

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

MEMO: Agenda Item #11

DATE: November 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Requests of significant size/scope requiring LCCMR & legislative action

a. Legislative extension (1 year) – 10 mins

1. Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Campground (ID: 2020-010)
M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09s - \$3,100,000, Jim Jansen
2. Ranier/Safe Harbor Transient Dock on Rainy Lake (ID: 2020-056)
M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09r - \$762,000, Sherril Gautreaux
3. Native Prairie Stewardship & Prairie Bank Easement Acquisition (ID: 2021-105)
M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09h - \$1,341,000, MN DNR, Judy Schulte
4. Geologic Atlases for Water Resource Management (ID: 2021-138)
M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 03g - \$3,092,000, U of MN – MN Geological Survey, Barb Lusardi
5. Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition (ID: 2021-049)
M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e - \$2,250,000, Metropolitan Council, Jessica Lee
6. SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Citizen-Science and Outreach (ID: 2021-151)
M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09j - \$3,336,000, MN DNR, Judy Schulte
7. Highbanks Ravine Bat Hibernaculum (ID: 2021-363)
M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09t - \$825,000, City of St. Cloud, Lisa Vollbrecht
8. State Parks and State Trails In-Holdings (ID: 2021-371)
M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09u - \$2,560,000, MN DNR, Shelby Kok

Action needed (all): approve recommendation that appropriation end date be extended to June 30, 2025

b. Legislative extension (1 year) and/or appropriation language modification – 30 mins

1. National Loon Center, M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Subd. 09e as extended by M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19 [to June 30, 2024] - \$4,000,000, Jon Mobeck

Original Appropriation Language:

\$4,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the National Loon Center Foundation, in partnership with a fiscal agent to be approved by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, to construct an approximately 15,000-square-foot National Loon Center in Cross Lake dedicated to loon survival, loon habitat protection and research, and recreation. Of this amount, up to \$1,449,000 is for planning, design, and construction of approximately six outdoor demonstration learning kiosks, interpretive trails, boardwalks and boat docks, a fishing dock, and native landscaping along approximately 3,100 feet of shoreline. Any remaining funds are for planning, engineering, and constructing the building and indoor exhibits. A land lease commitment of at least 25 years and fiscal sponsorship must be secured before any trust fund money is spent. This project requires a match of at least \$6,000,000. At least \$2,000,000 of this match must come from nonstate sources. If naming rights will be conveyed, the National Loon Center Foundation must include a plan for this in the work plan. All matching funds must be legally committed before any trust fund money may be spent on

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planning activities for or construction of the building and indoor exhibits. Net income generated from admissions, naming rights, and memberships to the National Loon Center as a result of trust fund contributions may be reinvested in the center's long-term loon conservation efforts as described in the work plan approved by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources according to Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.10.

Action needed: approve recommendation that appropriation end date be extended to June 30, 2025 and that appropriation language be adjusted to allow for a different building site, potentially along with one or more of the following conditions:

- a) The land on which the Center will be built needs to follow title, environmental, archeological and survey due diligence prior to acquisition according to ENRTF acquisition procedures
- b) The intended use continues and no transfer of ownership occurs for at least 25 years*
- c) Construction does not begin until full funding needed to complete construction is legally committed*

*consistent with the new capital construction requirements in ML 2023

2. Voyageurs National Park Crane Lake Visitors Center (ID: 2021-329), M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09n - \$2,700,000, Jim Jansen

Action 1 needed: approve recommendation that appropriation end date be extended to June 30, 2025

Action 2 needed: approve recommendation that revenue generated from the project may be reinvested in operations and maintenance of the VNP Crane Lake Visitors Center according to the plan described in the work plan.

Additional Information: this project is anticipated to generate revenues through campsite rental fees and leasing the site to the National Park Service. They are requesting that revenues be reinvested for maintenance of the campground and visitor center. Revenues may not be used for expansion purposes or to otherwise fund city or county general operations.

3. Silver Bay Multimodal Trailhead Project (ID: 2022-127), M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 09j - \$1,000,000, Lana Fralich

Action needed: approve recommendation that revenue generated from the project may be reinvested in operations and maintenance of the Trailhead Project according to plan described in the work plan.

Additional Information: Project is expected to generate revenue, primarily coin-operated showers, rental of building space for events, and donations. They would like to reinvest those funds to offset operations and maintenance of the Trailhead, including water/sewer, energy, operating supplies, repairs, insurance, ground maintenance, etc.

4. Silver Bay Multimodal Trailhead Project (ID: 2023-210) M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09I - \$1,970,000, Lana Fralich

Same as 3 above

- c. Legislative extension (2 years) –

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d. Legislative extension (3 years) – 20 mins

1. Upper St. Anthony Falls Enhancement (ID: 2020-066), M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09I - \$2,800,000, Friends of the Falls, Kjersti Monson

Original Appropriation Language:

\$2,800,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Friends of the Lock and Dam in partnership with the city of Minneapolis to design and install green infrastructure, public access, and habitat restorations on riverfront land at Upper St. Anthony Falls for water protection, recreation, and environmental education purposes. Of this amount, up to \$600,000 is for planning, design, and engagement. No funds from this appropriation may be spent until Congress directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to convey an interest in the Upper St. Anthony Falls property to the city of Minneapolis for use as a visitor center. After this congressional act is signed into law, up to \$100,000 of the planning, design, and engagement funds may be spent. The remaining planning, design, and engagement funds may be spent after a binding agreement has been secured to acquire the land or access and use rights to the land for at least 25 years. Any remaining balance of the appropriation may be spent on installing enhancements after the Upper St. Anthony Falls land has been acquired by the city of Minneapolis.

Action needed: approve recommendation that appropriation end date be extended to June 30, 2027

2. Storing Renewable Energy In Flow-Battery For Grid Use (ID: 2021-169), M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 07b - \$2,408,000, U of MN – Morris, Bryan Hermann

Action needed: approve recommendation that appropriation end date be extended to June 30, 2027