

LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES
MINUTES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Room 107 Capitol

St. Paul, MN

Co-Chair: Rep. Kathy Tingelstad

Commission Members Present: Sen. Ellen Anderson, Al Berner, Jeffrey Broberg, Rep. Lyndon Carlson, Sen. Satveer Chaudhary, Rep. Ron Erhardt, Sen. Dennis Frederickson, Nancy Gibson, David Hartwell, John Herman, John Hunt, Mary Mueller, Rep. Kathy Tingelstad, Sen. Pat Pariseau, Rep. Tom Rukavina, Sen. Jim Vickerman, Rep. Jean Wagenius.

Staff Present: Dir. J. Velin, S. Thornton, M. McDonough, D. Griffith

Excused Absence:

1. Approve agenda

Members indicate any conflicts of interest for today's business

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad called the meeting to order at 8:54 a.m.

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad moved approval of the Agenda for June 26, 2007 – motion prevailed.

2. Approve minutes of 6/5/07, 6/6/07, and 6/19/07 and 6/20/07 – Co-Chair signs approved minutes

John Hunt moved to approve the minutes from 6/5/07 – motion prevailed.

John Hunt moved to approve the minutes from 6/6/07 – motion prevailed.

David Hartwell requested that the minutes of 6/19/07 and 6/20/07 be delayed to allow time to review them.

3. Adopt preliminary 6-yr strategic plan – Approve and Issue Request for Proposal (RFP) for 2008 funding

- All previous material including draft from June 20 meeting

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad began the discussion on reviewing the preliminary 6-yr strategic plan. Nancy Gibson asked if the focus could be on two topic areas like the previous years. Rep. Jean Wagenius would like to see the RFP be open to a broader range of research proposers.

Jeff Broberg explained that the Trust Fund Advisory Task Force did discuss the issue with staying focused on the Request for Proposal (RFP). Al Berner said he would prefer to stay more focused. Rep. Jean Wagenius explained that the LCCMR has an obligation to Minnesota to keep the RFP open to more scientists because you never know what type of proposals will be received.

David Hartwell said he is also interested in staying focused. David would like to see a specific amount stated either in the RFP or the Strategic Plan for an outside the box category.

John Herman asked if the proposals last year were only for one year and if they were – will they be back this year? John Herman said he is interested in enhancement of private prairies, an additional amount to the U of M with alternative energy initiatives and high technology data projects. John Herman said these three areas would be enough for this year by themselves. John Herman asked why there is not a habitat corridor area in southwestern Minnesota. Rep. Kathy Tingelstad responded to John Herman's question about the projects last year. Rep. Kathy Tingelstad said the projects last year were mostly funded for two years.

00:36:44

John Herman asked to see what was allocated in 2006 bonding (report passed out in meeting and attached as Attachment #1) and what we allocated last year regarding land acquisition (Attachment #2). Susan Thornton did say that we could get the data and the balance for 2005 habitat corridors appropriation (Attachment #3).

Rep. Jean Wagenius suggested having a proposal in the biofuels area for the use of cellulose for fuel with limited water use.

Sen. Ellen Anderson said the interest in this area should be toward the on the ground work and research. For example: water usage and air emissions because people don't really know if it is better than other types of fuel.

Mary Mueller said the issues of prairies and biofuels are related. Mary Mueller believes you need to be real sensitive to the genotypes and seed sources and how it impacts sources of seeds for the local ecotype and for the future. Maybe part of the funding should be to have a seminar about the local ecotypes/success from other states/local nurseries. Mary Mueller said emphasis should be on easements allowing for sustainable harvests.

Jeff Broberg said if making liquid fuels you will need water and ethanol is 100% dissolvable in water. Jeff Broberg said the LCCMR would be better in policy and regulation / forums – conferences – handouts regarding the issue of biofuels to the public. John Velin said there are entities that could be designated to be the lead in developing conferences. Jeff Broberg would advocate conferences with a final paper. Al Berner said corn is the worst to grow out here because corn causes many problems. They should be looking at more than liquid fuels and do something with gasification.

00:54:57

Rep. Tom Rukavina said in previous years when he was on the LCMR there was always something regarding recreation development and enhancements and he sees the focus now days being more on research and studies. Rep. Kathy Tingelstad responded that the focus is up to the LCCMR members. Rep. Jean Wagenius responded one of the best things they can do is have a multiple purpose (ie – trails and using local native prairie ecotypes on the sides of the trail). Rep. Tom Rukavina said his district is already 64% publicly owned. Rep. Jean Wagenius said one thing that needs to be discussed is invasive species. She doesn't see this as north or south. Rep. Tom Rukavina said there doesn't seem to be anything in the strategic plan related to the sportsmen. Sen. Jim Vickerman said in his district people are concerned about hunting and trails and energy is a whole other issue which has funding in other areas. Sen. Jim Vickerman said we need to make sure we don't overlap with the DNR or U of M in certain areas.

Nancy Gibson responded to Rep. Tom Rukavina comment, the Habitat Corridors Partnership (HCP) is all about wildlife. Nancy is very concerned about Forest Legacy. Nancy Gibson would like to propose an RFP related to prairie, prairie stewardship easements, etc. Al Berner stated that he thought we had enough projects already related to prairie.

David Hartwell said his concerns are as follows: land, fragmentation (whether wetlands/forest/etc.), state parks, prairies and they should identify a land component focused on these areas. David Hartwell said we haven't talked about the GIS data and the expense that goes with it but thinks it needs to be discussed and is important. David Hartwell has a big concern about perpetual conservation easements. David Hartwell likes the idea of disruptive technology.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson said he has concerns about the ethanol industry and the issues with corn / prairies and invasive species.

01:19:38

John Hunt said he is focused on reviewing the RFP and whether or not an RFP is really needed. Rep. Tom Rukavina asked when this process started. John Velin said the RFP started in the early 1980's.

01:34:53

Rep. Jean Wagenius proposed for discussion to add a new bullet under the section of Air called "Impacts on land, water, wildlife and recreation." So that there is the broad umbrella.

Jeff Broberg wanted to discuss the issue of foundation data documents.

Nancy Gibson said wildlife is lacking research (i.e. moose).

01:37:55

Susan Thornton guided members through the draft Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan.

01:58:23

Sen. Ellen Anderson recommended looking at pages 5 and 6 from the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan as the basis of a working draft of this year's preliminary plan – motion prevailed.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson asked when this Preliminary 6-yr Strategic Plan goes into effect. John Velin said this plan will be in effect as of today if it gets adopted.

02:01:43

Sen. Ellen Anderson moved to have the introduction on page 5 & 6 of the Preliminary 6-yr Strategic Plan be the language modified from page 17 (from Proposed Process for Development... to the end of the paragraph related to "Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan" of the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan – then put the "Summaries of Drivers of Change and most Pressing Issues" with a note these are issues provided by staff and from the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan from page 6, then have "The Overall Goals of the LCCMR in the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan" from page 5 and last have the "Recommendations that would provide benefits to multiple resources" from page 6.

02:09:28

Mary Mueller amended the motion to change on page 6 "Recommendations that would provide benefits to multiple resources" to "Priorities will be given to projects that provide benefits to multiple resources".

02:12:12

Jeff Broberg amended the motion to clarify Item 6 on page 5 from "Acquire, enhance and manage a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities" to "Acquire, enhance, construct and maintain a variety of outdoor accessible recreation opportunities".

Sen. Ellen Anderson agreed to add the amendments and format being corrected by staff – motion prevailed.

John Herman moved to take pages 7 through 11 of the Preliminary 6-yr Strategic Plan and add a different introduction and put on the website under the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan and in the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan it would be an appendix with clarification and add information on the schedule, outreach and how can participate – motion prevailed.

02:43:46

Al Berner moved to remove pages 12 through 16 from the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan taken out of the strategic plan and create 2 documents (1) Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan, and (2) the Request for Proposal (RFP) – motion prevailed.

02:48:04

Rep. Jean Wagenius moved to change Item 3 on page 5 from the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan from "Support research, planning, and/or demonstration projects that protect and conserve sensitive lands and water resources." to "Support research, planning, and/or demonstration projects that protect and conserve sensitive lands, water resources, and overall ecologic integrity." - motion prevailed.

Sen. Ellen Anderson suggested to add a new Item 7 on page 6 from the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan under "Recommendations that would provide benefits to multiple resources" – 7. Develop land use strategies for crop production for sustainable energy production, native species water quality habitat protection. – no action taken.

Al Berner moved to move Appendix B "Mission and Vision Statement" on page 20 from the "Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan" to the front of the document – motion prevailed.

Members began to propose to amend the language. Staff was requested to take members suggested edits and incorporate them into the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan as modified in the morning for review by members after lunch.

Lunch break

After lunch members moved to agenda items 5, 6 and 4.

03:40:26

5. Review options for Technical Advisory Committees to help review proposals. Establish Technical Advisory Committees – roles, timing, conflicts of interest

- Draft list of sample technical committee membership

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad suggested moving this discussion to July 17, 2007.

6. Ad hoc working group advice on Forest easements work program and consider approval of DNR standards and of work program for M.L. 2007, Chap. 30, Subd 4a – Forest Legacy Conservation Easements.

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad recommended to reformatize the working group.

4:00:49

4. Update on chair for peer review panel

John Velin said Dr. Carl Richards accepted the position as chair for the peer review panel.

Members continued discussion on Agenda Item 3.

3. Adopt preliminary 6-yr strategic plan – Approve and Issue Request for Proposal (RFP) for 2008 funding

Members discussed moving the due date of the RFP from Aug. 24, 2007 to Sept. 24, 2007.

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad moved pages 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the 2008 Request for Proposal with noted changes and to direct staff to correct any grammatical changes or spelling errors with the due date to be Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2007 – motion prevailed.

Members decided to focus on the RFP and go back to the annotated Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan if time permitted.

Rep. Jean Wagenius handed ideas for the RFP. The following three bullets were:

- Protect native prairies (old growth) and create seed banks of prairie seeds of a local ecotype.
- Develop processes that produce biofuels using minimal water.
- Grants to high schools, colleges and universities to establish operation plans, strategies, and timetables to become carbon neutral.

04:33:45

John Hunt moved to have some invited proposals this year along with an RFP – motion prevailed.

David Hartwell passed out a handout on a proposed Conservation Easement Stewardship and Enforcement Fund RFP Draft.

Sen. Ellen Anderson said it is probably a good idea but should not have so many limits.

Rep. Ron Erhardt said this RFP handout from David Hartwell proposes government operations structuring and the idea may be fine but the funding should not be coming from the LCCMR.

Sen. Satveer Chaudhary asked if this could be included under the invited proposals.

05:07:14

Sen. Satveer Chaudhary moved that staff send a letter to the DNR and BWSR requesting a proposal for a conservation easement stewardship fund or like process and that it be considered as an invited proposal.

Sen. Dennis Frederickson moved to amend to add "with consultation from the attorney general and the legislative auditor.

Sen. Ellen Anderson moved to amend to add "subject to the timeline of the other proposals".

Sen. Satveer Chaudhary agreed to the amendments. – motion prevailed.

Sen. Ellen Anderson asked for everyone to give their ideas.

Ideas:

1. Easements (Sen. Satveer Chaudhary)
2. Contaminants in groundwater (Sen. Ellen Anderson)
3. Solicit ideas from groups or small communities to submit proposals in reducing CO₂ emissions and renewable energy (Sen. Ellen Anderson)
4. Watershed level demonstration project and land use, measure impact on water quality (Sen. Ellen Anderson)
5. Exotics and invasive species (Sen. Dennis Frederickson)
6. Invite for review all those from last year and RFP for other proposals (Sen. Dennis Frederickson)
7. Every year fund one new biocontrol of invasives (will all be 5-10 year appropriations) (Rep. Jean Wagenius)
8. Bring both corridors back – habitat loss/fragmentation (Nancy Gibson)
9. Data collection (Nancy Gibson)
10. Develop a statewide strategy for the foundation documents/data collection (Jeff Broberg)
11. Foundation documents from all different layers and ownership (Al Berner)
12. Metropolitan regional parks – propose to add maintenance, development, and redevelopment as an invited proposal. (Rep. Lyndon Carlson)
13. Nonmetro Regional Parks (Sen. Jim Vickerman)
14. Need focus on data collection / outcomes from earlier presentations related to data collection (Rep. Jean Wagenius)
15. Biocontrols for aquatic invasives including VHS (Rep. Jean Wagenius)
16. Develop effective ways to stop or reduce spread of aquatic invasives (Nancy Gibson)
17. Native Prairie
 - a. Protect and Restore native prairies using one or more tools & reference statute
 - b. Public and private seed banks, biofuels
 - c. Certification program for local ecotype (reference definitions in statute)
18. Three parts to Native Prairie (Al Berner)
 1. Native prairie old growth
 2. How to expand native prairie / restoration
 3. How do we optimize or maximize seed product
19. Forest Easements without mining with exception for small scale gravel road maintenance (David Hartwell)
20. Proposals to protect, restore and enhance native prairies using working prairies concept with reference to the statutes (Mary Mueller)

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad moved the conversation back to the Request for Proposal (RFP).

Sen. Dennis Frederickson moved the paragraph on page 14 of the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan to the RFP as follows: "For the 2008 funding, LCCMR will consider recommending an allocation for

state and regional matching grant programs targeted to local units of government and nonprofits. If funded, such *the* programs must operate *contain* a competitive process with careful evaluation and very-thorough management and evaluation." – motion prevailed.

Sen. Jim Vickerman moved to the RFP page 15 of the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan section for DNR Local Initiative Matching Grants Program and for the section for Metropolitan Regional Park and Open Space Program and change the paragraph to: "Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trail Acquisition *and Development* for the metropolitan seven counties through the Metropolitan Council (40% match provided by the Council) for acquisitions identified in the adopted Metropolitan Regional Park Plan *for acquisition, maintenance, development and redevelopment* .

05:49:00

Sen. Dennis Frederickson moved to amend Sen. Jim Vickerman's motion to take out "and Development " and "For acquisition, maintenance, development and redevelopment and stay with the existing language on page 15 of the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan – motion prevailed. (Roll call: 7 yes – 6 no)

Al Berner moved to amend Sen. Dennis Frederickson's motion to add in "and development" – motion withdrawn.

Sen. Jim Vickerman renewed his motion to add the RFP with changes by Sen. Dennis Frederickson to approve on page 15 of the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan the section for DNR Local Initiative Matching Grants Program and for the section for Metropolitan Regional Park and Open Space Program change the paragraph to: "Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trail Acquisition for the metropolitan seven counties through the Metropolitan Council (40% match provided by the Council) for acquisitions identified in the adopted Metropolitan Regional Park Plan. – motion prevailed.

05:59:40

John Hunt moved the language to the RFP on page 15 of the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan the section for DNR Local Initiative Matching Grants Program – Conservation and Environmental Partners – motion prevailed.

Sen. Dennis Frederickson moved the language on page 15 of the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan the section for Local Water Management Matching Challenge Grants to the RFP – motion prevailed.

06:04:47

David Hartwell moved to invite proposals on forest conservations easements including Forest Legacy specifically excluding mineral extraction with the exception of gravel for local road maintenance - motion prevailed.

Sen. Pat Pariseau moved to add to the RFP under Natural Resource Data in the Preliminary 6-year Strategic Plan on Page 14 under Specific Priorities Are add a bullet saying "Development of a statewide strategy for the acquisition, access and distribution of GIS Natural Resource data in the public domain" - motion prevailed.

Nancy Gibson moved Habitat Corridors Partnership (HCP) and Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) under the Invited Programs this year – motion prevailed.

Al Berner moved to include as an invited proposal State Parks and Trails Acquisition - motion prevailed.

Sen. Ellen Anderson moved to have a section called Water Quality with the subgroups of:

- Address contaminants in ground water through better understanding of the contaminants and ways to reduce them.
 - Address water quality at a watershed level through changes in land use practices to improve water quality, including monitoring and evaluation components. (Funding may be proposed for more than 3 years to ensure sufficient time for monitoring and evaluation of the project.)
- motion prevailed.

6:25:57

Rep. Jean Wagenius moved to have a section called Native Prairies with the subgroups of (1) Protect, restore, enhance native prairies (including definitions in statutes) and (2) Proposals for local

ecotype certification for Minnesota. As part of the motion Rep. Jean Wagenius moved to add develop effective ways to reduce harmful aquatic invasives (such as VHS, zebra mussels, curly leaf pondweed and others) and staff will help out with the wording - motion prevailed.

06:34:36

Rep. Jean Wagenius moved to request from Initiative for Energy and the Environment (IREE) a proposal to do subgrants to higher education, high schools for carbon sequestration. For higher education and high schools it would be a carbon neutral plan (operations/strategies/timetable) and carbon reduction. LCCMR would have to sign off on all subgrants with IREE having accountability measures.

Sen. Ellen Anderson recommended there be some form a review from the LCCMR and also add grants to small communities or community groups for innovative ways to reduce carbon emissions and renewable energy.

Rep. Jean Wagenius agreed to include Sen. Ellen Anderson recommendations - motion prevailed.

06:50:23

Jeff Broberg moved to include a category on page 5 of the RFP "Shorelands and riparian land management and restoration" as a category – motion prevailed.

6:52:58

Al Berner moved to add MN County Biological Survey to the Invited Proposals – motion prevailed.

Jeff Broberg moved to have a category for Disruptive Technology (thinking outside the box) related to Environment and Natural Resource Issues – motion prevailed.

Rep. Jean Wagenius moved to approve page 5 of the RFP.

Rep. Jean Wagenius moved to amend the sentence on page 5 of the RFP from "Restorations should utilize seeds and plants of the local ecotypes" to "Restoration must utilize seeds and plants of the local ecoregion".

David Hartwell moved to add a sentence on page 5 of the RFP at the end of the paragraph started with "For acquisition and conservation easements, priority is to be given to acquiring...." add the following "Proposers must include an appropriate amount for permanent stewardship of the easement purchased.

David Hartwell moved to remove criteria from page 5 of the RFP and to check the website after July 17, 2007.

Mary Mueller said the criteria area of the RFP needs to be discussed in further details.

Sen. Ellen Anderson agrees we need to look at the system.

Rep. Jean Wagenius said maybe we could just have under criteria "Innovation or measurable/demonstrated outcomes (20 pts) and/or broad applicability with long-term impact (30 pts)

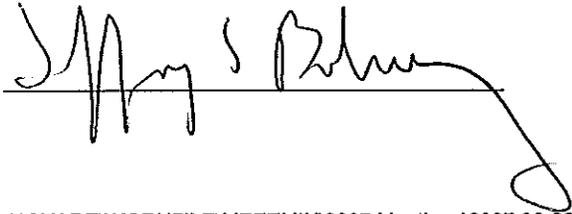
Al Berner moved to amend David Hartwell's motion to keep the Criteria and remove the points and see the website for more specifics about the Criteria after July 20, 2007.

Rep. Jean Wagenius agreed to incorporate David Hartwell's and Al Berner's amendments – motion prevailed.

Sen. Dennis Frederickson moved to approve the RFP and staff are instructed to make corrections as necessary. Members will be sent an email for review from discussions at today's meeting and input should go to staff and co-chairs before issuing the RFP on July 2 – motion prevailed.

7. **Other business and next meeting info – July 10 & 11 site visits and July 17 business meeting**
8. **Adjourn**
Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Bolman". The signature is written over a horizontal line that extends across the page. The signature starts with a large, stylized "J" and ends with a circular flourish.

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September 24, 2007