
Susan Thornton, Director

MINUTES

Thursday, June 3, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
State Office Building, Room 5
St. Paul, MN 55155

Members Present: Sen. Ellen Anderson, Al Berner, Jeff Broberg, Sen. Satveer Chaudhary, Sen. Dennis Frederickson, John Herman, Rep. Larry Howes, Norman Moody, Sen. Pat Pariseau, Rep. Tom Rukavina, 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: Rep. Lyndon Carlson, Nancy Gibson, Mary Mueller,

Vice Co-Chair: Jeff Broberg

1. Approve agenda for LCCMR meeting for June 3, 2010

Commissioner Broberg called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Moody moved to approve the agenda for June 3, 2010 – motion prevailed.

2. Approve minutes for January 12, 2010

MOTION: Commissioner Moody moved to approve the minutes for January 12, 2010 – motion prevailed.

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

Commissioner Broberg handed out a letter dated June 9, 2010 that outlined all 2011-2012 proposals which he has a conflict of interest (see attachment 1). The letter is provided to comply with the LCCMR adopted Operating Procedures for Conflict of Interest.

Commissioner Moody and Commissioner Wilkens stated they would be writing letters regarding the 2011-2012 proposals that are a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Wagenius wanted to let members know her son and Dr. Shaw have been working together on a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant but does not view this as a conflict of interest. However, she will not vote on Dr. Shaws 2011-2012 proposal LCCMR ID: 063-C1+2 "Conserving Prairie Plant Diversity and Evaluating Local Adaptation".

Commissioner Anderson said she has a new job teaching at the U of MN and has no connections to any of the proposals from the U of MN. Commissioner Anderson stated that there is not a conflict of interest at this point with any proposals.

Staff were requested to send the Conflict of Interest procedures to members.

4. 2010 Legislative Session Report – member discussion

Susan Thornton reviewed the session report compiled by LCCMR staff.

LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

a. Discussion of M.L. 2010, Chp. 362, Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriations and the Legislative Process

Commissioner members reviewed the actions during the legislative session and of the Governor's Office concerning the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriations.

Members requested a summary of the House and Senate floor amendments. At the request of members, Susan Thornton handed out a copy of the email dated March 16, 2010 "Update H.F. 2624 House Action" and the email dated April 14, 2010 "Update on 2010 LCCMR Recommendations – Legislative Action" (Attachment 2).

Commissioner Wagenius reviewed the 13 amendments that occurred during the House Floor discussion. Commissioner Wagenius explained that some amendments were to take all the money and re-appropriate it and in other cases the votes were very close.

b. Additional legislation of interest in the 2010 Legislative Session Report of Environment and Natural Resources appropriations funding and policy including:

- Chp. 392, State Government Operations
- Chp. 361, Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance Bill
- Chp. 189, Omnibus Bonding Bill
- Chp. 215, Supplemental Budget Bill
- Chp. 372, Large solar energy electric generation demonstration conservation improvement project.

5. Office of the Legislative Auditor "Evaluation Report: Natural Resource Land"

Link to report: <http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/2010/nrland.htm>

Jim Nobles and John Yunker, Office of the Legislative Auditor

Jim Nobles presented an overview of duties and responsibilities of the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

John Yunker presented the "Evaluation Report: Natural Resource Land" issued March 5, 2010.

6. Review 2010 Calendar

Susan Thornton reviewed the LCCMR calendar for 2010 and the agenda for the site visit on July 21, 2010.

7. Review of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, M.S. 116P.08 "Trust Fund Expenditures" and adopted LCCMR Six-Year Strategic Plan

8. M.L. 2010, Chp. 362, Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund work program approval discussion – Action scheduled for June 9, 2010

Proposed work programs can be viewed after May 28 at: <http://www.lccmr.leg.mn>

Susan Thornton reviewed the criteria used to develop the consent list for work program approval that will be used next week for members approval of 2010 work programs and recommended having a presentation on the work program for the new appropriation - Subd. 4c, "State Park Improvements" and Subd. 4d, "State Park Acquisition".

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Subd. 4f, "Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI Supplemental (HCP)" and Subd. 4g, "Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase V Supplemental" currently have appropriations from 2009. Two approaches are proposed for work program approval. When the 2009 appropriation has been expended or there is a plan to transition to the 2010 appropriation it can be brought back to the LCCMR for approval OR approve it on the consent calendar with a motion contingent that the 2009 expenditures must be finished or a plan to transition to 2010 approved by staff. Staff would then report to the LCCMR on the contingency being met.

9. Update on 2011-2012 proposals received for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and discussion of proposal review procedure and process to select proposals for further consideration

2011-2012 proposals can be viewed at: <http://www.lccmr.leg.mn>

Susan Thornton reviewed the handouts regarding the 2011-2012 proposals and staff gave a brief summary of each category from the 2011-2012 Request for Proposal. Commission members were asked to return their top fifty proposals for presentation by noon on June 8, 2010. Ms. Thornton reminded members this is just a tool for their use in selecting which proposals they would like to hear presentations on.

Commissioner Moody requested a presentation of invasive species, in particular zebra mussels. Susan Thornton responded they would work to schedule an overview during the proposal presentation schedules. Commissioner Broberg stated more discussion will be held at the meeting on June 9, 2010 on other possible overview presentations.

Staff were requested to come back with information on LCCMR ID: 26-B, "Capture and Use of Groundwater Sustainability Data Pilot" and the proposals from communities for groundwater monitoring observation wells eligibility for the 2010 Clean Water Fund grants appropriations.

Commissioner Moody requested that the 2010 work program Subd. 7e, "Analysis of Options for Minnesota's Energy Independence" that was vetoed by the Governor be sent to members for reconsideration as well as the 2010 proposal LCCMR ID: 049-B1 "An Analysis of Biofuel Alternatives for Minnesota" by Jim Bowyer.

10. Update on LCCMR web site

Mike Banker updated members on the status of the "Minnesota's Constitutionally Dedicated Funds Website".

11. Other business (as needed)

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


