

John Velin, Director

LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Room 5, State Office Bldg,

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

St. Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chair: Sen. Jim Vickerman

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: J. Velin, S. Thornton, M. McDonough, M. Banker, D. Griffith

Excused: none

Co-Chair: Sen. Jim Vickerman

1. Approve agenda for LCCMR meeting

Sen. Dennis Frederickson moved approval of the agenda – motion prevailed.

2. Approve minutes for December 11, 2007

Mary Mueller moved approval of the minutes for December 11, 2007 – motion prevailed.

3. Members report potential conflicts of interest regarding today's business

David Hartwell explained a conflict with Kandiyohi partners agenda item #6a.

John Herman represented the Green Institute with respect to agenda item #6a.

Sen. Jim Vickerman began a discussion on Governor Pawlenty's bonding bill announcement on January 14, 2008. Lake Vermillion State Park acquisition and development is one of the items in the Governor's proposed bonding package.

Vermilion Park Acquisition & Development – User Finance Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund \$0

"The Governor supports this action to acquire land and develop a new state park on Lake Vermillion in Northern Minnesota, but he is not making a specific request at this time because cost of acquisition is unknown. When a purchase price is negotiated, he will make a supplemental capital budget recommendation to cover the cost with user-financed general obligation bonds with the environmental trust fund being the source of user financing."

Legislative members discussed how the bonding bill will be going through many different committees before becoming a bill.

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4. Peer Review Report 2008 for proposed recommended research projects

Michael McDonough briefly explained the process for peer review for 2008 recommendations.

5. Great Lakes Protection Account (GLPA) \$86,000 recommendation – to add dollars to: M.L. 2006, Chp. 243, Sec. 20, Subd. 6, “Lake Superior Research” per motion adopted 12/11/07 - Doug Ricketts (UMD Large Lakes Observatory)

Doug Ricketts (from UMD Large Lakes Observatory) stated the Blue Heron was purchased in 1997 for research on Lake Superior. Mr. Ricketts explained a few past projects that have been completed through Trust Fund and Great Lakes Protection Account (GLPA) funding. Sen. Satveer Chaudhary asked “Who owns the Blue Heron?”. Mr. Ricketts said the University of MN. Rep. Kathy Tingelstad stated that this is a very good research project. Susan Thornton said this money could be available upon enactment rather than waiting until July 1, 2008.

Members discussed the proposal for Lake Superior Research from the GLPA as requested by the Commission on December 11, 2007.

Sen. Satveer Chaudhary moved to approve the proposal for Lake Superior Research – motion prevailed.

Members asked about the budget. Ms. Thornton stated that their work program will have a detailed budget.

Sen. Satveer Chaudhary suggested there be a site visit on the Blue Heron this summer.

6. Consider other requested work program changes and status updates (LCCMR Staff)

Discuss status on:

a) M.L. 2006, Chapter 243, Sec. 20, Subd. 3, “Phillips Biomass Community Energy System” - Phillips Community Energy Cooperative Board Resolution declining appropriation (dated 12/10/07)

Carl Nelson (associate Director of Green Institute) explained the history of this project. Mr. Nelson discussed an alternative use of the funds they are asking the LCCMR to consider. They would like to use the funds to help put in a geothermal or solar thermal system for heating/cooling and water systems in the Cultural and Community Center in the Phillips neighborhood in South Minneapolis. They requested another 45 days to come back with a proposal.

Nancy Gibson moved to reallocate this appropriation toward the 2008 Metropolitan Conservation Partners and Habitat Conservation Partners – motion withdrawn.

Rep. Jean Wagenius suggested an alternative to the reallocation as a result of the Peer Review Panel advice on the research proposals.

David Hartwell discussed maybe holding onto the money for the proposed Lake Vermillion State Park.

Rep. Jean Wagenius expressed interest in keeping the reallocation for the research projects that were recommended this year (2008).

John Hunt recommended acceptance of the resolution from the Phillips Community Energy Cooperative Board declining the appropriation.

Nancy Gibson moved to have any projects not able to accept their funding for 2008 be moved to the Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) and Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) with an equal split of the dollars – motion prevailed.

Members discussed that this motion had already been approved at the October 30, 2007 meeting.

Rep. Jean Wagenius moved to have the \$500,000 from M.L. 2006, Chp. 243, Sec. 20, Subd. 3 transferred and added to the following three projects: Subd. 3(p) “Impacts of Climate” \$150,000, Subd. 3(q) “Biofuel

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Production and Wildlife" \$250,000, and Subd. 4(b) "Control of the Common Carp" \$100,000 – motion prevailed.

b) Other updates may be added

There were no other updates at this time.

7. Discuss proposed bill draft for stewardship monitoring of easements – Rep. Jean Wagenius

Rep. Jean Wagenius discussed her proposed bill draft (See Attachment #1) and a handout from Minnesota Land Trust on Conservation Easement Project Cost Analysis – Updated 2007. (See Attachment #2)

Sen. Jim Vickerman asked to have this item continued on the agenda on February 7, 2008.

8. Discuss fundraising by private-nonprofits related to funding provided by the Trust Fund for acquisition (fee title and easements)

Rep. Jean Wagenius explained "Donations Connected to Real Property Acquisition Limited" (See Attachment #3). Sen. Satveer Chaudhary asked if there are any examples of why this is needed. Rep. Jean Wagenius said the only one she knows of is Trust for Public Land.

Rep. Jean Wagenius moved to have her handout titled "Donations Connected to Real Property Acquisition Limited" (Attachment #3) be added to the 2008 appropriation language – motion did not prevail.

Sen. Jim Vickerman recessed the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Sen. Jim Vickerman reconvened the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Sen. Jim Vickerman requested that John Velin address the members.

John Velin announced that Ducks Unlimited has selected the LCCMR as their partner for the year and members are invited to their award event on February 16, 2008.

Mr. Velin announced that he will be retiring in late February or early March.

9. List of 2008 recommended projects with potential revenue implications for the Trust Fund

There are no candidates.

10. Discuss 2008 Emerging Issues Account criteria - draft from 12/11/07

Susan Thornton explained at the previous meeting there was discussion on changing the criteria for the Emerging Issues Account.

Al Berner moved that any funds distributed from this account be approved by a super majority vote (12 out of 17). Mary Mueller suggested that the super majority be of the members present at that meeting.

Al Berner renewed his motion to have any funds distributed from the Emerging Issues Account be approved by a super majority vote (60% of the members present at the meeting) –

03:31:00

David Hartwell recommended changing "The Commission will review requests quarterly." to the following "The Commission will review requests semiannually".

Al Berner renewed his motion to have any funds distributed from the Emerging Issues Account be approved by a super majority vote (60% of the members present at the meeting will constitute a super majority) and include the following corrections:

Under Criteria the first dash – change "Addressing environmental..."

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Under Criteria the second dash – change “...detrimental to our the state’s...”

Under Criteria the fourth dash – change “...critical land in a timely manner”

Under Awarding funds the second bullet under the third dash – change “If the funds are not spent for a an unexpected... that has an a critical....

– motion prevailed.

11. 2008 Appropriation Language - Discuss and adopt appropriation language for 2008 recommendations

Susan Thornton reviewed with members the appropriation language for the 2008 Recommendations total \$22,952,000 (\$22,866,000 Trust Fund / \$86,000 Great Lakes Protection Account), 37 appropriations to be submitted to the 2008 Legislature

See Attachment #4 for all changes recommended to the language.

Rep. Tom Rukavina requested DNR to address the lines related to Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) and Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP). Bill Becker discussed the language changes for MeCC and HCP. Under MeCC - deleting lines 3.28 – 3.30 because it is not needed and does not reflect the types of projects being funded; and delete on line 3.26 “:(1)” and insert a period on line 3.27 after 86A.07. Under HCP – deleting lines 6.6 – 6.8 and delete on line 6.4 “:(1)” and insert a period on line 6.5 after 86A.07.

Nancy Gibson requested that a member of the MeCC/HCP testify on the appropriation language.

Deb Loon testified that her concerns are related to “golden” opportunities and the fact that the work programs this year are much more limited. Deb Loon said she is willing to try this moving forward but would like to be able to express opinions at a later date. Deb Loon spoke with members about wanting more flexibility.

Staff explained that the appropriation language for MeCC and HCP is written this way at the request of Counsel, Department of Finance, DNR and the Chair of Senate Finance.

Jeff Broberg moved to delete on Line 15.3 to 15.5 the sentence “This appropriation is the first of several appropriations to provide long-term funding toward this effort.” and insert “This appropriation represents a continuing effort to complete the geologic atlas throughout the state of Minnesota.” – motion prevailed.

Nancy Gibson asked “Who would be taking the bill through the legislative sessions?”. Sen. Jim Vickerman stated he would be willing to author the bill for the Senate. Rep. Jean Wagenius said she does not know who will be the author in the House.

Mary Mueller asked staff to email members when something critical is happening throughout the legislative sessions.

Sen. Dennis Frederickson moved to incorporate the reallocation from Phillips into the bill, include changes discussed and technical corrections as needed, and to have staff take the document 08-4823 to the Revisor to be jacketed for introduction and given to the appropriate authors – motion prevailed. (vote was unanimous)

12. Update on Technical Review Committees required in M.S. 116P.09 Administration Subd. 8 Technical Advisory Committees (LCCMR Staff)

Susan Thornton explained the handout on Technical Review Committees.

Rep. Jean Wagenius moved to ask staff to pull together a Technical Advisory Panel that would look at the proposals and give technical advice and be able to give general comments – motion prevailed.

13. Discuss schedule options for planning and RFP for next 3 years

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Susan Thornton explained the information in their meeting packets. Susan Thornton stated that comments from the public stress that a standardized timeframe for the cycle every year would be helpful.

David Hartwell moved to request staff develop a detailed Calendar similar to Option B from the handout titled "Potential LCCMR Schedules" (see Attachment #4) – motion prevailed.

David Hartwell stated that the site visits and other issues could be held throughout the year.

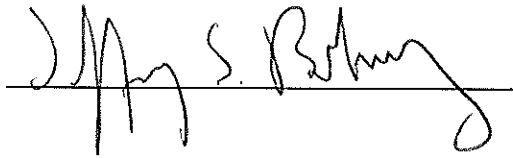
Mary Mueller said that it should be clear that 2008 is a transition year and have it be stated in the RFP that this is a transition year.

14. Next Meeting is on February 7, 2008 (9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) in Room 10, State Office Building - Co-Chair is Rep. Kathy Tingelstad

- **Establish schedule and work plan for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 including dates for 2009 and 2010 RFP and meeting dates (3 hrs)**
- **Update on Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan (60 to 90 minutes)**
- **Other business**
- **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary S. Bohm", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.