

Lessard - Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

August 24 & 25, 2010

Room 5, State Office Building Meeting Summary

August 24, 2010

Members Present:

Chair Michael Kilgore
Les Bensch
Ryan Bronson
Jim Cox

Wayne Enger
Sen. Lisa Fobbe
Rep. Bob Gunther
Rep. Rick Hansen

David Hartwell
Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen
Darby Nelson
Scott Rall

Members Absent: none

Call to order

Chair Kilgore called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m. A quorum was present.

Review and approve agenda

Motion by D. Hartwell to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Review and approve summary of August 16, 2010 (2:25)

Mr. Becker noted to council at this meeting there was one member who was conferenced in by phone, per 13D.015 Subd. 2(4): "all votes are conducted by roll call, so each member's vote on each issue can be identified and recorded." It was noted for the record that at the August 16 council meeting these procedures were not followed, due to an oversight. Rep. Hansen requested this be noted in the minutes for future reference. Motion by D. Hartwell to approve the summary as presented. Motion passed.

Presentation: FY2012 LCCMR Recommendations (6:10)

Susan Thornton, LCCMR Director, presented the commission's FY2012 Recommendations. She reviewed the Constitutional language for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. She also pointed out eight additional expenditure guidelines as outlined in Minnesota Statutes 116P.08. Ms. Thornton highlighted several of the recommended appropriations.

Decision: FY2011 / ML2010 Accomplishment Plan Approval (55:28)

Wayne Sames, DNR, discussed 6(a) Contract Administration Accomplishment Plan and answered questions by members specifically about the \$60 hour professional service fee charged. Motion by D. Hartwell to approve the accomplishment plan as presented. Motion adopted.

Proposal Presentations (1:30:12)

Members heard the following testimony from proposers and posed questions to presenters.

X-01 L-SOHC Pass-Through Contract Management; Technical Assistance Panel Coordination

MN DNR, Wayne Sames

W-01 The RIM-WRP Partnership

Board of Water & Soil Resources, Kevin Lines

W-04 Shallow Lake Shoreland Protection: Wild Rice Lakes

Ducks Unlimited, Jon Schneider

W-02 Marsh Lake Ecosystem Enhancement

MN DNR, Ray Norrgard

Break for LUNCH

W-03 Wetlands and Shallow Lakes (3:35:08)

MN DNR, Ray Norrgard

P-10 Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program

Pheasants Forever, Matt Holland

P-03 Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife & Water

Pheasants Forever, Matt Holland

P-07 Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex (Phase I) (4:48:00)

The Trust for Public Land, Becca Nash

P-09 Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program

Pheasants Forever, Inc., Joe Pavelko

P-02 Accelerated Prairie Restoration and Enhancement on DNR Lands

MN DNR, Bill Penning

P-05 Mustinka River Fish & Wildlife Corridor

Bois de Sioux Watershed District, Jon Roeschlein

P-04 Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition (6:14:19)

The Nature Conservancy, Michael Pressman

P-06 MN Prairie Recovery Project Phase 2

The Nature Conservancy, Tom Landwehr

P-01 Acquisition: WMA, SNA, Prairie Bank Easement, Forest Lands

MN DNR, Dennis Simon

P-11 Green Corridor Legacy Program - Phase III

Redwood Area Communities Foundation, Brad Cobb

P-08 Seven Mile Creek Watershed Riparian Protection and Enhancement

Nicollet County Soil and Water Conservation District, Kevin Ostermann

Adjournment (8:04:35)

Chair Kilgore adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

August 25, 2010

Members Present:

Chair Michael Kilgore
Les Bensch
Ryan Bronson
Jim Cox

Wayne Enger
Sen. Lisa Fobbe
Rep. Bob Gunther
Rep. Rick Hansen

David Hartwell
Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen
Darby Nelson
Scott Rall

Members Absent: none

Call to order

Chair Kilgore called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m. A quorum was present.

Proposal Presentations

Members heard the following testimony from proposers and posed questions to presenters.

F-03 La Salle Lake: Protecting Critical Mississippi Headwaters Habitat (0:38)

The Trust for Public Land, Bob McGillivray

F-01 Minnesota Forests for the Future

MN DNR, Richard Peterson

F-04 DNR Accelerated Forest Habitat Enhancement

MN DNR, Cynthia Osmundson

F-06 Lower Mississippi River Habitat Partnership

MN DNR, Tim Schlagenhaft

F-05 Northeastern Mn Sharp-Tailed Grouse Habitat Partnership (2:04:10)

Minnesota Sharp-Tailed Grouse Society, Ward Julien

F-07 Protect Key Forest Habitat Lands - Cass County

Cass County, Joshua Stevenson

H-01 DNR Aquatic Habitat Program

MN DNR, Michael Duval

Break for LUNCH

H-05 Metro Big Rivers Habitat Phase 2 (3:10:58)

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust Inc., Deborah Loon

H-02 MN Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement Program

MN Trout Unlimited, John Lenczewski

H-06 Protecting Sensitive Shorelands in North Central Minnesota

Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, Paula West

H-03 Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration (4:36:50)

Red Lake Watershed District, Myron Jesme

H-04 Land Addition to Janet Johnson Memorial WMA

Chisago County Department of Environmental Services, Jeffrey Fertig

H-10 Shell Rock River Headwaters Restoration Project

Shell Rock River Watershed District, Andy Henschel

X-02 Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program (5:47:23)

MN DNR, Leslie Tannahill

Discussion of Hearings and Member Allocation Process (6:16:01)

Chair Kilgore provided an overview of upcoming steps that will be used by the council to develop a basis for discussion of recommendations.

S. Rall encouraged members to make notes in the comment section of the allocation sheet that would explain including and excluding certain aspects of the programs.

Sen. Ingebrigtsen would like more money appropriated to the conservation partners program over time. The intent was for this program to grow with the appropriation. There is no shortage of applications. He also encourages the Council to more closely monitor this program through greater involvement with the LSOHC sub-committee.

Sen. Fobbe inquired about tracking the locations of the programs and geographic distribution of the recommendations. Sen. Fobbe also said it would be nice to hear all requests because less sophisticated written requests could be good projects, but they never move past the written request stage.

L. Bensch expressed interest in increasing the amount in the small grants program and agreed with Sen. Ingebrigtsen that there should be closer Council involvement with the program. He is not as satisfied with how the program “hatched” and would like to see some changes considered.

J. Cox questioned the use of the three separate ways in which DNR received administration money. He asked if the DNR could submit a lump sum amount that would cover everything. Mr. Becker stated it was a matter of how much control the Council wants over the budget. The Council has more control over the separate amounts of money as well as better oversight over the cost of land acquisition rather than bearing a portion of the acquisition costs in an administrative account.

R. Bronson cautioned members not to make decision based on marketing materials and campaign rhetoric. He also reminded members that, during the campaign, statements were made that all of the money was not going to go to the DNR, when in fact they are receiving a large portion of it. He emphasized the importance of the legacy money adding capacity, engaging people engage locally, and adding numbers of people involved with conservation. He also stated there has been criticism among citizens that not enough warm water fisheries work is being done.

L. Bensch stated he would like to see the conservation grants program eventually be funded at the \$10 million level and original intent was for the DNR to increase outreach. He stated that this was the voters’ intention.

S. Rall said the DNR competes for money like everyone else. He would like to re-convene the small grants subcommittee and outline a vision for the program and find clearer direction for the administration of this program through guidelines.

Rep. Gunther stated the average LCCMR grant is \$500,000, although LCCMR is a small grants making entity. He felt that LSOHC fills a function in funding larger programs.

W. Enger expressed concern about hearing all of the projects, however, the hearing is a process in which you learn things about programs you may not have considered funded, it brings items forward that sometime changes an opinion about a program.

Rep. Hansen questioned how to deal with the two larger applications and the overlap of smaller applications within those. He questioned how the Council should rank all or pieces of these stand alone proposals that are part of a larger program. He also raised the issue of dealing with the additional sub-surface rights of mining and gravel. Hansen asked how this fits into the plan and the Council criteria.

S. Rall stated that there was less duplication in the DNR’s WMA proposal this cycle and little duplication in the DNR’s

AMA's proposal. He said that smaller proposals from NGOs need to consider whether to be in the larger DNR proposal or go it alone and the Council should consider giving them direction. He also suggested a baseline eligibility criteria, so as to not allocate to programs that do not meet the minimum criteria. There were several this cycle and would be better not to rank them at all.

M. Kilgore was pleased by the increase number of questions from members as well as the details of the questions asked. He feels the Council has come a long way with a better sense of where they want to go strategically in the conservation field. He also reminded members to keep in mind the "all or nothing" proposals.

D. Nelson thanked the staff and their organization efforts that made this process easy to understand and track. L. Bensch also recognized staff for an outstanding job getting all of the materials and data requested in a timely fashion to make decision making much easier. R. Bronson stated that this recognition be included in the minutes.

(6:44:27)

Chair Kilgore presented a proposal to members to spend the \$86 million on the spreadsheet.

Pass-thru administration and Conservation Partners Grants are not given appropriation amount this year, but members will allocate to those as well. Mr. Kilgore hopes to generate more opportunity for discussion this allocation cycle.

Proposals have to have received allocations from at least 7 or more members to be on the list discussion. At least 20% or \$17,200,000 of the \$86 million dollars will be allocation. To create the 20 percent pool, those proposals receiving an allocation amount from 7 or more members, will be reduced proportionally until a \$17,200,000 pool remains. Members may make motions to increase or decrease funding to any project regardless of the number of votes received. Motions need not follow the order of the individual allocation results. Mr. Becker said that the administrative budget will come out of the cash flow account so members can spend the entire \$86 million. He anticipated the administrative budget will be under \$1 million for the biennium. Mr. Kilgore pointed out that the Chair's proposal is outlined in the handout with the exception of striking "minus administrative costs and pass through management, which will be pre-allocated into the worksheet." *(note for record: the handout is different from the discussion above. The handout says "Each member will receive an electronic worksheet in which he or she can allocate funds. The amount to allocate will be \$86 million, minus administrative costs and pass-through management, which will be pre-allocated into the worksheet. 1) Council members will return their completed worksheets to LSOHC staff, who will calculate the average amount of money allocated to each request. 2) Requests will then be ordered (high to low.) by the number of members allocating to each request. 3) The spreadsheet will keep a running total of the money allocated in the far right column. 4) The chair's proposal will include all projects above the running total percentage nearest to and less than eighty percent of the amount available to appropriate or seven members allocating, which ever allocates the least money. 5) A minimum of twenty percent of the available funding will be left out of the chair's proposal.")* Members discussed this proposal.

Public comment on priority uses of the Outdoor Heritage Fund

none

Adjournment (6:59:32)

Chair Kilgore adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mike Kilgore, Chair

Date

Darby Nelson, Secretary

Date