
Susan Thornton, Director

MINUTES

March 14, 2011

4:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Room 200, State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Members Present: Al Berner, Jeff Broberg, Tom Cook, Sen. Al DeKruif, Rep. David Dill, Nancy Gibson, Rep. Tom Hackbarth, Sen. Linda Higgins, Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen, Rep. Denny McNamara, Norman Moody, Sen. Gen Olson, Rep. Tom Rukavina, Rep. Ron Shimanski, Sen. Rod Skoe, Elizabeth Wilke

Staff Present: S. Thornton, S. Shreffler, M. McDonough, M. Banker, D. Griffith

Members Excused: John Herman

Co-Chair: Rep. Tom Hackbarth

1. Approve agenda for LCCMR meeting for March 14, 2011

Commissioner Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Gibson moved:

- (1) Agenda Item 9 "LCCMR Administrative Budget, FY2012-2013" to be discussed at an Executive Committee Meeting that would include the Environment Finance Chairs;
- (2) have a discussion during agenda item 10 regarding the 14 projects remaining on the proposed deletion list from H.F. 400; and
- (3) change the adjournment of today's meeting from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Commissioner Gibson called for a vote.

Co-Chair Hackbarth said he could agree with the first 2 items on Commissioner Gibson's motion but disagreed with extending the meeting until 10:00 p.m.

Commissioner McNamara stated that anyone is invited to speak on any of the projects at the House Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee meetings on Tuesday, March 15 and Wednesday, March 16 regarding the LCCMR Recommendations.

MOTION: Commissioner Gibson renewed her motion to move:

- (1) Agenda Item 9 "LCCMR Administrative Budget, FY2012-2013" to be discussed at an Executive Committee Meeting that would include the Environment Finance Chairs;
 - (2) have a discussion during agenda item 10 regarding the 14 projects remaining on the proposed deletion list from H.F. 400; and
 - (3) change the adjournment of today's meeting from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- motion prevailed. Division requested (7-Yes / 6-No)

2. Members approve minutes for March 7, 2011

MOTION: Commissioner Dill moved to approve the minutes for March 7, 2011 – motion prevailed.

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3. **Members report potential conflicts of interest regarding today's business**

Members reported no conflicts of interest for today's meeting.

4. **Adopt 2011-2012 LCCMR Calendar**

MOTION: Commissioner Gibson moved to adopt the 2011-2012 LCCMR Calendar – motion prevailed.

Commissioner McNamara stated that there should be a reduction of site visits for the upcoming biennium.

5. **Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) request for Dedicated Funding Website Development**

Susan Thornton explained this request is from the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) for \$3,000 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for continuation of the development of the Minnesota Legacy website for Dedicated Funds.

Commissioner Gibson asked why the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo and Legacy logo are not on the front page of the Minnesota Legacy website. Greg Hubinger (Director, LCC) was asked to respond. Mr. Hubinger stated that they are in the process of exploring how to get the logos on the front page of the website.

MOTION: Co-Chair Hackbarth moved to recommend to the legislature:

LCC Web Site

\$3,000 in the first year is appropriated to the Legislative Coordinating Commission for the web site required in section 3.303, subdivision 10.

- Motion prevailed.

6. **Presentations of FY 2012-2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund recommendations for which more information has been requested. (See attached list for times.)**

Subd. 3e Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas \$330,000

Gerald Niemi (U of MN, NRRI), Ann Kessen (MN Ornithology Union) and Scott Lanyon (U of MN) presented.

Subd. 3j Prairie Management for Wildlife and Bioenergy – Phase II \$950,000

Clarence Lehman (U of MN) and Ken Valentas (U of MN) presented.

Commissioner McNamara asked if the amount was reduced how that would impact the project. Mr. Lehman said that the reduced dollars would reduce the match amount received from federal dollars.

Subd. 7f Conservation Corps Training and Low Income Solar Home Heating Installation \$500,000

Len Price (Conservation Corps Minnesota), Jason Evans (Rural Reliance Energy Alliance (RREA)), and Cindy Green (Conservation Corps Minnesota) presented.

Subd. 8a Minnesota Schools Conserving Energy and Water \$825,000

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Patrick Santelli, (U of MN, Schools Conserving Water and Energy), Joel Haskard (U of MN, Schools Conserving Water and Energy), Allison Fischbach (Rosemount High School), and Emily Luckhardt (Rosemount High School) presented.

Subd. 8c Minnesota Junior Master Naturalist Program \$365,000

Rob Blair (U of MN) presented.

7. Discussion of Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund recommendations for which more information was requested (March 7 and March 14 presentations)

Agenda Item 7 was moved for discussion during Agenda Item 10.

8. Presentation and Discussion of Possible Legislative Funding Initiatives identified at the February 28 and March 7, 2011 LCCMR meetings (times subject to change):

6:30 p.m. Wild Rice and Sulfide Impacts and Standards (MPCA)

Shannon Lotthammer (MN Pollution Control Agency) presented.

6:50 p.m. Chronic Wasting Disease and Animal Health (DNR)

Lou Cornicell (MN DNR) and Mike DonCarlos (MN DNR) presented.

7:10 p.m. Emerald Ash Borer (MDA and DNR)

Robert C Venette (USDA Forest Service), Brian Aukema (U of MN), Mark Abrahamson (MN Dept. of Agriculture), Monika Chandler (MN Dept. of Agriculture), Geir Friisoe (MN Dept. of Agriculture), and Susan Burks (MN DNR) presented.

7:30 p.m. Aquatic Invasive Species including Asian Carp, Zebra Mussels, Quagga Mussels, and Spiney Water Flea (DNR, USFWS, U of MN)

Luke Skinner (MN DNR), Michael Hoff (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and Peter Sorenson (U of MN) presented.

7:50 p.m. Coon Rapids Dam (Three Rivers Park District)

Boe Carlson (Three Rivers Park District), Dale Homuth (MN DNR), and Cris Gears (Three Rivers Park District) presented.

9. Discussion: Emerging Issues Account LCCMR Administrative Budget, FY 2012-2013

Susan Thornton reviewed the Emerging Issues Account statute and process.

MOTION: Co-Chair Hackbarth moved to not have an Emerging Issues Account for the next two years – Co-Chair Hackbarth revised his motion to table for future discussion. Members agreed.

10. Discussion of revisions to FY 2012-2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund recommendations and agenda item 7

Commissioner Gibson started the discussion on the fourteen projects that were removed on February 28, 2011 and not reinstated to date for more information. Commissioner Gibson wanted to know how members did on the scoring of the LCCMR recommendations presented; what they

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were going to do with the five topics that presented today; and what are the thoughts of the LCCMR members. Commissioner Gibson requested a group discussion.

Commissioner Higgins asked about the five new topic presentations tonight. Commissioner Higgins explained the only one that appears to need some attention is the Emerald Ash Borer and that she is concerned that if monies were spent from the trust fund instead of general fund for the topics presented it would be supplanting.

Commissioner McNamara handed out three documents: 1) House Research Amendment H0400A3; 2) Spreadsheet titled "FY 2012-13 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (3/14/2011 Proposal); and 3) LCCMR Proposal (HF400 with the following changes) dated March 14, 2011. (See Attachments #1, 2, 3.). Commissioner McNamara reiterated that anyone is invited to speak on any of the projects at the House Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee meetings on Tuesday, March 15 and Wednesday, March 16 regarding the LCCMR Recommendations.

Commissioner Gibson voiced her opinion that she is opposed to the LCCMR Recommendations being removed. Commissioner Ingebrigtsen stated that they are up against a time limit. Commissioner Olson explained that the work of the Commission is complete and the LCCMR needs to move forward and let the legislative process take its path. Co-Chair Hackbarth explained that the legislators need to move forward and Commissioner Ingebrigtsen and McNamara were nice enough to be upfront from the beginning but now it is time to move forward.

Commissioner Broberg said his convictions are in the rules and process. Commissioner Broberg believes this feels like they are supplanting with little or no discussion.

Commissioner Dill questioned the idea that the governor's budget should be considered supplanting.

Commissioner Berner said he considers these additions earmarks.

Commissioner Wilkens said she cannot support projects that are not thought out or have gone through the process. Ms. Wilkens definition of conservative is "look at all the data, take your time, and project 5 or 10 years out in the future". Commissioner Wilkens said that she does not believe this is conservative.

Commissioner McNamara wanted to clarify that these are all new initiatives and none of the additions are base budget funding. Commissioner McNamara said that the amount of change is less than 20% of the dollars.

MOTION: Commissioner Gibson moved for a vote on the original LCCMR Recommendations bill in H.F. 400 – withdrawn.

Commissioner Higgins suggested a substitute motion that a vote be requested on the McNamara/Ingebrigtsen amendment handed out earlier. Commissioner Shimanski said the LCCMR is on record voting for the proposals in H.F. 400 and it is now in the legislative committee process.

Commissioner Gibson would like to be on record that she opposes the proposed amendment and supports the original bill as adopted by the LCCMR.

Commissioner Cook stated that any new projects should go through the emerging issues account and a process should be followed.

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There was no vote taken on the amendment or reconsideration of H.F. 400. Members discussed that statutorily a vote of 12 is needed in the affirmative for a final recommendation bill.

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DRAFT