

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road · Saint Paul, Minnesota · 55155-4037

Office of the Commissioner

651-259-5555



July 26, 2013

Mr. David Hartwell, Chair
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
95 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155
hartwell@bellcomb.com

Dear Mr. Hartwell:

It is the intent of the Department of Natural Resources to modify the approach of the Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program project selection process to allow for increased funding of metropolitan habitat projects. \$3,494,000 has been appropriated to the CPL grant program for Fiscal Year 2014. \$2,494,000 will be available for the traditional over \$25,000/under \$25,000 (O25/U25) grant cycle. Of this amount, a minimum of \$500,000 will be targeted to high quality habitat projects located within the seven-county metropolitan area (Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Carver, Scott, and Dakota) or within cities with a population of 50,000 people or greater (Duluth, Rochester, and Saint Cloud).

The application process, scoring, and ranking will not change. However, projects meeting the metropolitan location criteria will be systematically funded until a minimum of \$500,000 has been reached or until the demand for quality metropolitan habitat projects has been met.

The remaining \$1 million (and any leftover funds from the traditional grant cycle) will be available for grants up to \$50,000 through the continuous expedited conservation projects grant cycle (ECP). All ECP must be completed on public lands or waters open to all seasons of hunting and fishing. The application system for both the traditional O25/U25 cycle and the ECP cycle opens August 1, 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Tom Landwehr".

Tom Landwehr
Commissioner

TJL/JL/jls

