



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
The State of Minnesota

State Office Building, Room G95 100 Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

February 3, 2016

Board President, Jack Swanson
Association of Minnesota Counties
125 Charles Ave
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear President Swanson:

As you may be aware, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) annually solicits and considers for funding recommendation habitat conservation project proposals. Regarding this funding opportunity, my request is that you share this letter with your AMC members.

Primarily, I would like to encourage county leadership and staff to consider applying for Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) funding for habitat oriented conservation projects.

Each year the LSOHC recommends projects for funding by the legislature totaling approximately \$100 million. I encourage Counties to join agencies, NGOs and civic groups in applying for some of these funds through either of these two avenues:

- a) Requests for \$5,000 - \$400,000: Submit through the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant (CPL) Program administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) <http://www.dnr.gov/cpl>.
- b) Requests over \$400,000: Submit via the LSOHC website <http://www.lsohc.leg.mn>. A Call for Funding Request is issued in early April each year.

Projects eligible to receive funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund through either CPL or directly from the Council must be for habitat conservation and must "restore, protect, and enhance Minnesota's wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife."

For examples of past and current project proposals, all submitted project proposals are available on the LSOHC website at <http://www.lsohc.leg.mn>. Potential applicants can also contact LSOHC staff for further information or to simply discuss their project ideas.

The LSOHC takes seriously its statutory duty of providing recommendations to the legislature for funding habitat conservation projects with Outdoor Heritage Funds. With that responsibility in mind, the Council continuously strives to increase communication and promote inclusion of diverse partnerships. Ultimately, the Council's goal is to recommend the use of Outdoor Heritage Fund monies to guarantee a bright future for Minnesota's natural habitat resources for the benefit of future generations.

Sincerely,



Mark Wm. Johnson
Executive Director
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Cc: Members of the LSOHC