

Susan Thornton, Director

**MINUTES**

**July 14, 2009**

**9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Room 5 State Office Building**

**St. Paul, MN 55155**

**3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**Training Room, Minnesota State Retirement System**

**60 Empire Drive, St. Paul, MN 55103**

Members Present: Sen. Ellen Anderson, Al Berner, Jeff Broberg, Rep. Lyndon Carlson, Sen. Satveer Chaudhary, Sen. Dennis Frederickson, Nancy Gibson, John Herman, Rep. Larry Howes, Norman Moody, Mary Mueller, Sen. Pat Pariseau, Rep. Ron Shimanski, Sen. Jim Vickerman, Rep. Jean Wagenius, Elizabeth Wilkens

Staff Present: S. Thornton, M. McDonough, M. Banker, D. Griffith

Members Excused: Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Co-Chair: Rep. Jean Wagenius**

**1. Approve agenda for LCCMR meeting for July 14, 2009**

Commissioner Wagenius called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Howes moved approval of the agenda for July 14, 2009 – motion prevailed.

**2. Approve minutes for June 24, 2009**

MOTION: Commissioner Frederickson moved approval of the minutes for June 24, 2009 – motion prevailed.

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

Commissioner Herman reported a conflict of interest with LCCMR ID: 165-F "Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures (UWCA) from Wilderness Inquiry. Faegre & Benson has been hired to lobby for Wilderness Inquiry.

Commissioner Wagenius wanted to let members know her son and Dr. Shaw (LCCMR ID: 083-C "Conserving Prairie Plant Diversity and Evaluating Local Adaptation") have worked together on papers published but does not view this as a conflict of interest.

**4. Discuss M.L. 2010 Proposals received and review process  
- Discussion will include an overview of DNR "A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2009-2013" related to 2010 proposals**

Susan Thornton started the discussion on the 2010 proposals received. Ms. Thornton explained Minnesota Pollution Control Agency sent an email on June 25, 2009 withdrawing two proposals. First, LCCMR ID: 167-F "Energy/Climate Change Educational Initiative" and LCCMR ID: 140-E1 "a Living System Simulation of the Minnesota River Valley". LCCMR ID: 167-F "School and

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Community Energy and Climate Change Education” was resubmitted from Hamline University - Tracy Fredin who was a partner from the original proposal submitted.

Susan Thornton and staff reviewed the 2010 funding priorities and members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Frederickson moved to request staff to invite individuals in to provide us a briefing at an upcoming commission meeting on emerging tree diseases and tree pests; an evaluation of research that may be going on to control those diseases; and pests and if there are deficiencies in the resources they have for conducting the research – motion prevailed.

Members expressed concern related to the supplant issue in state agency project proposals. Members suggested project managers should be prepared to answer why/how project proposals supplement and not supplant at the proposal presentations. This information should also be requested as part of the Request for Proposal in the future.

Commissioner Wagenius stated the DNR is required to complete a 25-year financial plan for parks and trails by August 1, 2009 and she would like the Commission to have a presentation of the report when completed.

Bob Meier and Keith Wendt (DNR) gave an overview of DNR’s “A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2009-2013” (<http://www.mndnr.gov/conservationagenda>) and a spreadsheet titled “2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals: Summary of DNR Proposals Submitted to LCCMR”.

Commissioner Howes asked about ice-out trends and vehicle fuel usage. Mr. Wendt said the ice-out data trends were from the Minnesota State Climatology Office not the DNR for the average ice out dates. Mr. Wendt said in terms of the fuel prices he has a report he will give members that has more detailed information regarding vehicle usage and the ice-out trends.

Commissioner Wagenius asked for information regarding the outdoor recreation participation trends. Commissioner Chaudhary commented there are a number of academic studies that have been done both at a federal and state level that are showing a downward slide. Mr. Meier said he will get a summary to members.

Commissioner Vickerman asked why is the constitutional amendment money not being used for Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA). Commissioner Anderson explained the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council has not considered SNAs a priority. In the end, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council did not want to buy any land that would not to be open to the hunting and fishing. Mr. Meier said that SNAs are open to some hunting. Commissioner Anderson said that the law says that SNA’s may have some hunting but not all. The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council appears to not be interested in purchasing any lands that have restrictions on hunting. Mr. Meier said he would have Peggy Booth (DNR) provide a fact sheet on SNAs.

Commissioner Pariseau asked about a walk-on program for the State of Minnesota. Commissioner Pariseau asked Mr. Meier if the DNR would support a walk-on program? She said the state of Missouri and Kansas have great walk-on programs. Mr. Meier said Minnesota would need to get funding through the general fund for a walk-on program. Mr. Meier said he will get a copy of the recent report on a walk-on program for Minnesota.

### **5. Overview on New Minnesota State Grants Management Policies – Kristin Batson, Director - Office of Grants Management (OGM), Department of Administration**

Kristin Batson provided an overview of the Office of Grants Management (OGM) adopted policies. Their mission is to standardize, streamline and improve state grant-making practices and to increase public access to information about state grant opportunities. The OGM has a public website, <http://www.grants.state.mn.us>, which provides grant seekers a convenient way to search

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for state grant opportunities by topic, key word or agency. The OGM also developed an internal resource website, <http://www.admin.state.mn.us/ogm>, for state agency grants staff, which includes policies and statutes, training and development opportunities, best practices and more.

### **6. DNR Fiscal Contract Management for 2009 projects – Wayne Sames, DNR**

Wayne Sames (DNR) discussed the fiscal contract management for 2009 Trust Fund projects. Mr. Sames stated there are 49 active pass-through contracts (agreements). The main change for 2009 contract management is the requirement of receipts and invoices for proof of payment in order to be reimbursed. Since 2007, receipts and invoices were not required as they had been in previous years. Project managers will now have to have invoices that can be linked to results/deliverables in their work programs.

Susan Thornton said "On June 25, 2009, LCCMR Staff had a meeting with the pass-through project managers and Gail Fox (DNR) to review new information regarding pass-through reimbursements. This meeting was held to give project managers a chance to ask questions and learn why invoices are necessary again when completing their reimbursement requests.

### **7. Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo implementation**

Mike Banker reviewed mock-ups of how the new logo could be used.

### **8. Overview – Environmental Education and Outdoor Education - Will include review of "A GreenPrint for Minnesota: State plan for environmental education, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition" and Outdoor Education Legislative Report, January 2009**

Jeff Ledermann (MPCA) provided an overview of "A GreenPrint for Minnesota: State Plan for Environmental Education, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition".

Jay Johnson (DNR) provided an overview of the DNR Outdoor Education Legislative Report, January 2009. This report was a request from the 2008 Legislature.

Commissioner Howes asked about grants to schools for archery and state law. Commissioner Wagenius said she would request House Research to provide follow-up.

### **9. Other business (as needed)**

**Recess to allow travel to Training Room, Minnesota State Retirement System, 60 Empire Drive, St. Paul, MN 55103**

### **10. Joint meeting with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (Facilitator – Charlie Petersen, Management Analysis and Development, Minnesota Management and Budget) \*\* Agenda attached \*\***

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

