Emerging Issues 2026 Round 2: Member Selection for Presentation (projects listed smallest to largest by funding request)

Proposal Information					Fund Information		Member Evaluation			Staff Evaluation										
										EIA Evaluation Criteria								Non-EIA Evaluation Criteria		
Line #	Project Title	Organization	Project Manager Name	Amount Requested (Rounded to Highest Thousand)	Proposed Funding Source	Proposed Funding Source Deadline to Spend	Number of Members Selecting	Select for Presentation ?	Did members determine a project was ineligible due to being previously reviewed and rejected by the commission during the most recently completed funding cycle or included in a bill introduced during either of the last two regular legislative sessions?	Consistent with the constitutional purpose of the ENRTF and the commission's strategic plan?	Addresses an issue that came up unexpectedly?	Address an immediate threat to public health, the environment, or natural resources?	Be conducted by a state agency or performed under contract directed by a state agency?	Implement a solution where following the standard LCCMR funding cycle would result in significant detrimental impact on the environment or natural resources before the next legislative session.	Ready to implement as soon as funds are available?	proposal should not be eligible for EIA funding due to the following proposal being reviewed and rejected in the most recently completed LCCMR funding	proposal should not be eligible for EIA funding due to the following bill introduction(s) during the last 2 legislative sessions (list legislative year and bill number)	LCCMR Score (1 = Lowest to 4 = Highest) *	Staff Comments
6	In depth analysis of a hotspot of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus activity in Minnesota	University of Minnesota	Declan Schroeder	$ 296,000	M.L. 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 2, Subd. 10a.	6/30/2028	6/13	No	No members indicated ineligiblity	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Staff did not find any proposals of note	Staff did not find any bill language of note	3	-Would Members consider this research, and if so, does it meet the threshold for EIA eligibility? The EIA requirements state that research projects are not eligible for funding except in extraordinary circumstances where it can be demonstrated how funding is necessary to avoid imminent damage to or loss of an opportunity to protect the environment or natural resources in a timely fashion. -It is unclear if this proposal rises to the level of hypothesis-driven research that would require peer-review.
7	Post-Fire Wilderness Recovery: Mapping Hazards and Forest Regeneration in the BWCA	University of Minnesota	Alexis Grinde	$ 298,000	M.L. 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 2, Subd. 10a.	6/30/2028	8/13	Yes	No members indicated ineligiblity	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Staff did not find any proposals of note	Staff did not find any bill language of note	4	
8			**Total Amount Requested**	**$ 594,000**																

***Scoring Key**

4 = Strongly Meets Criteria (Strongest): Proposal rates strongly across most criteria and exceeds expectations in key areas.
3 = Consistently Meets Criteria (Above Average): Proposal rates satisfactorily across most criteria and exceeds expectations for some criteria.
2 = Adequately Meets Criteria (Average): Proposal rates adequately across most criteria, meeting the minimum acceptable standards but may be weaker for some criteria.
1 = Insufficiently Meets Criteria (Below Average): Proposal rates lower across most criteria or does not sufficiently address key criteria, showing clear gaps or deficiencies.

LCCMR Evaluation Criteria Score from the LCCMR's standard evaluation and selection criteria. (see https://www.lccmr.mn.gov/member_info/2025-04-30_lccmr_evaluation_and_selection_criteria.pdf)

Agenda Item: 07c2