

LCCMR 2007 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Legislative–Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) produced its first set of Trust Fund appropriation recommendations amounting to just over \$23 million on January 5, 2007.
- The LCCMR, newly formed in August 2006, produced an interim strategic plan for the Trust Fund, nominated a number of past projects for future funding and also solicited and reviewed new proposals related to water resource quality and quantity protection.
- The Commission recommends 29 projects to the Legislature for the annual Trust Fund appropriations. A complete itemized list of the recommended proposals is on the LCCMR website at www.lccmr.leg.mn.

TWO MAJOR THEMES OF THE 2007 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. LAND PROTECTION through acquisition or research that will provide improved protection into the future (nearly 22,000 acres), and
2. WATER QUALITY/QUANTITY AND AIR PROTECTION through
 - Data collection related to soils, biological and geologic information;
 - Research on water quality concerns, pharmaceuticals and other chemicals; and
 - Demonstrations of the potential for biofuels to reduce water and air pollution while providing significant fuel resources.

SUMMARY OF THE EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE \$23 MILLION

- **Land Acquisition** - Approximately \$12,300,000 in land *acquisition* to protect forests prairies, wetlands and other habitat for both human and animal benefit. The estimated acreage to be acquired in a combination of fee and easements is 17,000.
- **Land Restoration** - Approximately \$2,500,000 in land *restoration*. This includes physical vegetation restoration and advanced research into biological control of exotic and invasive species. Restoration acres are approximately 4,000.
- **Natural Resource Inventory and Analysis** - Approximately \$4,100,000 in projects that provide *inventory and analysis* of natural resources and will provide critically important pieces of information over time. This includes continuation of the MN County Biological Survey, acceleration of the County Geologic Atlas base information program, experimental lake zoning, trout stream "spring sheds" examinations, evaluating conservation grasslands for their pollution prevention.
- **Natural Resource Research** - Approximately \$2,900,000 in *research* projects that will advance our knowledge of air and water resource problems and provide some solutions.
- Just over \$1 million for administration and a special inquiry into natural resources data needs organization and technology issues.

2008 Recommendations - The LCCMR will recommend a second set of funding recommendations to the 2008 Legislature based on the next strategic planning cycle.