

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item #11 B

DATE: May 26, 2021

SUBJECT: ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 5(d) - \$2,814,000 (NWLT \$883,000)
ML 2021, Ch. XX, Art 1, Sec, 2, subd 5(e) - \$2,838,000 (NWLT \$975,000)
Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic Northern Central MN Lakes, Phases 6 & 7

PRESENTER: Annie Johnson, Grants Manager, Northern Waters Land Trust
Bob Karls, Board Member, Northern Waters Land Trust

Suggested Motion:

Motion by Member XX to approve/deny the fee-title parcel acquisition and accomplishment plan amendment by Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) to purchase a total of 659 acres of various parcels at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million from [The Conservation Fund, which are part of the former Potlatch properties](#) along Kabekona River in Kabekona Lake watershed. Fee title budget from both ML 20 and ML 21 monies would be used towards the purchase. "Existing Protection" was answered affirmatively due to two stream access easements on four tracts dating from 1959 and 1980. An affirmative vote of 9 members is required.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 9, Lands in the Public Domain.

Money appropriated from the outdoor heritage fund shall not be used to purchase any land in fee title or a permanent conservation easement if the land in question is fully or partially owned by the state of Minnesota or a political subdivision of the state, unless: (1) the purchase creates additional direct benefit to protect, restore, or enhance the state's wetlands, prairies, forests, or habitat for fish, game, and wildlife; and (2) the purchase is approved by an affirmative vote of at least nine members of the council.

Background:

NWLT is in the process of acquiring a 659 acre parcel in Hubbard County that falls within a priority tullibee refuge lake watershed.

At issue with the acquisition are stream access easements on four tracts, dating from 1959 and 1980. Due to this river access easement, this parcel would need approval under 97A.056, subd. 9.

The supplemental benefits of acquiring this parcel, and acknowledgment of considering the easement value within the appraisal, are provided in the attached letter.

According to the AP amendment, the parcel will be conveyed to the MN DNR and managed by the Forestry Division.

Attachments:

May 3, 2021 letter from Annie Johnson, NWLT with request and parcel maps.