

# 2021 Legislative Session Report

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## Bill and Session Summary

### Regular Session- ENRTF Appropriations

Bills including 2020 LCCMR recommendations / FY 2021 appropriations ([HF 30](#) [Hansen et al.] and [SF 166](#) [Ingebrigtsen et al.]) were introduced in the House and Senate and were heard in committee in the House.

Bills including the 2021 LCCMR recommendations / FY 2022 appropriations, including COVID-related extensions requested for projects ending June 30, 2021, ([HF 151](#) [Hansen et al.] and [SF 690](#) [Ingebrigtsen et al.]) were introduced in the House and Senate and were heard in committee.

The House and Senate eventually both added 2020 and 2021 appropriations and COVID-related extensions to their omnibus natural resources appropriation bills: [HF 1076](#) and [SF 959](#) but with significant differences between the two. The bills passed each respective body.

A [conference committee](#) was called to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill and meetings were held, but agreement was not reached before the regular session ended.

### First Special Session (“SS1”) - ENRTF Appropriations

The House and Senate versions of the omnibus environment and natural resources appropriation bill, SS1 [SF 20](#) (Ingebrigtsen; Tomassoni) and SS1 [HF 5](#) (Hansen), were amended in each body to include LCCMR 2020 tentative recommendations, 2021 recommendations, COVID-related extensions, and a requirement for ENRTF recipients to conduct criminal background checks on employees, volunteers, and contractors working with children.

SS1 [HF 5](#) was heard in House committee and an informational hearing was held.

SS1 [SF 20](#) passed the Senate on 6/22/21 with a vote of 49 Y-16 N and was sent to the House. SS1 [SF 20](#) Passed the House on 6/25/21 with a vote of 99 Y- 34 N.

The bill was signed into law as Chapter 6 by Governor Walz on 6/29/21.

The differences between SS1 [SF 20](#) and the LCCMR 2020 tentative/2021 recommendations are as follows:

## 2020s

- **All projects tentatively recommended by LCCMR are included**
- One project has amount decreased: 04a/70-B *Unprecedented Change Threatens Minnesota's Pristine Lakes*, Science Museum of Minnesota, by \$118,000 to \$482,000
- One project has amount increased: 04e/098-B *Developing Strategies to Manage PFAS in Land-Applied Biosolids*, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, by \$404,000 to \$1,404,000
- One project is modified: *Wastewater Renewable Energy Demonstration Grants*, LCCMR/PFA. \$1,095,000
- 8 projects are added:
  - *Workshops and Outreach to Protect Raptors from Lead Poisoning*, U of MN, \$133,000
  - *Lawns to Legumes*, BWSR, ~\$998,000
  - *Birch Lake Recreation Area*, City of Babbitt, \$350,000
  - *Wastewater Pond Optimization*, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, \$700,000
  - *NRRI-Mineral & Water Research*, U of MN, \$750,000
  - *Chloride Pollution Reduction*, MN PCA, \$500,000
  - *CWD Prion Research in Soils*, U of MN, \$336,000
  - *Emerging Issues Account*, LCCMR, \$284,000
- Background check requirement for projects providing children services is added
- LCCMR recommended technical and extensions are included
- Appropriation end date on the tentatively recommended projects was extended 1 year past the original end date given the time passed since originally introduced in the 2020 session.

## 2021s

- **All projects recommended by LCCMR are included at the recommended amount**
- One project is added: *Forest Health Research, Development and Demonstration (including 'Forest management assessment tool')*, U of MN- NRRI, \$840,000
- Background check requirement for projects providing children services is added
- COVID extensions for projects expiring June 30, 2021 and who requested extension by April 30, 2021, are included

## Other Bills of Interest

Incorporated into SS SF20 & signed into law

[HF 30](#) (Hansen, R. ; Ecklund ; Richardson ; Lislegard ; Fischer ; Jordan ; Huot ; Lee ; Sundin ; Lillie ; Becker-Finn ; Acomb ; Lippert ; Wazlawik ; Morrison ; Hornstein ; Stephenson ; Hanson, J. ; Xiong, J. ; Vang ; Masin ; Howard ; Pinto ; Davids ; Boe ; Franke ; Reyer ; Bahner ; Hassan; Jurgens).

*Description:* Environment and natural resources trust fund money appropriated, and previous appropriations modified. **Includes 2020 LCCMR tentative recommendations.**

[HF 151](#) (Hansen, R. ; Fischer ; Jordan ; Ecklund ; Lillie ; Becker-Finn ; Heintzeman ; Acomb ; Lee ; Morrison ; Lippert). *Description:* Environment and natural resources trust fund funding provided, and money appropriated. Includes **2021 LCCMR recommendations and COVID-related extensions** requested for projects ending June 30, 2021.

[HF 2412](#) (Heintzeman) *Description:* Environment and natural resources trust fund appropriation recipients required to perform criminal background checks on employees, volunteers, and contractors that work with children.

[SF 166](#) (Ingebrigtsen ; Tomassoni ; Ruud) *Description:* Environment and natural resources trust fund appropriations and appropriation modifications. Includes **2020 LCCMR tentative recommendations**.

[SF 690](#) (Ingebrigtsen ; Tomassoni ; Westrom ; Hawj ; Dziedzic). *Description:* Environment and natural resources trust fund appropriations. Includes **2021 LCCMR recommendations and COVID-related extensions** requested for projects ending June 30, 2021.

[SF 1855](#) (Ingebrigtsen) *Description:* Environment and natural resources trust fund recipients requirement for criminal background checks on employees, volunteers, and contractors working with children.

Not signed into law

[SF 593](#) (Ingebrigtsen) *Description:* Funds to make annual payments for certain state-purchased land using dedicated revenues establishment; in lieu of taxes payment requirements modification; appropriating money. Creates and funds a special ENRTF account from which annual PILT payments would be made for lands acquired with ENRTF.