Thank you for inviting us!

What you asked:

- What should be the Council’s priorities for future funding recommendations – should the Council be refining its funding priorities to more adequately impact a certain geographic area, type of habitat, type of project/practice, specific species, etc.?

- What are your thoughts on OHF funding being appropriated to:
  - NGO partners for fee acquisitions of WMAs, SNAs, AMAs, etc.
  - Local SWCDs or WSDs for local/area projects
Agency Perspectives

Strategic  Targeted  Collaborative
Strategic
Prioritizing strategic project planning and implementation enables:

- Capturing multiple project co-benefits
- Leveraging funding opportunities
- Sustaining efforts with a programmatic approach
- Guidance by best available science

33 percent of the receipts shall be deposited in the outdoor heritage fund and may be spent only to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.
Project Example – Grand Marais Creek
Fall 2019 Water Storage Summary *(provided by RLWD)*

- Red Lake WD: 42,468 acre-feet, 66.36 square miles @ 1’ in depth
- Agassiz NWR: 76,478 acre-feet, 119.50 square miles @ 1’ in depth
- Thief Lake WMA: 33,000 acre-feet, 51.56 square miles @ 1’ in depth

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- Total = 151,946 acre-feet, 237.41 square miles @ 1’ in depth.
Project Example – St. Louis River Restoration Initiative

“One of the most important shallow water and wetland complexes on the Great Lakes, and deserves the attention it is finally receiving after so many years of past abuse and neglect.”

Rich Staffon, President, J. McCabe Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America

**RESTORE**
Productive, diverse habitat

**RECOVER**
Lost populations

**SUPPORT**
Lake Superior fisheries

**IMPROVE**
Sport fish populations

**ENHANCE**
A globally Important Bird Area

**INCREASE**
Access for all
Targeted
Prioritizing targeted project planning and implementation enables:

• Putting limited resources where they can do the most good
  • Directly for wildlife
  • Indirectly for ecosystem services

• Investing where we’ve invested previously – to build on past successes
Project Example – Worthington Wells
Targeted – Multi-benefit, Site-specific Example
Targeted – Locally-led Connectivity Example

Redwood County
Connectivity of Permanently Protected Lands

- State Owned Land
- Permanent Easements
Project Example – Wild Rice Conservation Easement Program
Targeted – Multi-mechanism, Resource-specific Example
Collaborative
Prioritizing **collaborative** project planning and implementation enables:

• Tapping into what’s most important for all Minnesotans
• Agencies and partners playing to our respective strengths
• Building support
• Greater involvement & engagement vs. agencies going it alone
Project Example – Camp Ripley Army Compatible Use Buffer
Project Example – Camp Ripley Army Compatible Use Buffer
Project Example – Big Rice Lake

Fond du Lac airboat cutting pickerelweed in 2012

Rice re-established after pickerelweed cutting in 2015
What we’ve learned, and looking forward

• Keep doing what you’re doing!
• Agencies are strategic, targeted and collaborative
• Partnerships are integral
• Our work has made a difference
• We need to tell the story of how this work benefits all Minnesotans, looking forward to re-passage
Public Value

Habitat | Drinking Water | Recreation | Water Storage Commerce | Resilient Landscapes
Brook trout rebound a surprise success from conservation efforts

Wholly dependent on very cold water, brook trout are perhaps Minnesota's most vulnerable finned species in an ever-warming temperatures.

Dennis Anderson @STREBDENNIS
AUGUST 27, 2019 — 8:45PM
• ...decades long population trend... brook trout have actually increased in number and size, not decreased, and that they’ve displaced brown trout.

• In the 1970s, 3 percent of southeast streams had brook trout. Today, 68 percent of streams in the same area have brook trout.

• The region’s improved land conservation practices have contributed to the brook trout rebound by lowering stream-water temperatures.

• Contour planting, grass waterways and riparian buffer strips are increasingly deployed by the region’s landowners to conserve soil and decrease runoff.

• Additionally, more of the region is forested than was a few decades ago.
33 percent of the receipts shall be deposited in the **outdoor heritage fund** and may be spent only to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.