

LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

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LCCMR visiting southwest Metro area natural resources sites

Regional issues to be explored and discussed with experts

SAINT PAUL, MN (09/23/2011) -- The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) – the group that makes project funding recommendations to the state legislature on expenditures from Minnesota’s constitutionally dedicated Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (commonly referred to as the “lottery money”) – will be visiting sites throughout the southwest Twin Cities metro area on Wednesday, September 28. LCCMR members are visiting the sites to experience them firsthand while meeting with natural resource professionals to learn about important natural resources issues in the areas. Information gathering activities such as these play a critical role in guiding the LCCMR’s process for determining which projects are the best public investments for the hundreds of millions of dollars generated to-date by the Minnesota State Lottery for environment and natural resources projects around the state.

The LCCMR is scheduled to visit five sites over the course of the day. At each site, the groups will see the area and hear presentations from scientists, government agency officials, and other natural resources professionals about the sites themselves and the various natural resources issues that pertain to them.

When: Wednesday, September 28, 2010.

What: Site visits and expert presentations on various natural resources issues in the southwest Twin Cities metro area, including aquatic invasive species (local watershed efforts and DNR boat cleaning stations for zebra mussels), environmental education, metropolitan regional parks and trails, groundwater and habitat interaction, geologic atlases, and a variety of different land and habitat restoration and protection issues,

Who: Presentations from representatives of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Conservation Corps Minnesota, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Three Rivers Park District, and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Where: Various natural resources sites in the southwest Twin Cities metro area including Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center near Carver, MN; Seminary Fen near Chaska, MN; University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum near Chaska, MN; Gales Woods Farm near Minnetrista, MN; and Lake Minnetonka Gray’s Bay Public Water Access near Wayzata, MN.

Additional details, including a site visit agenda and driving directions, are available at <http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/Meetings/LCCMRMeetings.html> or by contacting Mike Banker at the LCCMR.

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)

The LCCMR is made up of 17 members (5 Senators, 5 Representatives, 5 citizens appointed by the governor, and one citizen each appointed by the Senate and the House). The function of the LCCMR is to make funding recommendations to the Minnesota State Legislature for special environment and natural resource projects, primarily from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These projects help maintain and enhance Minnesota’s environment and natural resources. The LCCMR developed from a program initiated in 1963. Since 1963, over \$650 million has been appropriated to more than 1,300 projects recommended by the Commission to protect and enhance Minnesota’s environment and natural resources. Visit www.lccmr.leg.mn.

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