

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

MEMO: Agenda Item 7

DATE: June 7, 2024

SUBJECT: **Discuss and Approve Selection of 2025 ENRTF proposals for further consideration and presentation**

Summary

214 proposals were received in response to the LCCMR's 2025 RFP. 91 proposals have been provisionally selected for presentation and further consideration as a result of members' evaluations #1 and the process approved by the LCCMR at its April 29, 2024 meeting. Additionally, the DNR Grants Unit request (2025-166), a placeholder for the LCC Legacy Website (2025-322), and a placeholder for LCCMR Administration (2025-321) will advance. At the June 10, 2024 meeting, members need to identify up to 9 additional selections (up to 3 each by the House, Senate, and Citizens) for presentations. Options are also provided if members want to select additional proposals, since the total amount of funding requested by the 91 provisional selections is significantly less than the estimated total amount available. Updated information suggests that the amount available for appropriation this year may be more than previously estimated, which makes the difference between the provisional selections and the estimated amount available more pronounced.

Background

In response to the 2025 Request for Proposals, LCCMR received 214 proposals requesting a total of approximately \$183 million. Three proposals subsequently withdrew. The amount available for appropriations will be determined based on the value of the fund on June 30, 2024. It was previously estimated to be approximately \$90 million but updated information suggests it may be closer to \$100 million. Commission members have individually completed their first evaluation of the proposals and now need to select the proposals for presentation and further consideration for funding.

On April 29, 2024, the commission voted to select the top 91 proposals chosen by the greatest number of individual members during their evaluation #1. If the 91 cut-off were to fall in the middle of a group of proposals that had been selected by the same number of members, the cut-off would be moved up or down to whichever total number of selected proposals was closer to 91. Consequently, the group containing the tie is either fully captured or fully removed from the proposals selected for presentation. The commission also agreed that up to an additional 9 proposals would be selected for presentation and further consideration for funding: up to 3 each by the House, Senate, and Citizen groups.

Results of Evaluation #1

As a result of individual members' Evaluation #1, 91 proposals have been provisionally selected for presentation and further consideration. These 91 proposals are shown in the attached spreadsheet. The 91 cut-off includes all proposals selected by 6 or more members, so no further adjustment of the cut-off was required. The total amount requested by those 91 is \$75,944,000. These results were emailed to members and posted to the meeting page of the website on June 7, 2024.

Selection of up to 9 additional proposals

During the June 10, 2024 meeting, the House, Senate, and Citizen groups may each caucus to come to final agreement on their additional projects. Agreements will be made by consensus among each group or by a simple majority if needed. Each group will provide the LCCMR Director with a written list of up to three (3) proposals it wishes to select. At the end of caucus time, the Director will read the selections out loud.

Options since the total request by top 91 selected is less than amount available

Since the total amount requested by the 91 provisionally selected projects is less than the estimated amount available for appropriation this year, and the likely amount available has increased since the original estimates, the commission may want to consider additional adjustments. Some options could be:

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1. Invite for presentation the next tiers of proposals:
 - a. Including those selected by 5 or more members would bring the total provisionally selected to 105 proposals requesting \$86,967,000, plus up to 9 additional = 114 presentations.
 - b. Including those selected by 4 or more members would bring the total provisionally selected to 125 proposals requesting \$112,736,000, plus up to 9 additional = 134 presentations.
2. Increase the additional number of proposals selected by the House, Senate, and Citizen groups from up to 3 each to up to 7 each. This could bring the total to 112 presentations but may or may not bring the requested amount up to the total funding available.
3. Proceed as is, with the understanding that, even if all proposals moving forward are recommended for full funding, there will still be money available to allocate. Members could indicate in their individual Evaluation #2, and then the commission could jointly recommend, those funds be directed to Emerging Issues, next year's RFP cycle, or the Legislature for appropriation at its discretion.

Presentations

Presentation meetings are scheduled for June 20-21 and 26-28 (5 days). An additional day has been reserved on members' calendars for June 25, 2024, and will be scheduled if the number of proposals selected for presentation exceeds 127. Additional business on presentation days will include approval of work plans for projects funded in 2024. The strategic planning subcommittee is also scheduled to meet several of these days. At its April 29 meeting, the commission decided the following format, location, and timing of presentations:

- Presentations will be held via Zoom for presenters to save time, provide flexibility, and make participation easier for proposers.
- Members would have the option to attend in person or remotely; however, the chair would be in-person. Six members (including the chair) would need to attend in person for the meeting to be hybrid. Otherwise, it will be entirely remote.
- To avoid technical issues and reduce transition times, no PowerPoints will be used.
- Presentations will be 15 minutes each: 5 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for questions and answers, with discretion to go over this time allotment if needed, especially for proposals requesting over \$1 million.
- 30-minute lunch breaks will be provided.
- The exact timing and schedule of presentations will be determined once we know how many presentations will take place.