

Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council
Monday, December 1, 2008
1:00 pm
Room 10, State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Members Present: Sen. Ellen Anderson, Lester Bensch, James Cox, Wayne Enger, Rep. Bob Gunther, Rep. Rick Hansen, David Hartwell, Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen, Michael Kilgore, Darby Nelson, Scott Rall, Bob Schroeder

Call to Order

Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher, vice-chair of the Legislative Coordinating Commission, called the first meeting of the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council to order at 1:08 pm. A quorum was present.

Introductions

Mark Holsten, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), addressed the council. Commissioner Holsten explained the DNR was charged with providing the administrative support to the council. He then introduced Bill Becker and explained that Mr. Becker would be the acting executive director until the council established a structure and staff.

All the members of the council introduced themselves.

Review and Approve Agenda

Bob Schroeder moved to approve the agenda for December 1, 2008. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Former Senator Bob Lessard addressed the council.

Discussion of election of officers

Members discussed the election of officers. Speaker Kelliher suggested she convene the next meeting to give members time to get to know each other and to decide on a governance structure before electing a chair. Member discussion ensued.

Mr. Schroeder suggested electing an interim chair to serve until the next meeting. Sen. Anderson suggested establishing an interim subgroup to develop procedures and establish recommendations for the council.

Wayne Enger moved to nominate Michael Kilgore to serve as chair of the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council. Rep. Hansen moved to amend the Enger motion by adding “interim” before chair. Mr. Enger accepted the amendment.

Sen. Anderson moved for a unanimous voice vote in support of the nomination of Michael Kilgore as interim chair. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Michael Kilgore was elected to serve as interim chair by a unanimous voice vote.

Members then discussed the possible formation of a governance committee. Bob Schroeder, Rep. Rick Hansen, Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen, David Hartwell, Lester Bensch and Michael Kilgore volunteered to serve on the governance committee. Mr. Hartwell moved the council form a governance committee. **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Financial Update

Mike Roelofs, Executive Budget Coordinator for Minnesota Management and Budget, gave an overview of the budget and financial aspects of the 3/8ths amendment. Mr. Roelofs noted the importance to recognize that there is no money to spend yet. Mr. Roelofs explained the 3/8ths increment falls on the sales tax and pointed out the sales tax does fluctuate with the economy. Mr. Roeloffs stated that sales tax is collected by the state on a monthly basis so revenue will come in to the account relatively slowly. He then pointed out that all the money for FY 2010 may be appropriated this legislative session. Mr. Roelofs stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

Review of Statutes

Bill Becker reviewed Minnesota Statute 97A.056, the Outdoor Heritage Fund; Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council. Members raised questions regarding Subdivision 5, the provision relating to open meetings. Greg Knopff, Senate Council and Fiscal Services, addressed the council regarding open meeting requirements. He stated the open meeting requirement in the statute, chapter 13D, is that required of local government and differs from the open meeting requirement for the legislature. Questions were raised whether the governance subcommittee would have to comply with the open meeting law. Mr. Knopff pointed out the language in the Subdivision 5 states that groups established by the council are subject to chapter 13D. Discussion of the open meeting law was tabled.

Discussion how to recommendations to the Legislature:

Mr. Becker presented staff ideas on developing and making recommendations to the Legislature. Member discussion ensued. Mr. Nelson suggested inviting individuals from Missouri to speak to the model they developed. Mr. Schroeder suggested the council establish a strategic plan. Mr. Kilgore suggested scheduling listening sessions in different areas of state prior to setting the priorities of the council.

Sen. Anderson reviewed principles she had developed with Rep. Wagenious on providing accountability to Minnesotans.

Discussion regarding the open meeting requirements resumed. Mark Shepard, House Research, addressed the council. Mr. Shepard stated if a subgroup is established by the council and a quorum of that group meets, it would likely be subject to the open meeting law. Mr. Shepard noted it would be prudent to assume the council is subject to the open meeting law if a quorum

of a subgroup meets and they are discussing public business. In relation to public notice of meetings, Mr. Shepard explained chapter 13D generally requires three days notice of a meeting.

Future meeting schedule

Members discussed possible dates for the next meetings of the council. It was decided the governance subcommittee will meet Monday, December 8th from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm and the full council will meet on Wednesday, December 17th at 1:00 pm.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Speaker Kelliher adjourned the meeting of the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council at 3:25 pm.