

Pettis, Darrell

From: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.leg.mn>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 3:36 PM
To: ring@mncounties.org
Cc: Martinson, Brian
Subject: County Board Notification of Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposals
Attachments: ML2021 LSOHC Proposal by County.pdf

Dear Counties of Minnesota,

Each spring, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) solicits habitat conservation project proposals to be considered for funding recommendation to the MN Legislature. This letter is to alert you to proposals that could have projects within your county, if they are successful in receiving LSOHC recommendation for funding and ultimate legislative approval of funding during the upcoming 2021 Legislative session.

In accordance with [MN Statute 97A.056, Subd. 3\(j\)](#), this letter and the attached spreadsheet document are to comply with statutory direction that the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) “provide counties with a list of project proposals that include potential fee title land acquisitions in the county that is based on that year’s funding requests received by the council from nongovernmental organizations.”

The attached spreadsheet document lists project proposals with potential fee-title activity within each county. The spreadsheet also provides the following link, https://www.lsohc.leg.mn/FY2022/requests/index_list.html, that will bring you to a page on the [LSOHC website](#) where the respective detailed project proposals are all listed and hyperlinked. From there you can access the individual project proposal accomplishment plans containing all of their information.

In an effort to provide each County Board with additional information beyond fee title acquisition activities, the spreadsheet document also lists project proposals with potential habitat restoration, enhancement, and easement acquisition activities within each county.

With this information in mind, it is important to remember that these project proposals have not yet received funding. They are simply “proposals” at this time and this is the beginning of the process through which they are requesting funding. Consequently, I would urge you to reach out to the program managers of project proposals that propose activity in your county. The program managers will be able to provide you with detailed information including why, where, and how they hope to accomplish habitat work. Hopefully, increasing communication between County Boards and nongovernmental organizations who propose working in your county will provide greater knowledge, transparency, and overall collaboration.

Additionally, the LSOHC invites your County Board’s feedback regarding the program proposals seeking Outdoor Heritage funding for work in your county. The LSOHC will conduct proposal hearings on September 1-3, 2020. To be of greatest impact we suggest any feedback be submitted prior to the hearings. It is our hope that this opportunity will increase communication and lead to stronger and more widely supported project proposals in the future.

Ultimately, the Council's goal is to provide recommendations to the legislature for the use of Outdoor Heritage Fund monies to protect, restore, and enhance Minnesota's wildlife habitat resources to the benefit of future generations. With that responsibility in mind, the Council continuously strives to increase communication and promote inclusion of diverse partnerships. Your involvement and feedback can help the Council come to the best decisions.

For further information, please feel free to contact LSOHC staff. Their contact information is available on the LSOHC website; <https://www.lsohc.leg.mn/>.

Additionally, if your county agencies are interested in the potential of seeking OHF funding for a future project proposal, LSOHC members and staff are always available to discuss your ideas and offer our guidance.

Sincerely,

David Hartwell
Chairman
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council