

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

MEMO: Agenda Item 6a

DATE: June 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Emerging Issues Account Discussion

Summary

A [staff memo](#) from May 23, 2025 provided background information on the Emerging Issues Account (EIA), including the need for EIA funding to adhere to the LCCMR's strategic plan.

The LCCMR's six-year (2025-2031) strategic plan includes a goal specifically related to emerging environmental and natural resources issues (See page 9 of the [strategic plan](#)). The goal includes seven strategies for emerging issues funding and one operational strategy of exploring revised processes for requesting, evaluating, and awarding funds for emerging issues.

The [EIA policy and procedure](#) posted to the LCCMR's website has not yet been updated to incorporate these strategies and has not been updated in any way since its adoption in January 2008. LCCMR's input is needed for an update consistent with the new strategic plan. Ideally, this work can be done before the next round of EIA requests are generated.

If members wish to update the EIA policy and procedures before the next round of EIA requests to LCCMR are generated, following is a proposed timeline:

June 26, 2025 LCCMR Meeting: LCCMR members provide input to staff on ideal concepts for an improved process for requesting, evaluating, and awarding funds for emerging issues

July 18, 2025 LCCMR Meeting: Using input received at the June 26 meeting, staff provide materials and options for member consideration and possible action at the July 18, 2025 meeting.

August- September, 2025: LCCMR staff implement changes approved by the LCCMR.

November 19, 2025: 2nd 2025 deadline for EIA requests to be submitted to LCCMR (current account balance is \$3,170,000). The LCCMR also meets this day.

December 10, 2025 LCCMR Meeting: LCCMR makes decisions on the EIA requests submitted for the 2nd deadline.

In addition, staff have prepared the following questions for member consideration regarding the current EIA policies and procedures:

Emerging Issues Account Criteria

1. Would members like the criteria updated to align with the seven strategies in the strategic plan?
2. Are there additional and/or minimum criteria that need to be met for EIA proposals?

Requesting Funds

1. Is a one-page letter, organizational description, budget, and presentation at a commission meeting sufficient for you to evaluate EIA proposals?
2. Is there additional information from the proposers that members would find useful to evaluate EIA proposals?

Awarding Funds

1. Provided the EIA is funded, how frequently should LCCMR consider EIA funding requests? Is semi-annual review of requests sufficient?
2. Should all proposals be advanced to members? Should there be a method to filter or vet the proposals before they are advanced?
3. Should all proposals be given time to present to the commission? Should there be a method to filter or vet the proposals before they are asked to present to the commission?
4. How much time is reasonable for member review? For member decisions?
5. Is there a different way members would like EIA proposals to be solicited?