

LCCMR Team - 2

Ideas for various funding alternatives

Make no small plans. They have no magic to stir humanity's blood
and probably themselves will not be realized.
Make big plans; aim high in hope and work,
remembering that a noble, logical plan once recorded will never die,
but long after we are gone will be a living thing,
asserting itself with ever-growing insistency.
Remember that our sons and daughters are going to do things that will stagger us.
Let your watchword be order and your beacon, beauty.
Think big. *Daniel Burnham; US Architect, 19th Century;*

Potential alternatives (ways to split up the pie)

1. **Six areas listed in the constitution/116P.08** (see at end of document): air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources (outdoor recreation). Solicit proposals based on these categories.
2. **Focused priorities** – Describe focus areas in a solicitation that are a subset of the constitutional priorities.
3. **Focused priorities with predetermined allocations (percentage)** - solicitation identifies for each focus area and what percentage of the recommendation will be allocated to each area.
4. **Focused priorities with predetermined allocations (percentage) with the majority (e.g. 50% or more) of the funding for one major area.** - Solicitation identifies the major focus area and an amount allocated to it. Have some other categories that could be recommended for the rest of the funds.
5. **Focused (Theme) solicitation – all funding to one theme area per funding round.**
6. **Other?**

Following are ideas/themes gathered from the 2003 and 2006 citizen surveys, previously funded LCMR projects, a variety of public and private organization strategic plans, the strategic plans of the 10 other states with similar trust funds, and LCCMR staff. This is a summary of a longer more detailed list.

They are sorted by the constitutional areas of air, land water, fish, wildlife and other natural resources; by other themes that do not fit in to only one of the constitutional categories; and broader conservation strategies and methods.

AIR

- a. **Air quality/global warming**
- b. **Citizens air quality monitoring program**
- c. **Environmental assessment of air quality** - on people, plants and animals
- d. **Energy** (clean/alternative/sustainable energy generation and transmission,
- e. **Green energy** – energy conservation, green building and greener transportation
- f. **Ethanol** – consider all impacts of ethanol use (corn or other base)
- g. **Reduce dependence on oil and coal, cleaner burning coal**
- h. **Diesel exhaust, especially school buses**
- i. **Other ideas???**

LAND

- a. **Acquisition** – major effort to acquire remaining ecologically significant lands

- b. **Bio-region (green lining) planning/management** – A combination of public ownership, conservation easements and private conservation
- c. **Certification programs** – for sustainable land use (forest management ag, lakeshore, residential etc...)
- d. **Ecological zones**- Focus on specific zones (e.g. northwoods, central lakes, prairie/farmlands etc...) include a map
- e. **Ecological area** - different ecological types (e.g. lakes/rivers/wetlands/shoreland, coniferous forest, deciduous forest, prairie. Choose one or more types.
- f. **Habitat (land conservation)** – Conserve bird, wildlife and aquatic habitat. Restore land and aquatic native plant communities and remove exotic species.
- g. **Land Use** – Conservation approach. Efforts to update land use plans at state, county, watershed, local levels. Plans, incentives, controls, education.
- h. **“Highest and best use” for land** – Crop, forest, residential, urban Planning and incentives to better match land attributes with actual use.
- i. **Major ecological restoration of public lands** -Restore highest quality areas, areas along public water bodies and areas that enhance natural area connectivity.
- j. **Green networks/connections (corridors)/greenbelts**–connect and interconnect natural resources as well as providing green connections for people.
- k. **Green infrastructure** –demonstrate green infrastructure (transportation, sanitary waste disposal, storm water management, utilities, energy creation/transmission)
- l. **Green businesses**-development and expansion of green businesses/ green business practices.
- m. **Multi-purpose green space**–multiple conservation benefits (water quality/storm water mgmt., habitat, outdoor recreation access, hunting and fishing)
- n. **Improved conservation of developed, developing and working lands** (housing and other urbanization, agriculture, forestry, mining)
- o. **Increased conservation of sensitive lands** – CBS identified areas, Critical areas Wild and Scenic Rivers, St; Croix River, Lake Superior Coastal Zone, BWCA etc
- p. **Other ideas???**

WATER

- a. **Address water pollution** – hormones and pharmaceuticals entering the water through the sanitary waste stream
- b. **Clean water cabinet effort** - see EQB web site
- c. **Clean Water Legacy** –Establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), fund demonstration projects that show various ways to meet the established TMDL
- d. **Development Impacts** – study development impacts including boating on water resources and recommend mitigation strategies.
- e. **Drinking water** – tie other water conservation efforts to maintaining and preserving high quality drinking water
- f. **Impaired waters/TMDLs**, establishing TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) and plans to reach the TMDLs (Based on 1972 Federal Clean Waters Act)
- g. **Improved ongoing monitoring of lakes, rivers and other waters of the state**
- h. **Increase shoreland management** - increase natural/native vegetation riparian buffers
- i. **Innovative storm water management** (rain gardens, green roofs, infiltration swales) minimize impervious surfaces, agriculture practices, riparian buffers, wetlands
- j. **Lake and watershed association (new bioregion associations)** – empower local non-profit groups, fund local water management plans
- k. **“Plumbing”** – storm water piping/ponds, agriculture tiling, sanitary sewers/septic systems, private and municipal wells –
- l. **Review dams and other water impoundments and their affect on the environment** – also review affects of the State’s “ditch” law.
- m. **Sensitive waters** – Trout Streams, springs, Fens

- n. **Water supply** - Statewide surface and ground water inventory, assessment and conservation plan -
- o. **Water** – protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance public waters (including ground water management, lake management and shoreland management)--
- p. **Water quantity** – geology. MGS/ground water hydrology, hydrogeology, USGS, (Review uses: industrial, agriculture/irrigation, domestic/household ethanol etc.)
- q. **Wetlands/WCA** – review effectiveness of the Wetland Conservation Act,
- r. **Other ideas???**

FISH

- a. **Improve aquatic habitat**- increase health and biodiversity of aquatic habitat
 - (exotic species reduce mercury, water control structures/fish passage)
- b. **Shoreline preservation and restoration** - regulation, demonstration projects, public education efforts
- c. **Other ideas???**

WILDLIFE

- **Improve habitat** – connections, increase health and diversity, control exotic species
- **Expand WMA system** - focus on adding upland around existing WMAs that area mostly wetland
- a. **Forest habitat** –sustainable forestry/ forest stewardship, protect old growth areas, forest certification
- b. **Non-game species** - ensure that this type of habitat is a priority too on WMAs as well as SNAs and other public and private conservation lands
- c. **Species diversity and health** – address monocultures of row crops, single species forests, wetland communities of primarily cattails
- d. **Restore the “Flyway”** – ecological restoration and adding more protected stop-overs along the way
- e. **Roadless areas** – viability and protection of existing roadless areas and expansion where possible
- f. **Wildlife research**-chronic wasting disease, west nile virus, bird flu, vehicle collisions
- g. **Other ideas???**

OTHER NATURAL REOSURCES - SCORP (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan)

- a. **Address motorized recreation** – Identify areas that should not be open to it, limit damage to plants and wildlife and stop erosion. Water surface use.
- b. **BMPs** – research, recommend most effective methods, demonstrate their use, provide education, promote BMP use.
- c. **Connect State Park System to State Trail System and other conservation lands**–for people and plants and wildlife based on a statewide NRI/A
- d. **Historic sites** – acquire/restore historic sites of national or statewide significance
- e. **Historic/cultural sites** – joint ownership/management of cultural and natural sites
- f. **Hunting** – grants for hunting clubs and shooting ranges – focus on youth
- g. **Local grants** –parks, trails and natural resource conservation areas
- h. **Metro/Regional Parks** - acquisition and ecological and restoration
- i. **Motorized recreation** – expand, connect and upgrade ATV & snowmobile trails
- j. **New and expanded State units** - Parks, SNAs, WMAs
- k. **Recreation and environment**– Acquisition, ecological restoration and development of parks, trails, passive recreation, hunting and fishing opportunities.
- l. **SCORP** – tie funding for this category to the most recent SCORP plan.
- m. **Other ideas???**

OTHER IDEAS

- a. **Agriculture** - Ways to improve agricultural stewardship.
- b. **Conserve** - land, water, energy, other resources. Reduce/reuse/recycle.
- c. **Economic development** - as well and conservation. Tourism, sustainable agriculture/forestry/mining/energy
- d. **Human generated wastes** – Improve the management of solid wastes (reduce/reuse/recycle) and sanitary waste.
- e. **Human health**- improve air, water and natural environment for people; outdoor recreation/exercise; better understand connection between health & environment
- f. **Mining** – sustainable mining practices, mine reclamation.
- g. **Natural resource risk management** – human habitation compatibility with fire, flood, unsuitable soils (building/sanitary waste/potable water)
- h. **Pollution prevention/abatement/mitigation** -- air, land and water
- i. **Population growth/immigration and affect on natural resources** – research and develop potential mitigation strategies to minimize environmental affects
- j. **Sprawl** – Seek ways to reduce sprawl and use land in a more conservation manner. Help communities promote alternative growth patterns
- k. **Transportation** – impact on natural resources; more sustainable road design and locations and their affect on sprawl; trails, air quality sustainable fuels,
- l. **Other ideas???**

CONSERVATION STRATEGIES/METHODS

- a. **Citizen involvement/ Public participation** – Citizen environmental literacy and conservation ethic. More citizen monitoring and participation in management
- b. **Conservation tools** – projects that do research, education/training, inventory and assessment; planning and implementation, acquisition, easements, restoration;
- c. **Equal access** – ensure equal access to the state’s natural resource so that people don’t have to able to afford resources in order to enjoy them.
- d. **Federal Farm program(s)** – cooperation to leverage the program(s) to enhance conservation in the agricultural parts of the state
- e. **Demonstration projects** – innovative and affective ways to conserve natural resources/environment. Replicable projects that can accelerate conservation.
- f. **Education/training for conservation planning and development** –local units of government/landowners/designers/engineering doing conservation development
- g. **Environmental education**, Greenprint for MN Environmental Education (update and major effort to implement), support Environmental Learning Centers.
- h. **Generic Environmental Impact Statement**, statewide, base line data besides TMDLs, air, habitat etc. so progress/loss can be better measured and addressed
- i. **Government environmental programs** – evaluate the effectiveness – like ongoing debate about the way the state and other fund water programs
- j. **Incentives for local unit of government conservation efforts** – grants to LUGs to adopt conservation plans, zoning and ordinances. Conservation tax provisions.
- k. **Inventory and assessment of land and water**–complete the County Biological Survey (CBS), geological survey, ground water inventory, soil survey etc...
- l. **Local capacity building** – Local units of governmental (SWCDs, NGOs, private sector? individuals, etc...)
- m. **Longer term projects** – some funding for projects up to 10 years long – especially research projects
- n. **Marketing Campaign** – Conservation/environmental message - Spread message to the public to “influence” behavior to benefit the environment.

- o. Results** – state the specific desired results in RFP.(conserve x acres of wetlands, complete x local natural resources inventories, add x acres the various DNR units
- p. Sustainable government policies at all levels of government** – evaluate and redirect government spending to consider the environmental impact in decisions.
- q. Tax code** – how could it be modified to provide incentives to be much more conservation-oriented -- tax pollution
- r. Technology** –Fund technology to leverage conservation work for land managers, (Web based tools, GIS capabilities, specialized software, specialized equipment)
- s. Other ideas???**

Sources:

- **2003 LCMR survey**
276 citizens - 57%
73 non-profits – 15%
66 LUGs – 14%
37 State and Federal Agency – 8%
22 U of MN and MNSCU
14 private sector – 5%
- **2006 LCMR survey**
- 254 responses from people in greater MN
- 191 responses from people in the 7-county metro
- 21 response did not identify a location
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- **Previously funded LCMR proposals - 1990 through 2006**
- **Strategic Plans related to natural resource conservation in Minnesota – public and non-profit:** US Department of Interior, USFWS, US Forest Service, DNR, BWSR, Metropolitan Council, MN Environmental Partnership, Sierra Club, Fresh Energy, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, American Planning Association etc...
- **Other States Trust Funds:** Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia
- **LCCMR staff**
- **Other?**

9/1/06

Sec. 14. ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FUND. A permanent environment and natural resources trust fund is established in the state treasury. Loans may be made of up to five percent of the principal of the fund for water system improvements as provided by law. The assets of the fund shall be appropriated by law for the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. The amount appropriated each year of a biennium, commencing on July 1 in each odd-numbered year and ending on and including June 30 in the next odd-numbered year, may be up to 5-1/2 percent of the market value of the fund on June 30 one year before the start of the biennium. Not less than 40 percent of the net proceeds from any state-operated lottery must be credited to the fund until the year 2025. [Adopted, November 8, 1988; Amended, November 6, 1990; November 3, 1998]

116P.08 Trust fund expenditures; exceptions; plans.

Subdivision 1. Expenditures. Money in the trust fund may be spent only for:

- (1) the reinvest in Minnesota program as provided in section [84.95](#), subdivision 2;
- (2) research that contributes to increasing the effectiveness of protecting or managing the state's environment or natural resources;
- (3) collection and analysis of information that assists in developing the state's environmental and natural resources policies;
- (4) enhancement of public education, awareness, and understanding necessary for the protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancement of air, land, water, forests, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources;
- (5) capital projects for the preservation and protection of unique natural resources;
- (6) activities that preserve or enhance fish, wildlife, land, air, water, and other natural resources that otherwise may be substantially impaired or destroyed in any area of the state;
- (7) administrative and investment expenses incurred by the State Board of Investment in investing deposits to the trust fund; and
- (8) administrative expenses subject to the limits in section [116P.09](#).

Subd. 2. **Exceptions.** Money from the trust fund may not be spent for:

- (1) purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response actions under chapter 115C;
- (2) purposes of municipal water pollution control under the authority of chapters 115 and 116;
- (3) costs associated with the decommissioning of nuclear power plants;
- (4) hazardous waste disposal facilities;
- (5) solid waste disposal facilities; or
- (6) projects or purposes inconsistent with the strategic plan.