

LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LCCMR NAMES NEW DIRECTOR

(St. Paul, MN, May 5, 2008) – The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR or ‘Commission’) today announced it has appointed Susan Thornton as its new Director. Thornton was previously Assistant Director for the Commission and has been serving as Acting Director since March.

“Susan Thornton is a seasoned professional with all the background necessary to help the LCCMR succeed in its mission,” said former LCCMR Director John Velin. “After 32 years working for the Commission I know the job very well. Susan’s knowledge, integrity, and leadership make her uniquely suited for navigating the diverse challenges and opportunities that come before the Commission Director.”

Thornton replaces Velin, whose retirement in March brought to a close his 20-year tenure as Director and 32 total years with the Commission. Thornton was appointed Director by the full LCCMR after an open, two-month-long search process that drew more than 50 applicants. She becomes the third person to serve as Director for the Commission since its inception in 1963.

Thornton first joined the Commission staff in 1989 as Manager of Research and Planning. She has been the Assistant Director since 2002. With her role as Director becoming permanent, Thornton will oversee annual allocations equaling approximately \$23 million, and growing, from the Trust Fund to projects maintaining or enhancing the environment and natural resources of Minnesota. Currently this includes approximately 230 open projects appropriated a total of about \$80 million.

“In its 45 years, the Commission has been fortunate to have consistently had a professional, well-respected staff recognized particularly for their objective natural resource expertise,” explains Thornton. “This is a legacy I intend to maintain as Director because it is critical to our credibility as an organization and in the services we provide in our work with the public and the legislature.”

Thornton’s previous professional experience includes work in program development for the Minnesota Waste Management Board, as a research fellow for Argonne National Laboratory, and as legislative staff for the U.S. House of Representatives. Additionally, Thornton has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and a Master of Science degree in Land Resources and Energy Analysis and Policy from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

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 1 citizen appointed by each the Senate and the House). The function of the LCCMR (formerly LCMR) 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. Prior to May 1, 2008 over \$600 million has been appropriated to more than 1,250 projects recommended to protect and enhance Minnesota’s environment and natural resources.

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Sen. Ellen Anderson, Alfred Berner, Jeff Broberg, Rep. Lyndon Carlson, Sen. Satveer Chaudhary, Rep. Ron Erhardt, Sen. Dennis Frederickson, Nancy Gibson, David Hartwell, John Herman, John Hunt, Mary Mueller, Sen. Pat Pariseau, Rep. Tom Rukavina, Rep. Kathy Tinglestad, Sen. Jim Vickerman, Rep. Jean Wagenius