
Susan Thornton, Director

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Room 5, State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Members Present: Al Berner, Jeff Broberg, Tom Cook, Sen. Gary Dahms, Sen. Al DeKruif, Rep. Tom Hackbarth, John Herman, Sen. Linda Higgins, Rep. Denny McNamara, Norman Moody, Sen. Gen Olson, Rep. Ron Shimanski, Elizabeth Wilkens

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

Members Absent: Rep. David Dill, Nancy Gibson, Rep. Tom Rukavina, Sen. Rod Skoe

Co-Chair: Rep. Tom Hackbarth

1. Approve agenda for LCCMR meeting for September 27, 2011

Co-Chair Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Broberg moved approval of the agenda for September 27, 2011 – motion prevailed.

Co-Chair Hackbarth welcomed new Commission Member Sen. Gary Dahms who was designated by Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen per M.S. 116P.05 Subd. 1(a) allowing him to designate someone in his place.

2. Members approve minutes for August 11, 2011

MOTION: Commissioner Moody moved approval of the minutes for August 11, 2011 with the addition of highlighting the section titled "Guidance for Conservation Easements" that was developed at the August 11, 2011 LCCMR meeting – motion prevailed.

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

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

4. ENRTF Project Presentation: ML 2009-4g "Statewide Ecological Ranking of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Other Critical Lands" (Greg Larson, BWSR; David Mulla, U of MN)

Greg Larson, BWSR and David Mulla, U of MN presented an overview of the ENRTF Project – M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4g "Statewide Ecological Ranking of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Other Critical Lands" for \$107,000, M.L. 2008, Chp. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 7 "Emerging Issues Account", and M.L. 2007, Chp. 30, Sec. 2, Subd. 7 "Emerging Issues Account" for \$13,000.

Commissioner Cook asked if there was any coordination with the Department of Agriculture. Greg Larson stated that they do continually work with Adam Burr from the Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner Cook suggested that this data be incorporated into the discussion of LCCMR priorities and evaluation of proposals for land acquisition.

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Commissioner Broberg asked if there was any training with county employees. Greg Larson explained that they have seminars for county staff and they did have a webinar for the general users.

5. Issue Seminar: Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species

- **Overview of ENRTF ballast water and Lake Superior invasive species projects (LCCMR Staff):**
 - **2009-6a “Ballast Water Sampling Method Development and Treatment Technology” (MPCA)**
 - **2009-6b “Emergency Delivery System Development for Disinfecting Ballast Water”**
 - **2010-6d “Bioacoustic Traps for Management of Round Goby”**
 - **2011-6a “Improved Detection of Harmful Microbes in Ballast Water”**

Michael McDonough gave a brief review of the four projects ENRTF related to ballast water and Lake Superior invasive species.

- **Agricultural plants and insects (Geir Friisoe, MDA)**

Gary Friisoe, Director at Minnesota Department of Agriculture, presented an overview of agricultural plants and insects.

- **Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species overview, including summary of spending plan for 2011 ENRTF appropriation Subd. 9c “Aquatic Invasive Species”, DNR - \$5,690,000 (Luke Skinner, DNR)**

Luke Skinner, DNR, presented an overview of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species.

6. Additional spending plan overviews for DNR projects in M.L. 2011, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3 not requiring work plan approval

- **Subd. 4a “State Park and Recreation Area Operations and Improvements”, DNR – \$3,627,000 (Ron Potter, DNR)**
- **Subd. 4s “Land and Water Conservation Account (LAWCON) Federal Reimbursement”, DNR – \$750,000 (Ron Potter, DNR)**
- **Subd. 9b “Chronic Wasting Disease and Animal Health”, DNR – \$1,200,000 (Michelle Carstensen/Lou Cornicelli, DNR)**

Ron Potter, DNR, presented an overview of M.L. 2011, 1st Special Session, Chp. 2, Art. 3, Subd. 4a “state Park and Recreation Area Operations and Improvements” and M.L. 2011, 1st Special Session, Chp. 2, Art. 3, Subd. 4s “Land and Water Conservation Account (LAWCON) Federal Reimbursement”.

Michelle Carstensen and Lou Cornicelli, DNR, presented an overview of M.L. 2011, 1st Special Session, Chp. 2, Art. 3, Subd. 9b “Chronic Wasting Disease and Animal Health”.

7. Action: M.L. 2011 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Work Plan overview for approval for appropriations in M.L. 2011, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3

Time	Work Plan	\$	Organization	Presenter
11:30 a.m.	Subd. 8c “Experiential Environmental Education for Urban Youth”	\$200,000	Hennepin County	Mary Karius
11:45 a.m.	Subd. 10b “Contract Management”	\$175,000	DNR	Marcia Honold Denise Anderson

MOTION – Commissioner Higgins moved approval of M.L. 2011, 1st Special Session, Chp. 2, Art. 3, Subd. 8c “Experiential Environmental Education for Urban Youth” – motion prevailed.

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MOTION – Commissioner McNamara moved approval of M.L. 2011, 1st Special Session, Chp. 2, Art. 3, Subd. 10b “Contract Management” – motion prevailed.

8. Overview of new Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund social media outreach (LCCMR Staff)

Mike Banker presented an overview of the new Environment and Natural Resources Facebook page and Twitter account.

9. Ongoing discussion of setting future funding priorities

Members discussed different priorities for the next request for proposal. Members concluded to have an additional meeting in November to discuss in more detail.

Overview of Comments:

- How to determine supplement vs. supplant?
- Last year the subject of supplement vs. supplant became cloudy. The LCCMR members need to be able to say “what we are doing and why”.
- What will be the focus in the Legislature?
- Fund more project implementation.
- Concern about rising administrative costs being added to project budgets.
- Work plans for all projects should be provided for accountability.
- Review eligible and ineligible costs.
- The current criteria for scoring is good and allows the best ideas to be considered. These should be kept.
- The ENRTF money should be used for research but would like to see more research that is work on the ground.
- The LCCMR has been actively funding invasive species projects but the new money for invasive species seems to be more for administrative costs.
- Review funding of foundation documents needed for resource management and request proposals for them such as County Biological Survey, Soil Survey, Update National Wetlands, and Inventory County Geologic Atlas.
- Should fund research and development (R & D) projects.
- Consider establishing a proposed range of dollars or percentage for each priority in the next RFP with the goal of focusing.
- Research and natural resource data needed to assist most cost effective management of natural resources.
- Without data obtained through research, it’s difficult to manage natural resources. Can waste dollars without the right information. Research ensures getting good return on investment.
- Applied research can have a huge economic impact.

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- Review former priorities as a group to decide next year's priorities.
- Fund research and studies that are smart and tangible.
- LSOHC – keep in mind their funding goals and draw a distinct line with some possible overlap.
- The list was not being narrowed throughout the years but it has grown. A statement with the sort of things the LCCMR is looking for could be included instead of listing priorities in the RFP. Use the statute M.S. 116P.08 language plus a philosophical statement for the next RFP.

Commissioner McNamara asked how the priorities are set. Susan Thornton reminded members that they set the priorities for the RFP.

Co-Chair Hackbarth asked how much money will be available for the new RFP. Susan Thornton stated it would depend on whether or not the RFP is for one year or two but the amount per year would be around \$25 million.

10. Issue Seminar: Minnesota Climate Data and Patterns

- **Current Minnesota climate patterns and their implications for the state's municipalities, industries, agriculture, and recreation (Mark Seeley, U of MN)**
- **Presentation on completed ENRTF project: ML 2008 5c "Updating Precipitation Intensities for Runoff Estimation and Infrastructure Designs" (Bruce Wilson, MPCA)**
- **How climate data is used in road and infrastructure construction (Andrea Hendrickson, MnDOT)**

Dr. Mark Seeley, U of MN, presented an overview of current Minnesota climate patterns and their implications for the state's municipalities, industries, agriculture, and recreation.

Bruce Wilson, MPCA, presented an overview of M.L. 2008, Chp. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 5c "Updating Precipitation Intensities for Runoff Estimation and Infrastructure Designs".

Andrea Hendrickson, MnDOT, presented an overview of how climate data is used in road and infrastructure construction.

11. Other business

Next scheduled LCCMR Meeting: September 28, 2011 – Metro Area Site Visits / Issue Seminars

Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 p.m. and moved to Agenda Item #12 - LCCMR Site Visit to the U of MN St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) at 2:45 p.m.

12. Site Visit to U of MN St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL), 2 Third Ave SE Minneapolis.

Directions: From 94, exit onto Huron Blvd, go left on University Ave. and follow to 4th St. SE, left on 11th Ave. SE until it turns slightly right and becomes 2nd St. SE, then left onto 3rd Ave. SE and SAFL parking lot.

Overview of Outdoor Stream Laboratory testing of in-stream sonic bubble barrier technology to address movement of carp (Vaughan Voller & Peter Sorenson, U of MN). Overview on laboratory's work on hydrokinetics and turbine technology.

Subd. 6d Controlling the Movement of Invasive Fish Species - \$300,000

Project Overview: Common carp, introduced from eastern Europe over a century ago, are an invasive species in Minnesota that adversely affect water quality and aquatic communities,

particularly in shallow lakes and wetlands. While solutions for suppressing common carp reproduction and abundance are emerging, controlling the movement of common carp, and therefore preventing reinfestation, has so far proved difficult. However, initial tests of a class of barriers that uses sonics and air bubble "curtains" has shown initial promise and they have the advantage of being inexpensive, portable, and safer than other barrier technologies that might also be used for this purpose. The University of Minnesota's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory is using this appropriation to develop and test the effectiveness of these sonics and air bubble based barrier technologies for preventing and controlling the movement of common carp. If a method proves effective it may also have application with control of Asian carp, another invasive species that is currently moving up through the Mississippi River toward Minnesota. Project due to be completed: 6/30/2012

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