

**MINUTES**  
**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)**  
**May 22, 2024**  
**Hybrid Meeting – MN State Capitol 120/ Zoom, pursuant to MS 13D**

**Call to Order:** Chair David Hartwell called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

**Members Present**

David Hartwell (Chair)  
Ron Schara (Vice Chair)  
Suzanne Baird  
Rep. John Burkel  
Dudley Edmondson  
Kristin Eggerling  
Sen. Fong Hawj  
Mark Holsten  
Sen. Andrew Lang  
Rep. Leon Lillie  
Tom Saxhaug

**Members Absent**

Jamie Swenson

A quorum was present.

**1. Conflicts of Interest Reported:** No new conflicts of interest were reported by Councilmembers. Previous reports of conflicts still stand.

**2. Chair's Comments:** Chair Hartwell introduced newly appointed Councilmember Suzanne Baird and noted that Ms. Baird had been appointed by Governor Tim Walz. Chair Hartwell also noted that the Chair, Vice Chair, and staff of LSOHC had been invited to meet with Clean Water Council staff to discuss possible coordination opportunities. Chair Hartwell noted that if any other members were interested in taking part, they should contact LSOHC staff.

**3. Review and Approve Agenda:** Councilmember Mark Holsten made a motion to approve the agenda – **Motion Prevailed**

**4. Review and Approve Minutes:** Councilmember Tom Saxhaug made a motion to approve the minutes from March 26, 2024 – **Motion Prevailed**

**5. Executive Director's Report:** Executive Director Mark Johnson gave the Council an overview of the recent ML 2024 legislative session and invited legislative members to provide additional information/comments. Mr. Johnson also provided an update on the Lock and Dam 5 invasive carp barrier and noted that the DNR was working to complete an Accomplishment Plan for the program which will come before the Council for approval at the June 2024 meeting. Information was provided by Mr. Johnson on a presentation he had recently attended on green energy and wind easements, and it was noted that this would be a topic of discussion at an upcoming Council meeting. Mr. Johnson also noted that if councilmembers have interest in visiting prairie chicken leks during booming season, they should reach out to staff.

**6. St. Louis River Estuary Update:** Melissa Sjolund, Lake Superior and St. Louis River Program Supervisor with MN DNR and Daryl Peterson, Director of Restoration Programs with Minnesota Land Trust provided the Council with an update on the work that the DNR and partners have been doing in the St. Louis River Estuary area with the aid of OHF funding, along with some of the outcomes observed so far. Council discussion followed.

**7. Acquisition of Parcel with Existing Permanent Protection:** Deb Loon, Executive Director with the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust presented a request to acquire a parcel with existing permanent protection related to both the ML 2022, Ch. 77, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(j) – Metro Big Rivers, Phase 12 program and the ML 2023, Ch. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(j) – Metro Big Rivers, Phase 13 program appropriations. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Councilmember Holsten made a motion to approve the existing protection request related to both the ML 2022, Ch. 77, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(j) – Metro Big Rivers, Phase 12 program and the ML 2023, Ch. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(j) – Metro Big Rivers, Phase 13 program appropriations as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell  
Schara  
Baird  
Rep. Burkel  
Edmondson  
Eggerling  
Sen. Hawj  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Saxhaug

NAY:

ABSENT:

Rep. Lillie  
Swenson

10 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**8. Request for Approval of Conversion/Conveyance:** Jeff Tillma, Land Acquisition Consultant with MN DNR presented a request to approve the sale a 15.1 acre parcel of land no longer necessary for the ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(j) – Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project program, remove the Outdoor Heritage Fund notice of funding restriction on the parcel, and return the profits from the sale of the parcel to the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Council discussion followed.

**Action:** Councilmember Kristin Eggerling made a motion to approve the sale of the 15.1 acre parcel, removal of the Outdoor Heritage Fund notice of funding restriction, and return of the monies to the Outdoor Heritage Fund as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYE:

Hartwell  
Schara  
Baird  
Rep. Burkel  
Edmondson  
Eggerling  
Sen. Hawj  
Holsten  
Sen. Lang  
Saxhaug

NAY:

ABSENT:

Rep. Lillie  
Swenson

10 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT – **Motion Prevailed**

**9. 2024 OHF Site Visits / Tours:** Executive Director Johnson and Assistant Director Joe Pavelko reminded the Council of the upcoming OHF site visit tour on June 11, 2024 and noted that there will also be additional tour opportunities throughout the year. Mr. Pavelko provided the Council with a list of possible tour locations and ideas. Council discussion followed. It was decided that the tour on June 11, 2024 would visit the invasive carp barrier site location at Lock and Dam 5 and the Keystone Woods Wildlife Management Area acquisition.

**10. Public Comments:** Chair Hartwell announced that no public comments had been submitted to the Council.

Continued Council discussion followed. Staff was directed to develop and add an organization approval requirement for OHF funding applicants – to be added to next year’s call for funding requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05am.

APPROVED:

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David Hartwell, Chair

Date

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Kristin Eggerling, Secretary

Date