

Susan Thornton, Director

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 13, 2009**

**9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Room 5, State Office Building**

**St. Paul, MN 55155**

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. Tom Rukavina, Rep. Ron Shimanski, Rep. Jean Wagenius, Elizabeth Wilkens

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

Members Excused: Sen. Jim Vickerman

**Chair: Vice Co-Chair Sen. Dennis Frederickson**

**1. Approve agenda for LCCMR meeting for October 13, 2009**

Commissioner Frederickson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Pariseau moved to approve the agenda for today's meeting – motion prevailed.

**2. Approve minutes for September 29 & 30 and October 1, 2009**

MOTION: Commissioner Broberg moved to approve the minutes for September 29 & 30 and October 1, 2009 – motion prevailed.

Members discussed what was their due diligence, the role of the Attorney General and the role of the DNR in the review of the language in the easement documents.

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

Members reported no additional conflicts of interest for the meeting today.

**4. 2010 Proposal Allocation Recommendations for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**

Commissioner Frederickson began the discussion by asking members to think about proposals with an average mean rating by LCCMR members of 5.4 or higher to be brought forward for preliminary discussion in the allocation process. The members would work off of the sheets labeled "2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)". This would be 40 proposals at \$46.6 million.

MOTION: Commissioner Gibson moved that proposals with an average mean rating by LCCMR members of 6 or higher on the sheets labeled "2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)" be brought forward for discussion.

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Commissioners Anderson and Carlson spoke about having a discussion of all proposals before any adoption of a process and the need to review all of the Request for Proposal categories.

AMEND MOTION: Commissioner Howes moved to amend Commissioner Gibson motion to add the top four in Category B. Renewable Energy Related to Climate Change – motion withdrawn.

MOTION: Commissioner Gibson revised her motion to have proposals with an average mean rating by LCCMR members of 6 or higher on the sheets labeled “2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)” brought forward with their dollar amounts for discussion only.

AMEND MOTION: Commissioner Anderson moved to amend Commissioner Gibson motion to have proposals with an average mean rating by LCCMR members of 5.4 instead of 6 on the sheets labeled “2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)” brought forward for discussion – motion did not prevail (7 yes – 7 no).

MOTION: Commissioner Gibson renewed her motion to have proposals with an average mean rating by LCCMR members of 6 and above on the sheets labeled “2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)” brought forward with their dollar amounts for discussion only.

AMEND MOTION: Commissioner Herman moved to amend Commissioner Gibson motion to change the average mean rating by LCCMR members to 5.4 on the sheets labeled “2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)” for Category B. Renewable Energy Related to Climate Change and Category E. Natural Resource Conservation Planning and Implementation - motion withdrawn.

AMEND MOTION: Commissioner Wilkens moved to amend Commissioner Gibson motion to have proposals with an average mean rating by LCCMR members of 6 or higher on the sheets labeled “2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)” brought forward with their dollar amounts for discussion and to include the top three in Category B. Renewable Energy Related to Climate Change and Category E. Natural Resource Conservation Planning and Implementation whether or not the category had an average mean rating by LCCMR members of 6 or higher – motion prevailed.

MOTION: Commissioner Gibson renewed her motion to have a preliminary discussion as amended by Commissioner Wilkens – motion prevailed.

Members discussed proposals by category as follows:

**Category A. Water Resources proposals rated 6 or higher on the sheets labeled “2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)”:**

LCCMR ID: 035-A3, Mapleton Area Agricultural/Urban Runoff Water Quality Treatment Analysis, \$485,000

LCCMR ID: 020-A3, Sustainable, Cost-Effective Approaches to Management of Shallow Lakes, \$262,880

LCCMR ID: 011-A2, Fate and Ecological Impacts of Industrial Phytoestrogens, \$340,000

LCCMR ID: 003-A1, MGS County Geologic Atlases and Related Hydrogeologic Research, \$1,130,452

LCCMR ID: 019-A3, Updating the Minnesota Wetlands Inventory: Phase 2, \$2,222,820

**Additional proposals members selected for discussion:**

LCCMR ID: 009-A2, Dioxins Derived from Antibacterials in Minnesota Lakes, \$287,000

LCCMR ID: 012-A2, Understanding Sources of Aquatic Contaminants of Emerging Concern, \$917,432

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LCCMR ID: 010-A2, Estrogenic and Pharmaceutical Septic System Discharge to Lakes, \$594,500  
LCCMR ID: 026-A3, Predicting and Mitigating Vulnerability of Trout Streams, \$434,238  
LCCMR ID: 028-A3, Minelands Sulfate Release in Saint Louis River Basin, \$270,000  
LCCMR ID: 024-A3, Assessing the Cumulative Impacts to Near-Shore, In-Water Habitat, \$402,876

### **B. Renewable Energy Related to Climate Change – top three proposals on the sheets labeled “2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)”:**

LCCMR ID: 049-B1, An Analysis of Biofuel Alternatives for Minnesota, \$150,000  
LCCMR ID: 075-B3, Residential Environmental Learning Centers (RELCs) Sustainable Energy Project, \$2,975,032  
LCCMR ID: 046-B1, Evaluating Impacts of Biomass Harvests on Minnesota Forests, \$397,352

#### Additional proposals members selected for discussion:

LCCMR ID: 048-B1, Sustainable Biofuels: Impacts of Climate Change and Management, \$264,000  
LCCMR ID: 074-B3, Algae for Fuels Pilot Project, \$1,833,425  
LCCMR ID: 064-B2, Linking Habitat Restoration to Bioenergy and Local Economies, \$1,508,000

### **C. Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Acquisition - proposals rated 6 or higher on the sheets labeled “2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)”:**

LCCMR ID: 102-C, Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Phase 5 Supplemental, \$3,115,000  
LCCMR ID: 095-C, Protection of Granite Rock Outcrop Ecosystem, \$4,038,000  
LCCMR ID: 087-C, SNA & Native Prairie Restoration, Enhancement & Acquisition, \$8,000,000  
LCCMR ID: 097-C, Conserving Sensitive and Priority Shorelands in Cass County, \$570,800  
LCCMR ID: 101-C, Minnesota’s Habitat Conservation Partnership, \$8,272,890  
LCCMR ID: 092-C, Reconnecting Minnesota’s Fragmented Prairie Landscapes, \$983,189

#### Additional proposals members selected for discussion:

LCCMR ID: 090-C, State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition, \$5,000,000  
LCCMR ID: 089-C, Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park Acquisition 2, \$7,800,000  
LCCMR ID: 088-C, RIM Leveraging Federal Funds For Migratory Flyway Conservation, \$1,000,000  
LCCMR ID: 082-C, Ecological Restoration Training Cooperative, \$621,016

### **D. Invasive Species - proposals rated 6 or higher on the sheets labeled “2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)”:**

LCCMR ID: 111-D, Biological Control of European Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard, \$300,000  
LCCMR ID: 113-D, Bioacoustic Traps for Management of the Round Goby, \$175,500  
LCCMR ID: 239, Requested research proposal on Emerald Ash Borer and its impacts to the Black Ash Forest Community, \$636,435

#### Additional proposals members selected for discussion:

LCCMR ID: 112-D, Healthy Forests to Resist Invasion, \$359,584  
LCCMR ID: 122-D, Reducing Spread of Japanese Beetle and Emerald Ashborer, \$317,643

### **E. Natural Resource Conservation Planning and Implementation – top three proposals on the sheets labeled “2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)”:**

LCCMR ID: 143-E2, The Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas, \$372,856

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LCCMR ID: 142-E2, Strategic Planning for Minnesota's Natural and Artificial Watersheds, \$327,000

LCCMR ID: 145-E2, An Integrated, Operational Bird Conservation Plan for Minnesota, \$151,440

### Additional proposals members selected for discussion:

LCCMR ID: 147-E2, Statewide Prioritization of Wetland Restorations for Water Quality, \$465,683

LCCMR ID: 133-E1, "Green Acres" and Farmland Conservation in Minnesota, \$224,950

### **F. Environmental Education - proposals rated 6 or higher on the sheets labeled "2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)":**

LCCMR ID: 165-F, Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures (UWCA), \$557,500

LCCMR ID: 185-F, Fishing: A Cross Cultural Gateway to Environmental Education, \$155,830

LCCMR ID: 166-F, Minnesota Conservation Apprenticeship Academy, \$368,500

LCCMR ID: 200-F, Project Get Outdoors Toolkit Activities, \$10,000

LCCMR ID: 180-F, Expanding and Strengthening Outdoor Classrooms at Minnesota Schools, \$400,040

### Additional proposals members selected for discussion:

LCCMR ID: 190-F, Innovative Model for Outdoor Education in Grades 7-12, \$300,000

LCCMR ID: 171-F, Minnesota's Changing Climate: Engaging Students through Adventure Learning, \$250,000

LCCMR ID: 194-F, Minnesota River Experts: An educational field trip online, \$124,721

LCCMR ID: 186-F, Minnesota WolfLink, \$231,576

LCCMR ID: 210-F, Hunting Skills Education Grants Program, \$315,000

LCCMR ID: 179-F, Get Outside! Urban Woodland for City Kids, \$218,500

LCCMR ID: 176-F, Digital Photography Bridge to Nature, Teacher Training, \$230,000

### **G. Creative Ideas - proposals rated 6 or higher on the sheets labeled "2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals, Cumulative Average of Member Scores Listed by Category (High to Low)":**

LCCMR ID: 221-G, Mitigating Pollinator Decline in Minnesota, \$297,463

LCCMR ID: 217-G, Identifying Critical Habitats for Moose in Northeastern Minnesota, \$507,078

LCCMR ID: 215-G, Making Ecosystem Services Pay in Agricultural Watersheds, \$247,200

### Additional proposals members selected for discussion:

LCCMR ID: 216-G, Science and Innovation from the Soudan Iron Mine, \$551,451

LCCMR ID: 220-G, Quantifying Carbon Burial in Healthy Minnesota Wetlands, \$432,000

### **Members started discussions on how to proceed with the overall package.**

MOTION: Commissioner Anderson moved to delete all proposals not under consideration – motion prevailed.

MOTION: Commissioner Howes moved to have members discuss how the proposals are going to be included and continue with finalizing the allocations on 10/14/2009 – motion withdrawn.

Co-Vice Chair Frederickson stated they would begin discussion with the categories with the smallest dollar amount requested and proceed in order of categories toward categories with the larger dollar amounts requested for creating the overall recommendation allocation.

### **Co-Vice Chair Frederickson began the discussions with Category D. Invasive Species for creating the final package:**

MOTION: Commissioner Anderson moved to have all the dollars rounded down to the thousandth on all proposals under discussion – motion prevailed.

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MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to forward the following 2010 proposals for Category D. Invasive Species for allocation:

- LCCMR ID: 111-D, Biological Control of European Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard for \$300,000
  - LCCMR ID: 113-D, Bioacoustic Traps for Management of the Round Goby for \$175,000
  - LCCMR ID: 239, Requested research proposal on Emerald Ash Borer and its impacts to the Black Ash Forest Community for \$636,000
  - LCCMR ID: 122-D, Reducing Spread of Japanese Beetle and Emerald Ashborer, \$317,000
  - LCCMR ID: 112-D, Healthy Forests to Resist Invasion for \$359,000
- for a Category D total of \$1,787,000

Members discussed each one for inclusion in Category D. Invasive Species for allocation.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson renewed his motion to forward the following 2010 proposals for Category D. Invasive Species as discussed to include for allocation:

- LCCMR ID: 111-D, Biological Control of European Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard for \$300,000
  - LCCMR ID: 113-D, Bioacoustic Traps for Management of the Round Goby for \$175,000
  - LCCMR ID: 239, Requested research proposal on Emerald Ash Borer and its impacts to the Black Ash Forest Community for \$636,000
  - LCCMR ID: 112-D, Healthy Forests to Resist Invasion for \$359,000
- for a Category D total of \$1,470,000  
- motion prevailed.

### **Members discussed Category E. Natural Resource Conservation Planning and Implementation for creating the final package:**

MOTION: Commissioner Herman moved to forward the following 2010 proposals for Category E. Natural Resource Conservation Planning and Implementation for allocation:

- LCCMR ID: 143-E2, The Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas for \$372,000
- LCCMR ID: 142-E2, Strategic Planning for Minnesota's Natural and Artificial Watersheds for \$327,000
- LCCMR ID: 145-E2, An Integrated, Operational Bird Conservation Plan for Minnesota for \$151,000

AMEND MOTION: Commissioner Anderson moved to add the following proposal:

- LCCMR ID: 133-E1, "Green Acres" and Farmland Conservation in Minnesota for \$100,000 excluding ineligible expenses and for Result 2 only - motion prevailed.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson renewed his motion to move forward the following 2010 proposals for Category E. Natural Resource Conservation Planning and Implementation as amended by Commissioner Anderson for allocation:

- LCCMR ID: 143-E2, The Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas for \$372,000
  - LCCMR ID: 142-E2, Strategic Planning for Minnesota's Natural and Artificial Watersheds for \$327,000
  - LCCMR ID: 145-E2, An Integrated, Operational Bird Conservation Plan for Minnesota for \$151,000
  - LCCMR ID: 133-E1, "Green Acres" and Farmland Conservation in Minnesota for \$100,000
- for a Category E total of \$950,000  
- motion prevailed.

### **Members discussed Category G. Creative Ideas for creating the final package:**

MOTION: Commissioner Anderson moved to forward the following 2010 proposals for Category G. Creative Ideas for allocation:

- LCCMR ID: 215-G, Making Ecosystem Services Pay in Agricultural Watersheds for \$247,000
- LCCMR ID: 216-G, Science and Innovation from the Soudan Iron Mine for \$545,000
- LCCMR ID: 217-G, Identifying Critical Habitats for Moose in Northeastern Minnesota for \$507,000
- LCCMR ID: 220-G, Quantifying Carbon Burial in Healthy Minnesota Wetlands for \$144,000

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LCCMR ID: 221-G, Mitigating Pollinator Decline in Minnesota for \$297,000  
for a Category G total of \$1,740,000  
- motion prevailed.

5. **Other business (as needed)**

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred Berner