extension is needed due to a last-minute pause (August 2025) for Roseau River project.
- Program Manager moved quickly to identify 4 additional projects that could use those funds. Two of those projects are completed, one has been bid out and currently contracts are under consideration, and the remaining project is nearing design completion. An additional year would ensure that if there are any weather situations causing delays, which is very possible with streams, this additional year would ensure completion of the full contract.
- In questioning unspent funds in newer appropriations, the money is committed via encumbered contracts or allotted for regional DNR staff to complete identified parcels.
- This program has spent or encumbered 71% of the appropriation, so the additional time is specifically to complete the two sites mentioned in DNR's memo.
- Staff support this extension.

Attachments:

Letter of Request