

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016

RE: Update to LCCMR proposal status and request to modify activity

Dear LCCMR Committee Members,

I am writing with an update on our LCCMR 2017 proposal titled "New technology to control invasive carp" (Budget \$389,000). Shortly after submitting the proposal to LCCMR, we submitted a related proposal to the UMN Futures Program. We tried to keep the two proposals as independent as possible, but a small amount of overlap was necessary for each proposal to be complete. We were awarded the UMN Futures grant, and I would like to modify Activity 1 in our 2017 LCCMR proposal to avoid overlap.



The UMN Futures funding (\$249,000 over two years) begins next month and will allow us to get a head start on (i) developing the genetic tools in fish, and (ii) demonstrating our biocontrol approach in a model lab species (Zebrafish). Because this work will begin earlier than anticipated, we would like to modify Activity 1 of our LCCMR proposal to incorporate more advanced studies of the mating and behavior of our biocontrol fish. Specifically, we would like to perform large tank studies that will better simulate mating competition seen in nature. The timeline in our original LCCMR application would not have permitted these studies to occur in the three years of funding, but they are important studies that will demonstrate the advantages of our system compared to alternative approaches.

The budget for the revised Activity 1 will remain unchanged (\$138,000). The personnel costs and fish rearing/handling costs remain the same, and Molecular Biology/DNA sequencing costs will still be needed to sequence the DNA of fish involved in the large-tank breeding experiments. A revised LCCMR proposal is available upon request.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Smanski'.

Michael Smanski, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities