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Susan Thornton, Director

**Minutes**

**July 28, 2009**

**9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Room 5 State Office Building**

**St. Paul, MN 55155**

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

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

Members Excused: Al Berner, Rep. Lyndon Carlson, Sen. Pat Pariseau, Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Co-Chair: Nancy Gibson**

**1. Approve agenda for LCCMR meeting for July 28, 2009**

Commissioner Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. There was general consensus to approve the agenda for today's meeting.

**2. Approve minutes for July 14, 2009**

Commissioner Mueller moved to approve the minutes for July 14, 2009 – motion prevailed.

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

Commissioner Broberg restated his conflict of interest that he gave at the LCCMR meeting on June 16, 2009.

Commissioner Wilkens reported a conflict of interest with LCCMR ID #210-F "Hunting Skills Education Grants Program". She helped develop the model used in this proposal.

Commissioner Mueller wanted members to know if LCCMR ID #194-F "Minnesota River Experts: An educational field trip online" was funded she has volunteered to help them.

**4. Overview: Emerging tree diseases and pests in Minnesota (DNR, Dept. of Ag, U of M, US Forest Service)**

Tony D'Amato (U of M), Mark Abrahamson (MN Dept. Ag), Alan Jones (DNR), and Steve Katovich (US Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service) discussed emerging tree diseases and pests in Minnesota.

2009 Emerging forest pests are: emerald ash borer (EAB), gypsy moth, asian longhorned beetle (ALB), mountain pine beetle, siren woodwasp, walnut twig beetle and thousand cankers diseases of black walnut. New diseases of concern are: sudden oak death, bacterial leaf scorch and tubakia disease of bur oak.

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Forest pests that are established in Minnesota are: white pine blister rust, dutch elm disease, oak wilt disease, butternut canker, birch leaf miner, larch casebearer and larch sawfly.

Members participated in a discussion of the emerging tree diseases and pests in Minnesota. Questions focused on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and known treatment and control methods, research needs, extent of EAB spread in Minnesota and potential impact on urban and rural habitat.

### 5. Review and Follow Up – LCCMR and LSOHC Joint Meeting

Susan Thornton explained this summary document (Attachment 1) is based on the meeting notes of the facilitator (Management Analysis and Development, Department of Administration).

Commission members shared thoughts and reactions to the joint LCCMR and L-SOHC meeting. Overall, members felt it was a positive and productive meeting, although many expressed a desire for more concrete outcomes. Members noted the importance of ongoing communication with L-SOHC, and some mentioned a desire to coordinate with the L-SOHC and the Clean Water Council.

Commissioner Anderson – asked about meeting jointly with the Clean Water Council as an example. She asked staff to check on the meeting the L-SOHC is tentatively scheduled to have with Clean Water Council.

Susan Thornton explained that as the 25-year plans for the Outdoor Heritage Fund, Clean Water Fund, and Parks and Trails Fund are being developed and completed – LCCMR staff will have reviews of the plans for LCCMR members scheduled.

### 6. Discuss 2010 proposals; process to select proposals for further consideration; and select proposals for presentation (Discussion will include Emerging Issues Account and 2009 vetoed projects)

Commissioner Gibson began the discussion on the 2010 proposals received. She asked members what they want to see as a final recommendation. How do they want to move forward to develop a set of recommendations?

Members discussed the summary of individual member rankings of proposals to call in for presentation.

Commissioner Broberg asked how many proposals will be heard this year? Susan Thornton explained if the Commission heard 15 proposals a day, 60 proposals would be heard in the four days scheduled for presentations. Commissioner Broberg stated he would like to see a balance between the categories in the RFP in the presentation schedule.

Commissioner Fredrickson recommended using a selection by 6 members or more and above which would be 58 proposals for presentation.

MOTION: Commissioner Chaudhary moved to have all proposals selection by 5 members or more be asked in for a presentation – motion prevailed (unanimously). This would be a total of 72 proposals.

MOTION: Commissioner Wagenius moved to add LCCMR ID #142-E2 "Strategic Planning for Minnesota's Natural and Artificial Watersheds" and LCCMR ID #106-C "Evaluating Wetland Restoration Effectiveness to Improve Future Efforts".

Commissioner Wagenius withdrew her motion pending further discussion by members.

Members discussed the merits of additional proposals to be requested in for a presentation.

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MOTION: Commissioner Howes moved to have 6 presentations days (instead of 4) and have the following proposals present to the LCCMR for consideration:

LCCMR ID #024-A3 "Assessing the Cumulative Impacts to Near-Shore, In-Water Habitat"

LCCMR ID #029-A3 "Optimizing Side Inlet Design to Improve Water Quality"

LCCMR ID #048-B1 "Sustainable Biofuels: Impacts of Climate Change and Management"

LCCMR ID #053-B1 "Year-round Produce Production: Using Waste Heat and CO2"

LCCMR ID #066-B2 "Urban Anaerobic Digester and Community Greenhouse"

LCCMR ID #076-B3 "Combined CO2 – Sequestration and Geothermal Electricity Generation in Minnesota"

LCCMR ID #106-C "Evaluating Wetland Restoration Effectiveness to Improve Future Efforts"

LCCMR ID #122-D2 "Reducing Spread of Japanese Beetle and Emerald Ashborer"

LCCMR ID #131-E1 "Building Local Partnerships to Enhance Shoreland Conservation"

LCCMR ID #141-E2 "Monitoring and Modeling Minnesota Landscapes and Ecosystem Services"

LCCMR ID #142-E2 "Strategic Planning for Minnesota's Natural and Artificial Watersheds"

LCCMR ID #171-F "Minnesota's Changing Climate: Engaging Students through Adventure Learning"

LCCMR ID #181-F "K-12 Urban EnvironEd Fellowships: Enhancing Perservice Urban Teacher"

LCCMR ID #220-G "Quantifying Carbon Burial in Healthy Minnesota Wetlands"

Invite a new proposal on Emerald Ash Borer research on Black Ash – motion prevailed.

Commissioner Gibson discussed the idea of having an emerging issues account. Susan Thornton clarified that the emerging issues account was created to help fund certain issues if they arise between funding cycles. If something does come up the proposal needs to come before the Commission and then an extensive letter needs to be given to the governor for review and approval. This process can take several months. Commissioner Frederickson asked "How large of an appropriation has the emerging issues account been in the past?" Susan Thornton said that in the past it has been approximately \$150,000 dollars for the biennium. Staff often spend more time on emerging issues proposals relative to the whole \$50,000,000 for the biennium. Ms. Thornton explained that the emerging issues account does not need to be decided today. At this time there are no funds in the Emerging Issues Account.

Members further discussed the issue of a Emerald Ash Borer Black Ash research proposal. Staff were requested to seek a proposal on the issue of the Emerald Ash Borer impact on Black Ash for a presentation.

- 7. Request for work program (Part B Result 4: Community Wind Initiative) extension for M.L. 2005, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 10a, "Clean Energy Resource Teams and Community Wind Energy Rebate Program" as amended by M.L. 2006, Chp. 243, Sec. 15 and M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 16 (Jay Trusty, SW Regional Development Commission)**

Susan Thornton explained that this project has three parts to it. The first part, (1) CERTS, was completed on June 30, 2007. The second part, (2) Winona County Wind Turbine Project; the availability for the appropriation was extended by the 2009 legislature. The third part, (3) the Community Wind Initiative, was scheduled to end June 30, 2009. Jay Trusty, Executive Director SW of the Regional Development Commission, testified that they were now requesting extending the availability until 2010. The 2009 legislature extended the availability of the appropriation until June 30, 2010 based on the request for the Winona County Wind Turbine project from the Dept. of Commerce. As a result, the LCCMR was being asked to also extend the availability of the Part B Result 4: Community Wind Initiative until June 30, 2010. The LCCMR can do this through a work program amendment request because of the action of the 2009 Legislature.

MOTION: Commissioner Vickerman moved to extend Part B Result 4: Community Wind Initiative of M.L. 2005, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 10a, "Clean Energy Resource Teams and Community Wind Energy Rebate Program" as amended by M.L. 2006, Chp. 243, Sec. 15 and

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M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 16 and as amended by M.L. 2009, Chapter 143 to June 30, 2010 – motion prevailed.

8. **Request for Acquisition conveyance from appropriation in M.L. 2001, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Sec. 14, Subd. 4g “Metro Greenways” as required in M.S. 116P.15 Land Acquisition Restrictions (MN DNR, Peggy Booth)**

Peggy Booth discussed the retroactive conveyance request from an appropriation in M.L. 2001, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Sec. 14, Subd. 4g “Metro Greenways”. The DNR Scientific and Natural Area Program will add the 116P land acquisitions restrictions to the 120-acre addition to the Lost Valley SNA to replace 0.24 acres at the Pine Bend Bluff SNA that was transferred from the DNR to MN Dept. of Transportation (MN DOT) for an addition to the TH52 Right-of-Way. MN DOT paid the DNR \$7,000 for the 0.24 acres. The \$7,000 will go toward the purchase of the 120-acre to Lost Valley SNA.

Commissioner Anderson asked if the \$7,000 is from MN DOT money or DNR bonding money. Peggy Booth clarified it was \$7,000 of MN DOT money not DNR bonding money.

MOTION: Commissioner Anderson moved approval of the conveyance from appropriation in M.L. 2001, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Sec. 14, Subd. 4g “Metro Greenways” – motion prevailed.

9. **Review LCCMR schedule and August 17-19 Site Visit Agenda**

Susan Thornton asked members about scheduling the two additional presentation dates. General consensus was to have September 21 as one of the additional meeting dates and to have staff poll members for October 1 and 5 for selection of the second additional meeting date.

Commissioner Anderson requested that the next Request for Proposal (RFP) notice that the proposals will be posted on the LCCMR website.

Susan Thornton overviewed of the site visit for August 17-19 to NE Minnesota.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

10. **Site Visit: Overview Integrated Control of the Common Carp (M.L. 2008, Chp. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 4b) and Ramsey-Washington Watershed District water quality improvements**

Respectfully submitted,

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