

Date: June 7, 2011  
To: LSOHC Members  
From: Bill Becker, Executive Director  
Re: Agenda Item 8: Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Subcommittee

### **Background**

When the Council organized itself, it created the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants (CPL) subcommittee to establish a framework for the statutorily required CPL program. Since implementation of the first Council appropriations recommendation, the CPL program has administered three rounds of funding from two appropriations. As the CPL program has evolved, the Council's role has evolved from one of creator to evaluator.

### **Consideration for Action**

Given the change in role of the Council we should consider whether or not it is in the best interest of the Council to continue the CPL subcommittee. Consideration is warranted for several reasons. In light of the Open Meeting Law, every subcommittee adds another quorum to consider, complicating meetings planning. Subcommittees increase the risk of "accidental meetings" at events such as the DNR Roundtable, where members need to be aware of gathering in a quorum of each LSOHC subcommittee as well as a quorum of the Council as a whole. Also, it is important for all Council members to be involved CPL evaluation. CPL is an initiative of the entire Council. Dissolving the CPL subcommittee will encourage the Council to work on the grants program as a whole.

In lieu of the CPL subcommittee, the Council could appoint a CPL liaison. That individual would work and meet with the CPL administration regularly and report back to the full Council any substantive developments regarding the program as well as deliver Council information and suggestions to CPL administration. As warranted the liaison can, with consultation of the chair, arrange for CPL testimony before the Council as a whole. Alternatively, as permitted by the Open Meeting Law, the liaison could ask fellow Council members to help evaluate the CPL program.

Appointment would be by the chair and be concurrent with the chair's term of office.

If members agree to this change, staff would prepare a change to the Council's Operating Procedures for adoption at a future Council meeting.

### **Suggested Motion:**

If the council wants to dissolve the CPL Grants Subcommittee and appoint a CPL Liaison the following motion is in order:

"Council member \_\_\_\_\_ moves to abolish the Council's Conservation Partners Subcommittee and replace it with a Conservation Partners Grant Program Liaison; require staff to draft an amendment to the operating procedure implementing the above action for Council consideration at its next meeting; and temporarily appoint Scott Rall as Conservation Partners Program Liaison pending adoption of revised Council Operating Procedures."