

2019 Legislative Session Report

Contents:

[Bill and Session Summary](#)

[Appropriation by Subdivision: Summary with Pie Charts](#)

[Comparison Spreadsheet](#)

[M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 2](#)

Bill and Session Summary

M.L. 2019 (FY20) ENRTF appropriations were initially included in the Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Budget Bill in the Senate ([S.F. 2314](#)) where it passed 35-32 on 4/23/19. The ENRTF appropriations initially passed the House as a standalone bill ([H.F. 2032](#)) 120-10 on 5/1/19.

The bill was conferenced as part of S.F. 2314. After the regular session ended and agreement on the bill was reached, informational hearings were held in both the House and the Senate.

After the 1st Special Session began, the agreed-to ENRTF appropriations and Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Budget items were introduced and heard as [H.F. 04](#) and [S.F. 07](#). This bill was passed by the Senate and House on 5/24/19 and signed into law by the governor on 5/31/19 as [M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 2](#).

Following is a summary of the ENRTF appropriations and outcomes of other bills of interest.

ENRTF appropriations:

- Eighty-two total appropriations
- Sixty-five of the sixty-eight LCCMR recommendations were included as recommended.
- Two projects had their appropriation amount increased:
 - *Building Knowledge and Capacity to Solve AIS Problems (06a)*- U of MN - MAISRC by \$1,000,000 from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000
 - *Britton Peak to Lutsen Mountain Bike Trail (09h)*- Superior Cycling Association by \$50,000 from \$300,000 to \$350,000
- One project was modified:
 - *Water Infrastructure Funding Program*, Public Facilities Authority – from \$1,500,000 grants to \$5,000,000 loans to the Clean Water Revolving Fund from the Trust Fund corpus.
- Fourteen projects were added, primarily using funds that became available following the repeal of M.L. 2018 ENRTF appropriation bonds earlier in the 2019 session:
 - *Forest and Bioeconomy Research*, U of MN - Duluth NRRI- \$2,200,000
 - *Minerals and Water Research*, U of MN - Duluth NRRI- \$883,000
 - *Native Bee Survey*, MN DNR- \$600,000
 - *Diagnostic Test for Chronic Wasting Disease*, U of MN - \$1,804,000
 - *Managed Aquifer Recharge*, U of MN - Water Resources Center- \$350,000
 - *Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers*, MN DNR- \$250,000
 - *Noxious Weed Detection and Eradication*, MDA- \$1,000,000
 - *Emerald Ash Borer Response Grants*, MN DNR- \$300,000
 - *Nongame Wildlife Program Acceleration*, MN DNR- \$513,000

- *Lawns to Legumes*, BWSR- \$900,000
 - *Agriculture Weed Control Using Autonomous Mowers*, U of MN – Morris- \$900,000
 - *Rainy Lake Recreational Access and Boat Wash*, City of Ranier- \$200,000
 - *Historic Bruce Mine Park and Mesabi Trailhead*, St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority- \$1,000,000
 - *Grants Management System*, LCCMR- \$330,000
- The bill also included LCCMR- recommended extensions for the availability of funds as well as corrections to prior appropriations. This included two additional extensions approved by the Commission at its March 4, 2019 meeting.

Other bills of interest:

[M.L. 2019, Chapter 2](#) (H.F. 80 / S.F. 1836) (Murphy). Capital investment; authorized capital projects funding source changed, public land and other investments conditional acquisition funding authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated. As it related to ENRTF and LCCMR, this:

- Repealed Laws of 2018 statute, authorization, and appropriations for special ENRTF appropriation bonds.
- Struck language added in 2018 to allow the trust fund to pay principal and interest on special appropriation trust fund bonds.
- Was signed into law 3/5/19.
- Resulted in an additional \$2,940,000 FY19 and \$7,840,000 FY20 (\$10,780,000 total) from the ENRTF to become available for possible appropriation during the 2019 legislative session.

[M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 1](#) (H.F. 09 / S.F. 03) (Ruud). Omnibus Legacy Finance Bill. Included the FY2020/ML2019 Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations.

- Of note, a companion to an ENRTF project was included:

Section 2, Subd 5(l) Sauk River Dam Fish Passage

\$737,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District to restore and enhance riverine habitat in the Sauk River and provide fish passage by removing the dam and modifying and installing structures at the Melrose dam site.