



OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND

MARK JOHNSON, EXEC. DIRECTOR, LESSARD-SAMS OUTDOOR HERITAGE COUNCIL

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment

- Ratified by voters in November 2008
- 25-year life (expires 2034)
- Provided for a new .375% (3/8 of 1%) in sales tax with proceeds to fund CWLL purposes.
- Established 4 dedicated funds: clean water (33%), outdoor heritage (33%), parks and trails (14.25%), and arts and cultural heritage (19.75%)
- Approximately \$100 million annually to OHF
- Requires the Outdoor Heritage Fund to be used to “protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.”

Outdoor Heritage Fund - LSOHC

- ❑ OHF Statutory Guidance - MN Statute 97A.056
 - ❑ Formation of Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
 - ❑ Part of Legislative Branch
 - ❑ Makes funding recommendations to Legislature regarding the uses of Outdoor Heritage Funds
 - ❑ “directly relate to restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie.”
- ❑ Statute also requires a small grants program
 - ❑ CPL - Conservation Partners Legacy program
 - ❑ Small grants of \$5,000 to \$500,000.
 - ❑ Appropriated approximately \$9-10m annually

LSOHC Members -- Current

- **4 appointed by the Governor**

Jamie Swenson – (Cleveland)

David Hartwell - (Minneapolis)

Ashley Peters – (Twin Cities) – exp. 1/2/22, Replacement/Reappointment pending

Tom Saxhaug – (Grand Rapids) – exp. 1/2/22, Replacement/Reappointment pending

- **4 appointed by the Senate**

Sen. D. Scott Dibble (DFL) (Minneapolis)

Sen. Andrew Lang (IR) (Olivia)

Mark Holsten – (Stillwater)

Ron Schara (Vice-Chair) - (Ramsey)

- **4 appointed by the House of Representatives:**

Rep. (your name here?) (DFL) - previous Rep. not re-elected, replacement pending

Rep. Josh Heintzeman (IR) – (Baxter)

Dudley Edmondson - (Duluth)

Kristin Eggerling - (Hallock) – exp. 1/2/22, Replacement/Reappointment pending

Council's Annual Proposals Process

(15 month process)

April 1, 2023	Call for Funding Issued
May 26, 2023	Deadline: Call for funding proposals due
July 7, 2023	Deadline: LSOHC members submit program scorings based on pre-approved select criteria.
July 25, 2023	Council Meeting: Review proposals and select which proposals will move forward to Aug/Sept hearings
August 28-30, 2023	Council Meeting and Proposal Hearings
September 13, 2023	Deadline: LSOHC members submit individual allocation selections
October 5, 2023	Council Meeting: Initial allocation selection
October 23, 2023	Deadline: Draft accomplishment plans submitted that reflect allocation recommendations
November 16, 2023	Council Meeting: LSOHC members review draft accomplishment plans
December 7, 2023	Council Meeting: Final bill adopted for recommendation to legislature
June, 2024	Council Meeting: Final accomplishment plans approved
July 1, 2024	First day of project period

Council Review of Proposals

#1 Accountability

- Transparency, leveraging efforts & funds to ensure “protect, restore or enhance” outcomes

#2 Conservation focused

- Addresses conservation opportunities, provides multiple benefits that are timely & are of value to fish & wildlife

#3 Science-based

- Strategic, addresses Greatest Conservation Need, threatened & endangered species, coordinates with approved conservation plans (e.g. MN Statewide Conservation & Preservation Plan)

#4 Competitive Process

- Requests weighed for immediacy of need, capacity of org., rationality of proposal, costs vs leverage, community involvement, etc.

OHF Appropriations (ML2009-2022)

- In first 14 years (ML2009-2022)
 - MN Legislature allocated over **\$1.5 Billion** from Outdoor Heritage Fund to restore, enhance, and protect habitat throughout MN.
 - Additional **\$258 Million** already leveraged from federal, local, private funding.
 - **\$109,200,000** allocated to CPL small grants. CPL grants have generated approx. \$16 million match funding/in-kind contributions, engaging thousands of local volunteers.

OHF Appropriations (ML2009-2020)

cont.

- In first 14 years
 - **over 1.3 Million Acres** of MN wildlife habitats have already been restored, enhanced, and/or protected.
 - CPL small grants program has funded **over 900 grants** restoring, enhancing and/or protecting **over 339,000 acres**.
 - Over 230 grants awarded in 7-county metro area & within city limits of Duluth, Rochester, and St. Cloud.

Who gets OHF grants?

□ Govt agencies

- DNR
- BWSR

□ Local Govt Units

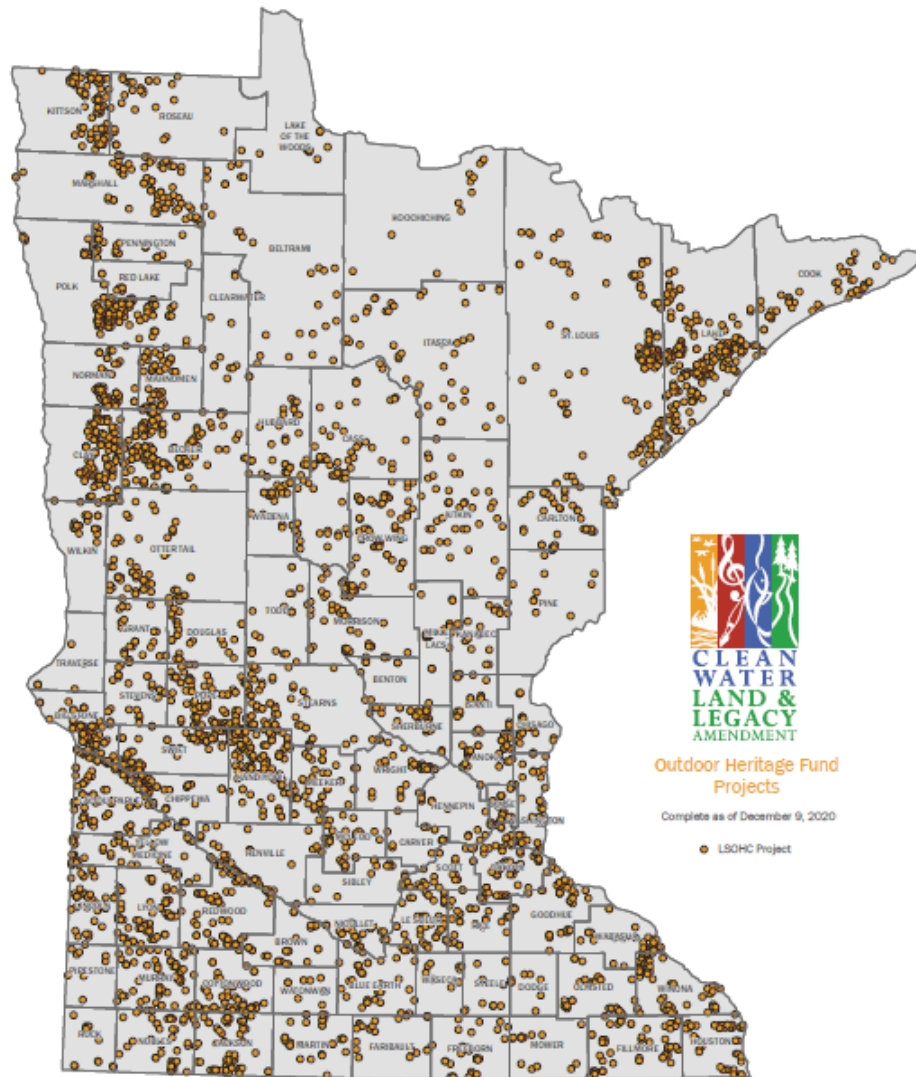
- Tribal Units
- Counties
- Cities
- SWCDs
- Watershed Districts
- Etc.

□ Non-Profit Orgs

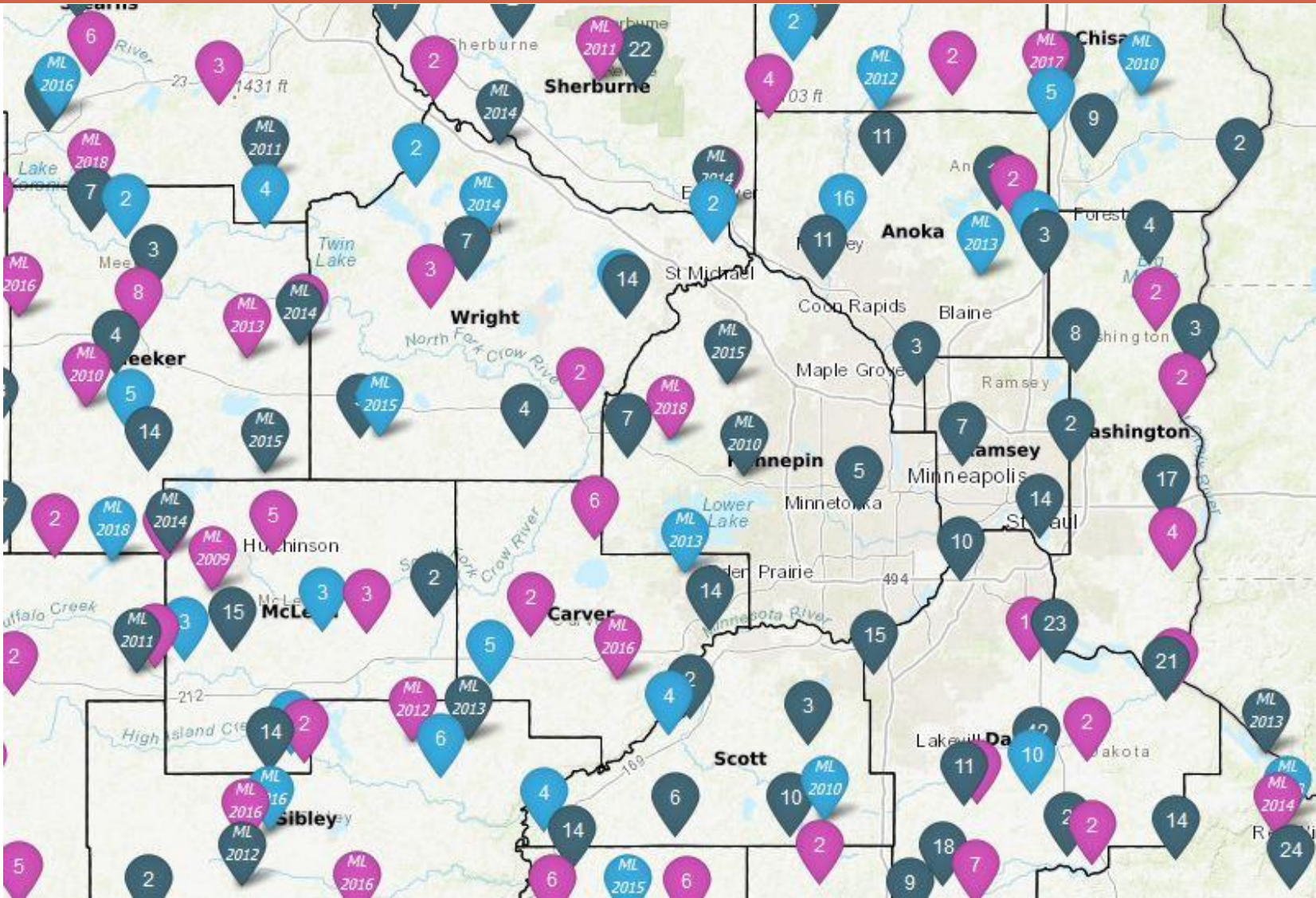
- TNC
- Pheasants Forever
- MN Land Trust
- Ducks Unlimited
- Trust for Public Land
- Trout Unlimited
- Friends of Miss. River
- Great River Greening
- N. Waters Land Trust
- Etc.

Outdoor Heritage Fund Completed Projects

<http://www.lsohc.mn.gov>



OHF Grants – Metro area



Wetland Restoration



Wetland Restoration



Marsh Lake Restoration

MARSH LAKE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

Lac Qui Parle, Swift, and Big Stone Counties, MN

\$13,230,000 Total Costs
(\$8,600,000 Federal, \$4,630,000
non-federal)

- water control structure
- Pomme de Terre re-route
- fish passage



Marsh Lake Restoration



Fishway Structure



Water Control Structure



Drawdown Response



ML2013 Swan Lake, Nicollet County

Water Level Management & Fish Barrier – 10,000 wetland acres enhanced

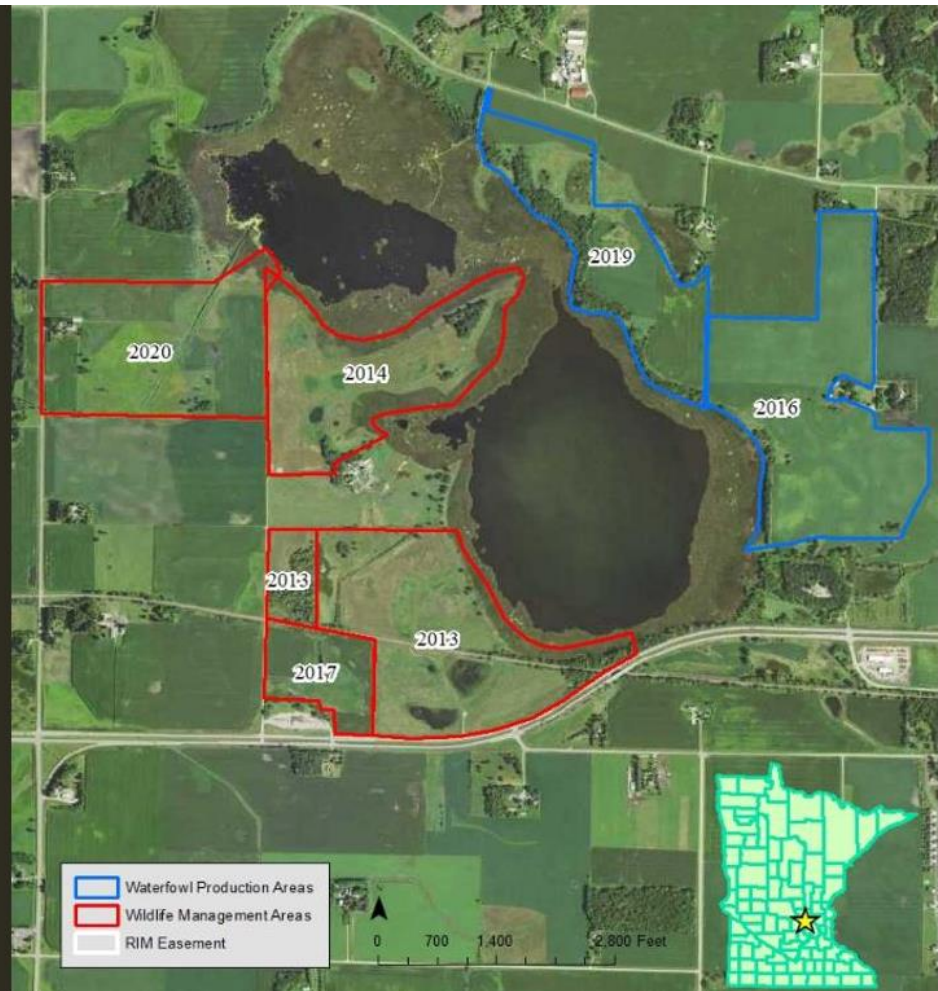


Tiger Lake WMA – Complex building

TIGER LAKE: BUILDING A HABITAT COMPLEX

Norwood Young America, MN

- 7 fee-title projects
- 560 acres protected
- 458 acres restored
- 57 private contractors utilized
- 35 total partners



Tiger Lake WMA – Complex building

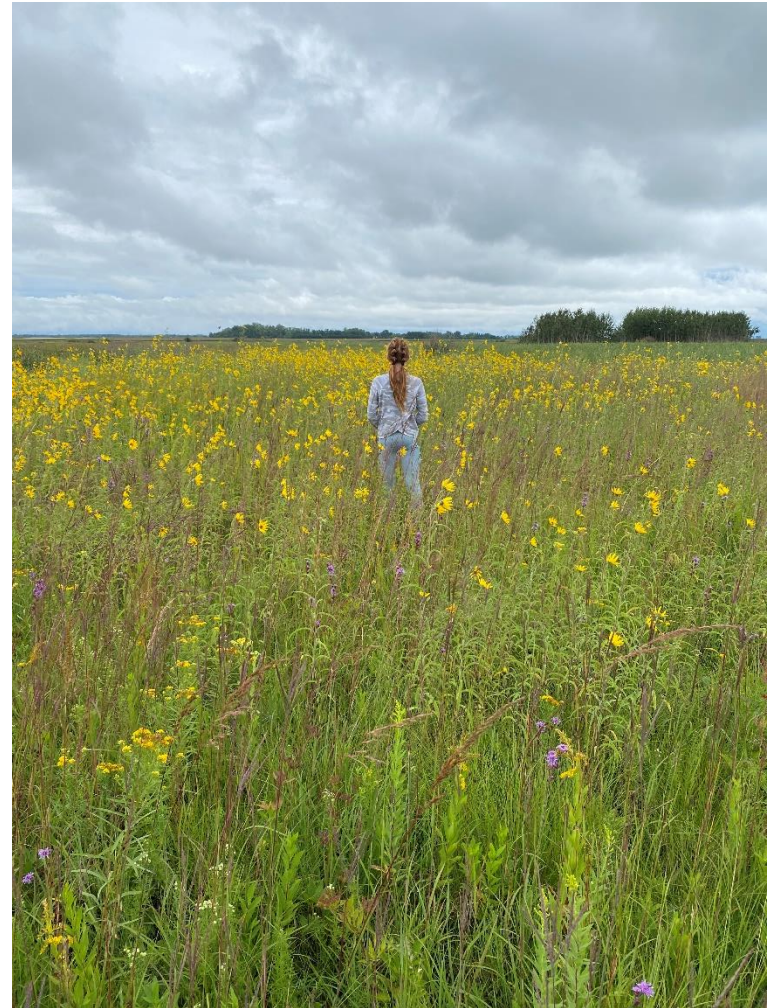


After Habitat Restoration

Invasive Hybrid Cattail – Removal & Treatment



Prairie / Grassland Restoration



OHF – Grassland Restoration



OHF – Grassland Restoration



DNR Roving Crews – Restore and Enhance



2016 Knowlton Creek Restoration St. Louis County

Pre-construction



Post-construction



OHF – Trout Stream (before)



OHF – Trout Stream (after)



Forest Enhancement



What about your district?

- Do your constituent LGUs/nonprofits have potential need for habitat project funding?
- We will meet with you and/or your people
 - ▣ Discuss needs & ideas
 - ▣ Walk them through the application process
- OHF dollars are to provide benefit ALL!
 - ▣ That's why projects are on permanently protected lands
 - ▣ That's why we are here to help.

Questions ?

<http://www.lsohc.mn.gov>

