

From: [Mark Johnson](#)
To: [Lori Buggs](#)
Subject: LSOHC - Dakota County Amendment
Date: Friday, May 01, 2015 12:17:41 PM

Dear Council Members:

Agenda Item #9 from the Council's cancelled meeting of April 23, 2015 was an amendment from Dakota County. This amendment requested permission to retroactively add two parcels to Dakota County's ML2012 accomplishment plan's approved parcel list.

The parcels had previously been acquired with non-outdoor heritage funds by the County. The parcels had also been approved in a July 2013 resolution (#13-393) by the Dakota County Board for acquisition with OHF monies. Unfortunately, as described in the amendment a staff neglected to submit an amendment at that time amending the parcels to the approved parcel list.

This email is to keep you in the loop and inform you that I will be approving the County's amendment of the parcels onto the approved parcel list for ML2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5c, Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection and Management, Phase III.

The considerations leading to the rationale for my providing the approval are as follows:

1. To wait with approval until the Council's June 23rd meeting would not allow sufficient time within the appropriation timeline to accomplish these parcel acquisitions and delay would apparently cause additional negative effects upon other related acquisitions.
2. The parcels in themselves appear noncontroversial with no apparent reason why they would not have been approved if amendment would have been filed previously.
3. The Dakota County Board acted through Resolution #13-393 to approve acquisition using Outdoor Heritage Funds and followed due diligence by instructing County staff to petition amendment of the parcels at that time (unfortunately staff oversight prevented the amendment from being submitted in a timely manner).
4. County Administrative leadership has made significant corrective changes to prevent future oversights from happening. These steps include assigning a new Grant Program Manager, addition of fiscal administrative assistance, increased communications between the County's Land Conservation staff and the Environmental Resources Director, additional expenditure tracking, development of detailed internal grant timelines, etc.
5. With this amendment Dakota County will soon be able to finalize this appropriation.

If you have concerns regarding my decision, I will gladly receive your input.

Respectfully,

Mark

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