

1.1 ..... moves to amend H.F. No. 3726 as follows:

1.2 Page 26, after line 31, insert:

1.3 "Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 97A.056, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.4 Subd. 3. **Council recommendations.** (a) The council shall make recommendations to  
 1.5 the legislature on appropriations of money from the outdoor heritage fund that are consistent  
 1.6 with the constitution and state law and that will achieve the outcomes of existing natural  
 1.7 resource plans, including, but not limited to, the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and  
 1.8 Preservation Plan, that directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of  
 1.9 wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest  
 1.10 fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie. In making  
 1.11 recommendations, the council shall consider a range of options that would best restore,  
 1.12 protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.  
 1.13 The council's recommendations shall be submitted no later than January 15 each year. The  
 1.14 council shall present its recommendations to the senate and house of representatives  
 1.15 committees with jurisdiction over the environment and natural resources budget by February  
 1.16 15 in odd-numbered years, and within the first four weeks of the legislative session in  
 1.17 even-numbered years. The council's budget recommendations to the legislature shall be  
 1.18 separate from the Department of Natural Resource's budget recommendations.

1.19 (b) To encourage and support local conservation efforts, the council shall establish a  
 1.20 conservation partners program. Local, regional, state, or national organizations may apply  
 1.21 for matching grants for restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies,  
 1.22 forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, prevention of forest fragmentation,  
 1.23 encouragement of forest consolidation, and expansion of restored native prairie.

2.1 (c) The council may work with the Clean Water Council to identify projects that are  
2.2 consistent with both the purpose of the outdoor heritage fund and the purpose of the clean  
2.3 water fund.

2.4 (d) The council may make recommendations to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on  
2.5 Minnesota Resources on scientific research that will assist in restoring, protecting, and  
2.6 enhancing wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, preventing  
2.7 forest fragmentation, encouraging forest consolidation, and expanding restored native prairie.

2.8 (e) Recommendations of the council, including approval of recommendations for the  
2.9 outdoor heritage fund, require an affirmative vote of at least nine members of the council.

2.10 (f) The council may work with the Clean Water Council, the Legislative-Citizen  
2.11 Commission on Minnesota Resources, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, soil and  
2.12 water conservation districts, and experts from Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
2.13 and the University of Minnesota in developing the council's recommendations.

2.14 (g) The council shall develop and implement a process that ensures that citizens and  
2.15 potential recipients of funds are included throughout the process, including the development  
2.16 and finalization of the council's recommendations. The process must include a fair, equitable,  
2.17 and thorough process for reviewing requests for funding and a clear and easily understood  
2.18 process for ranking projects.

2.19 (h) The council shall use the regions of the state based upon the ecological sections and  
2.20 subsections developed by the Department of Natural Resources and establish objectives for  
2.21 each region and subregion to achieve the purposes of the fund outlined in the state  
2.22 constitution.

2.23 (i) The council shall develop and submit to the Legislative Coordinating Commission  
2.24 plans for the first ten years of funding, and a framework for 25 years of funding, consistent  
2.25 with statutory and constitutional requirements. The council may use existing plans from  
2.26 other legislative, state, and federal sources, as applicable.

2.27 (j) By July 1 each year, the council shall provide counties with a list of project proposals  
2.28 that include potential fee title land acquisitions in the county that is based on that year's  
2.29 funding requests received by the council from nongovernmental organizations.

2.30 (k) The council must require an applicant for funding from the outdoor heritage fund to  
2.31 submit a cost benefit analysis of the proposed project as part of the process established  
2.32 under paragraph (g)."

2.33 Amend the title accordingly