# ENVIRONMENT

#### LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

100 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. **ROOM 65 STATE OFFICE BUILDING** TRUST FUND ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-1201

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Becca Nash, Director

#### **MINUTES**

Thursday, November 16, 2023 Time: 9:00 AM to 1:45 PM

Location: HYBRID: Room G23, Minnesota State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155 and through electronic means (YouTube)

Members Present: Rep. Patty Acomb, Rita Albrecht, Rep. Jeff Backer, Sen. Kari Dziedzic, William Faber, Nancy Gibson, Sen. Steve Green, Sen. Foung Hawj, Rep. Rick Hansen, Rep. Josh Heintzeman, Rep. Athena Hollins, Shona Langseth, Sen. Kelly Morrison, Jeremy Peichel, Michael Reese, Sen. Torrey Westrom

Staff Present: B. Nash, M. Varien, M. Campana, N. Fribley, T. Dietrich, D. Griffith

Members Excused: Seth Moore

**Members Absent:** 

**Co-Chair: Nancy Gibson** 

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

#### 1. [00:00:050] Roll call attendance

Chair Gibson asked for a roll call. Diana Griffith took roll call for attendance. There were 13 members present at the time of roll call, and nine were needed for a quorum.

Member	Attendance	Member	Attendance
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	Yes	Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	Yes (remote)
Commissioner Albrecht	Yes (remote)	Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Yes (remote)
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Yes (remote)	Commissioner Langseth	Yes (remote)
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	Excused	Commissioner Moore	Excused
Commissioner Faber	Yes (remote)	Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Yes (remote)
Commissioner Gibson	Yes	Commissioner Peichel	Yes (remote)
Commissioner Green - Sen	Yes	Commissioner Reese	Yes
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Yes	Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Excused
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Excused		

#### 2. [00:02:07] Approve minutes for September 19, 2023

MOTION: Commissioner Hansen moved the minutes for September 19, 2023 – motion prevailed.

#### 3. [00:02:36] Members report potential conflicts of interest regarding today's business

Commissioner Reese announced a conflict of interest for 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.

Commissioner Hawj joined the meeting remotely.

#### 4. [00:03:10] Director's report

Director Nash provided an update on the following:

- 1. There are 101 draft work plans in process of being reviewed and a draft bill will be ready for adoption at the LCCMR meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 2. We have been working with the DNR on fiscal capacity review of the 101 draft work plans.
- 3. We have been working with an entity that was hired to do peer review on 32 of those draft work plans that included research.
- 4. We have been reviewing over 80 final reports.
- 5. We have been reviewing updates and amendments on approximately 350 active projects.
- 6. We have been working on the next RFP which includes updating the online system to adjust for new laws that have been put in place in 2023 regarding fiscal oversight and capital construction requirements.
- 7. We are working on strategic planning.

Ms. Nash introduced our new staff person – Tom Dietrich. Ms. Nash reminded members that the LCCMR is moving to the Centennial building for the next 2+ years while the State Office Building is under construction and the tunnel will be closed between the State Office Building and the Capitol. Ms. Nash announced Nancy Gibson's current term is expiring on December 31, 2023.

# 5. [00:07:51] Completed Projects Presentation: Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers, MN DNR, May Yang-Lee

- M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 05h \$500,000
- M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05d \$250,000
- M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 05l \$550,000
- M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 05b \$487,000

May Yang-Lee provided an overview of their project "Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers". Members discussed.

Commissioner Westrom joined the meeting remotely.

Commissioner Dziedzic joined the meeting remotely.

## 6. [00:30:56] Information: Presentation from DNR Parks & Trails staff on Outdoor Recreation and Local Grants proposal vetting process. Jenni Bubke.

Jenni Bubke provided an overview on their Outdoor Recreation and Local Grants proposal vetting process. Members discussed.

#### 7. [00:55:20] Action: Draft 2025 Request for Proposal (RFP) review

Director Nash started discussions on the draft 2025 Request for Proposal (RFP). Members discussed.

Members requested a poll in advance of the LCCMR meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> in regards to the discussion today on revisions to the 2025 Request for Proposal (RFP).

#### 8. [01:26:13] Action: Strategic Planning member survey results and next steps

Mike Campana discussed the strategic planning member survey results and next steps. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Hollins moved to select from the memo titled "2024 Strategic Planning Member Survey Results and Next Steps" Option 1 as shown below:

#### Option 1

Starting point: The draft goals, strategies, and measurable outcomes developed in 2019

Information: Input gathered in 2019 and new input collected in 2024

#### Member actions:

- Create new/refine old vision and mission statement.

- Review, refine, and select goals, strategies, and measurable outcomes developed in 2019.
- Develop goals and strategies related to LCCMR communications & outreach and the proposal solicitation, review, and recommendation process.
- Translate goals, strategies, and outcomes into new RFP.
- Approve new strategic plan and RFP.

#### - motion prevailed (12 Yes / 4 No)

Member	Υ	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	Х		Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep		Х
Commissioner Albrecht	Х		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Backer – Rep		Х	Commissioner Langseth	Х	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	Х		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	Х		Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Gibson	Х		Commissioner Peichel	Х	
Commissioner Green - Sen		Х	Commissioner Reese	Х	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Х		Commissioner Westrom – Sen		Х
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Х				

Chair Gibson started discussions on creating a subcommittee for strategic planning. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Hansen moved to create a subcommittee for strategic planning. – motion prevailed (14 Yes / 2 No)

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	X		Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	X	
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Х		Commissioner Langseth	Х	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	Х		Commissioner Moore	Excused	

Commissioner Faber	Х	Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Gibson	Х	Commissioner Peichel		Х
Commissioner Green - Sen	Х	Commissioner Reese	Х	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Х	Commissioner Westrom – Sen		Х
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Х			

Members discussed the makeup of the subcommittee members. Discussion on members serving on the subcomitte will continue under Agenda Item 12.

MOTION: Commissioner Reese moved that adoption of the Strategic Plan require a supermajority vote by the full commission (11 members to adopt). – motion prevailed (16 Yes / 0 No)

Member	Υ	N	Member	Υ	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	Х		Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Albrecht	Х		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Х		Commissioner Langseth	Х	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	Х		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	Х		Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Gibson	Х		Commissioner Peichel	Х	
Commissioner Green - Sen	Х		Commissioner Reese	Х	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Х		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Х				

#### 9. [02:35:00] Agenda Item 10 - Action: 2024 Recommendation for "Buffer"

MOTION: Commisser Reese moved to have the "Buffer" dollars of \$250,000 be moved to the Emerging Issues appropriation. – motion prevailed (16 Yes / 0 No)

Member	Υ	N	Member	Υ	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	Х		Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Albrecht	Х		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Х		Commissioner Langseth	Х	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	Х		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	Х		Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Gibson	Х		Commissioner Peichel	Х	
Commissioner Green - Sen	Х		Commissioner Reese	Х	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Х		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Х				

#### 10. [02:37:00] Agenda Item 9 - Action: Draft 2024 Meeting Calendar and RFP schedule review

Michael Varien started discussions on the LCCMR 2024 Calendar. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Albrect moved the draft 2024 Meeting Calendar with the caveat of changing June 5, 2024 meeting to June 6, 2024.

Members discussed. Commissioner Albrecht withdrew her motion.

MOTION: Commissioner Albrect moved the draft 2024 Meeting Calendar.

Members recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Westrom amended Commissioner Albrects motion to edit the calendar with the following changes:

- 1. Delete the June 5, 2024 meeting and replace with a June 10, 2024 meeting;
- 2. Delete the June 19, 2024 meeting; and
- 3. Use same presentation format as last year.
  - Presentations will each be 15-minutes: 5 to present and 10 for Q&A (same as past two years) with additional discretion to go over this time allotment if needed, especially for proposals requesting over \$1m.
  - No PowerPoints (to cut down on transition time; same as past two years).
- Amendment prevailed (14 Yes / 0 No)

Member	Υ	N	Member	Υ	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	Х		Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Albrecht	Х		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Х		Commissioner Langseth	Х	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	Excused		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	Х		Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Gibson	Х		Commissioner Peichel	Х	
Commissioner Green - Sen	Х		Commissioner Reese	Х	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Х		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Excused				

RENEWED MOTION: Commissioner Albrecht renewed her motion as amended to edit the calendar with the following changes:

- 1. Delete the June 5, 2024 meeting and replace with a June 10, 2024 meeting;
- 2. Delete the June 19, 2024 meeting; and
- 3. Use same presentation format as last year.
  - Presentations will each be 15-minutes: 5 to present and 10 for Q&A (same as past two years) with additional discretion to go over this time allotment if needed, especially for proposals requesting over \$1m.

- No PowerPoints (to cut down on transition time; same as past two years).
- Amendment prevailed (15 Yes / 0 No)

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	Х		Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Albrecht	Х		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Х		Commissioner Langseth	Х	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	Excused		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	Х		Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Gibson	Х		Commissioner Peichel	Х	
Commissioner Green - Sen	Х		Commissioner Reese	Х	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Х		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Х				

# 11. [03:41:54] Action: Requests for legislative extensions and/or appropriation modifications – significant size/scope:

#### a. legislative extension(s) (1 year)

Michael Varien provided an overview of the appropriations needing a one year extension. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Hawj moved to approve the following appropriations to June 30, 2025 (one year extensions):

- 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
- 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
- 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

- motion prevailed (14 Yes / 1 No)

Member	Υ	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	Х		Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Albrecht	Х		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Х		Commissioner Langseth	Х	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	Excused		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	Х		Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Gibson	Х		Commissioner Peichel	Х	
Commissioner Green - Sen		Х	Commissioner Reese	Х	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Х		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Х				

#### b. legislative extension(s) (1 year) and/or appropriation modification

Becca Nash reviewed one year extensions needing appropriation language modications. Jon Mobeck, Executive Director National Loon Center, provided an update on their work plans and explained their request for a one year extension and the appropriation language modification. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Hawj moved to approve the following:

M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Subd. 09e, National Loon Center to be extended to June 30, 2025 and that appropriation language be adjusted to allow for a different building site, with 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\*
- d) This will be the last extension for this project.
   \*consistent with the new capital construction requirements in ML 2023
- motion prevailed (13 Yes / 1 No)

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	Х		Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Albrecht	Х		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Х		Commissioner Langseth	Х	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	Excused		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	Х		Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Gibson	Х		Commissioner Peichel	Х	
Commissioner Green - Sen		Х	Commissioner Reese	Х	

Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Х	Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Excused	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Х			

Michael Varien provided an overview of Voyageurs National Park Crane Lake Visitors Center appropriation, and Jim Janssen was available to answer any questions. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Hansen moved to approve M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09n (ID: 2021-329), Voyageurs National Park Crane Lake Visitors Center to be extended to June 30, 2025 and approve 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.

- motion prevailed (14 Yes / 1 No)

Member	Υ	N	Member	Υ	N
Commissioner Acomb – Rep	Х		Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Albrecht	Х		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Х		Commissioner Langseth	Х	
Commissioner Dziedzic – Sen	Excused		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	Х		Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Gibson	Х		Commissioner Peichel	Х	
Commissioner Green – Sen		Χ	Commissioner Reese	Х	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Х		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Х				

Mike Campana provided a brief overview of the Silver Bay Multimodal Trailhead Project, and Lana Fralich was available to answer any questions. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Hansen moved to approve M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 09j (ID: 2022-127) and M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09l (ID: 2023-210), Silver Bay Multimodal Trailhead Project to be extended to June 30, 2025 and 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.

- motion prevailed (14 Yes / 1 No)

Member	Y	N	Member	Υ	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	Х		Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Albrecht	Х		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Х		Commissioner Langseth	Х	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	Excused		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	Х		Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Gibson	Х		Commissioner Peichel	Х	

Commissioner Green - Sen		Х	Commissioner Reese	Х	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Х		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Х				

- c. legislative extension(s) (2 years)
- d. legislative extension(s) (3 years)

Michael Varien provided an overview of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Enhancement appropriation, and Kjersti Monson was available to answer any questions. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Hansen moved to approve M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09l (ID: 2020-066), Upper St. Anthony Falls appropriation end date to be extended to June 30, 2027.

Commissioner Reese suggested including the statement that this will be the last extension. Commissioner Hansen accepted the addition to the motion.

RENEWED MOTION: Commissioner Hansen renewed his motion to approve M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09l (ID: 2020-066), Upper St. Anthony Falls appropriation end date to be extended to June 30, 2027 with the caveat that this will be the final extension allowed.

- motion prevailed (14 Yes / 1 No)

Member	Y	N	Member	Υ	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	Х		Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Albrecht	Х		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Х		Commissioner Langseth	Х	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	Excused		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	Х		Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Gibson	Х		Commissioner Peichel	Х	
Commissioner Green - Sen		Х	Commissioner Reese	Х	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Х		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Х				

Michael Varien provided an overview of Storing Renewable Energy In Flow-Battery for Grid Use appropriation. Bryan Hermann provided an updated on the appropriation. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Hansen moved to approve M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 07b (ID: 2021-169), Storing Renewable Energy In Flow-Battery For Grid Use appropriation end date to be extended to June 30, 2027 with the caveat that this will be the final extension allowed.

Commissioner Hansen withdrew his motion.

MOTION: Commissioner Westrom moved to approve M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 07b (ID: 2021-169), Storing Renewable Energy In Flow-Battery For Grid Use appropriation end date to be extended to June 30, 2027 with the caveat that this will be the final extension allowed.

- motion prevailed (14 Yes / 0 No) Commissioner Reese abstained.

Member	Υ	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	Х		Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Albrecht	Х		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Х		Commissioner Langseth	Х	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	Excused		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	Х		Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Gibson	Х		Commissioner Peichel	Х	
Commissioner Green - Sen	Х		Commissioner Reese	Abstained	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Х		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Х				

#### 12. [04:38:41] LCCMR Other Business

Chair Gibson returned to Agenda Item 8 regarding appointments to the Subcommittee on Strategic Planning. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Green moved to appoint the following LCCMR members to the Subcommittee on Strategic Planning:

- 1. Commissioner Hawj (Senate member)
- 2. Commissioner Green (Senate member)
- 3. Commissioner Hansen (House member)
- 4. Commissioner Heintzeman (House member)
- 5. Commissioner Albrecht (Citizen member)
- 6. Commissioner Langseth (Citizen member)
- 7. Commissioner Reese (Citizen member)
- 8. Commissioner Peichel alternate (Citizen member)
- motion prevailed (15 Yes / 0 No)

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	Х		Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Albrecht	Х		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Х	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Х		Commissioner Langseth	Х	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	Excused		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	Х		Commissioner Morrison – Sen	Х	
Commissioner Gibson	Х		Commissioner Peichel	Х	
Commissioner Green - Sen	Х		Commissioner Reese	Х	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Х		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Х	

Commissioner Hawj – Sen
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## 13. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

## 14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

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