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Susan Thornton, Director

**MINUTES**

**DRAFT**

**November 17, 2011**

**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Room 5, State Office Building**

**St. Paul, MN 55155**

Members Present: Jeff Broberg, Tom Cook, Sen. Gary Dahms, Nancy Gibson, John Herman, Sen. Linda Higgins, Rep. Denny McNamara, Norman Moody, Rep. Ron Shimanski, Sen. Rod Skoe, Elizabeth Wilkens

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

Members Absent: Al Berner, Sen. Al DeKruif, Rep. David Dill, Rep. Tom Hackbarth, Sen. Gen Olson, Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Co-Chair: Nancy Gibson**

**1. Approve agenda for LCCMR meeting for November 17, 2011**

Co-Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Co-Chair Gibson congratulated Sen. Higgins on announcing her retirement from the Minnesota Senate at the end of the year.

MOTION: Commissioner Higgins moved approval of the agenda for November 17, 2011 – motion prevailed.

**2. Members approve minutes for September 27, 2011**

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

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

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

**4. Consent approval of work plans (no presentations scheduled)**

- **M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art. 3, Sec. 2**

- **Subd. 3o "Saint Croix Basin Conservation Planning and Protection" - \$120,000 – St. Croix River Association**

Susan Thornton explained there were 4 remaining work plans from the 2011 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) appropriation bill that needed approval.

## LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

MOTION: Commissioner Higgins moved approval of M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art. 3, Sec. 2, Subd. 3o "Saint Croix Basin Conservation Planning and Protection" - \$120,000 – St. Croix River Association – motion prevailed.

- **Subd. 3p "Species of Concern; Investigations" - \$500,000 (Part B – "DNR Contract for Baseline Information on Statewide Bird Distribution and Reproductive Status" - \$250,000 with Audubon Minnesota)**

Susan Thornton explained this appropriation is already approved for Part A on August 11, 2011.

Marcia Honold, Liaison DNR, stated that the DNR wished to submit a work plan for review and approval at the December 7 meeting and DNR was reviewing legal issues regarding the appropriation language for Part B of this appropriation.

Susan Thornton asked if this is going to be sole sourced to Audubon Minnesota or sent out as a Request for Proposal. Ms. Honold responded that DNR intends for it to be sole sourced to Audubon Minnesota.

#### **4. Review LCCMR Six-Year Strategic Plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) adopted January 16, 2009**

After discussions of item 5, members discussed the LCCMR Six-Year Strategic Plan. Commissioner Shimanski asked for a review of the LCCMR Six-Year Strategic Plan at a future meeting.

#### **5. Develop ENRTF 2012 Request for Proposal (RFP) to be issued by LCCMR**

Co-Chair Gibson started the discussion on the next LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) by discussing whether it should be an annual or biennial RFP for the ENRTF funding.

Members discussion concluded through consensus that this LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) should be an annual RFP and have site visits and issue seminars. Sen. Higgins asked about the reduced LCCMR budget and the impact regarding the annual process and site visits vs. the biennial. Ms. Thornton responded that the LCCMR administration budget for FY12-13 was based on a biennial process. The budget was reduced to accommodate fewer meeting days for a biennial process and then it was further reduced by the legislature. Ms. Thornton indicated that she would review the budget and potential implications for an annual process including site visits for discussion at a future meeting.

Commissioner Higgins asked how many years has the Commission been on an annual RFP. Co-Chair Gibson said it has been four years.

MOTION: Commissioner Higgins moved to have an annual Request for Proposal (RFP) – motion prevailed.

Co-Chair Gibson asked members what they thought about alternating the priorities in the RFP to limit the types of proposals.

Susan Thornton explained as staff handed out a draft RFP for 2013 that this will be a starting point for discussions on the RFP. Ms. Thornton explained that it has been a group discussion at every level of reviewing the proposals.

Members discussed the options for categories or not having categories, reviewed the Constitutional Language and M.S. 116P.08, clarifications of what the meaning of certain phrases (i.e. boots on the ground), and collaboration with LSOHC.

Members recessed at 10:55 a.m. Members reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

## LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

MOTION: Commissioner Moody moved to place Items 1 through 6 in M.S. 116P.08 (ENRTF statutory language for allowable expenditures) and have an annual Request for Proposal (RFP).

Susan Thornton explained the timeline shown on page 3 of the Draft RFP handed out.

Co-Chair Gibson reviewed page 5 of the Draft RFP handed out regarding 'Project Requirements' and 'Evaluation Criteria'. Commissioner Skoe suggested removing the language of bullet four under 'Project Requirements' but keeping the BWSR language.

Commissioner Herman asked staff to add a sentence at the beginning of 'Evaluation Criteria' stating the criteria will be applied as applicable to the type of proposal. Members concurred.

Commissioner Cook asked staff to add a sentence at the beginning of 'Evaluation Criteria' on page 5 of the Draft RFP regarding cost effectiveness. Members concurred that this was an agreed upon overarching requirement.

MOTION: Commissioner Moody renewed his motion to move approval of using Items 1 through 6 in M.S. 116P.08 as the priorities in the LCCMR 2013 Request for Proposal and remove the language in bullet 4 of the 'Project Requirements' but keep the BWSR language – motion prevailed.

### 6. Adjourn

Co-Chair Gibson asked members if there were any final work programs members would be interested in having a presentation at a future meeting.

Co-Chair Gibson suggested M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 5f "Minnesota Drainage Law Analysis and Evaluation".

Commissioner Higgins would like to hear about projects related to the Minnesota River.

Commissioner Moody suggested M.L. 2008, Chp. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 6b "Global Warming – Reducing Carbon Footprint of Minnesota Schools".

Commissioner Broberg suggested the Mt. Simon Aquifer - M.L. 2008, Chp. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 4h "South-Central MN Groundwater Monitoring and County Geologic Atlases"

Commissioner Herman suggested M.L. 2008, Chp. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 5g "Conservation Easement Stewardship, Oversight and Maintenance" and M.L. 2008, Chp. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 5h "Conservation Easement Stewardship and Enforcement Program Plan".

Commissioner Wilkens suggested inviting MPCA to give a presentation on lake and river monitoring and impairments and discuss the water quality data.

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.