
Susan Thornton, Director

MINUTES

February 28, 2011

4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Room 200, State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Members Present: Al Berner, Jeff Broberg, Tom Cook, Sen. Al DeKruif, Rep. David Dill, Nancy Gibson, John Herman, Rep. Tom Hackbarth, Sen. Linda Higgins, Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen, Rep. Denny McNamara, Norman Moody, Sen. Gen Olson, Rep. Tom Rukavina, Rep. Ron Shimanski, Sen. Rod Skoe, Elizabeth Wilkens

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

Members Excused: None

Co-Chair: Nancy Gibson

1. Approve agenda for LCCMR meeting for February 28, 2011

Commissioner Gibson called the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m.

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

2. Members approve minutes for February 21, 2011

MOTION: Commissioner McNamara moved to approve the minutes for February 21, 2011 – motion prevailed.

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

Members reported no conflict of interests for today's meeting.

4. Discussion of election procedures and election of Commission Co-Chairs and Co-Vice Chairs (Co-Chair will switch to Senate rotation after elections)

Members discussed the current election procedures and agreed to continue with the same tri-chair structure.

Commissioner Rukavina nominated Commissioner Hackbarth for Chair. Commissioner McNamara nominated Commissioner Dill for Co-Vice chair.

Commissioner Ingebrigtsen nominated Commissioner Olson for Co-Chair and Commissioner Skoe for Co-Vice Chair. Commissioner Skoe declined and nominated Commissioner Higgins for Co-Vice Chair.

Commissioner Broberg nominated Commissioner Gibson for Co-Chair. Commissioner Berner nominated Commissioner Broberg for Co-Vice Chair.

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MOTION: Commissioner Rukavina moved to elect for Co-Chairs: Sen. Gen Olson, Rep. Tom Hackbarth and Nancy Gibson and for Co-Vice Chairs: Sen. Linda Higgins, Rep. David Dill, and Jeff Broberg – motion prevailed.

Instead of rotating to the Senate Chair, Commissioner Olson requested Commissioner Gibson continue to chair this meeting and she would chair the next meeting.

5. Continuation of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund FY2012-2013 Recommendations discussion from February 21, 2011 (Biennial Report Section V. Recommendations) H.F. 400 / S.F. XX

Commissioner McNamara discussed the letter (see Attachment #1) dated February 28, 2011 that was signed by Sen. Ingebrigtsen and himself in regards to projects they would like LCCMR members to "Consider removing from list of recommended projects", "More background information needed", two projects to "Consider funding/fund at a higher level", and reduce LCCMR administration budget by 20%.

MOTION: Commissioner McNamara moved to remove the following recommended projects from H.F. 400 that were listed in the Sen. Ingebrigtsen and Rep. McNamara letter date February 28, 2011 and consider funding emerging issues such as sulfide standards and wild rice, aquatic invasive species, chronic wasting disease, and on the ground emerald ash borer control:

- Subd. 3e1/3e2 "Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas Phase III", \$330,000
- Subd. 3f "Golden Eagle Survey", \$90,000
- Subd. 3h "Canada Lynx Recovery Options", \$50,000
- Subd. 3i, "Conserving Prairie Plant Diversity and Evaluating Local Adaptation", \$525,000
- Subd. 3j, "Prairie Management for Wildlife and Bioenergy – Phase II", \$950,000
- Subd. 3l, "Change and Resilience in Boreal Forests in Northern Minnesota", \$200,000
- Subd. 3r, "Saint Croix Basin Conservation Planning and Protection", \$200,000
- Subd. 4n, "Gulf Oil Spill Impacts on Minnesota's Migratory Bird Species", \$250,000
- Subd. 4p, "Controlling Encroachment of Woody Vegetation in Grasslands", \$200,000
- Subd. 4q, "Understanding Threats, Genetic Diversity, and Conservation Options for Wild Rice", \$195,000
- Subd. 4v, "Assessment of Tree Retention Forestry Harvest Guidelines", \$100,000
- Subd. 5a, "Groundwater Sustainability Assessment in the I-94 Growth Corridor", \$450,000
- Subd. 5c, "Assessment of Changes in Minnesota's Wilderness Lakes", \$300,000
- Subd. 5i, "Determination of Phosphorus Reduction from Perpetual Easements", \$125,000
- Subd. 5k, "Community-Based Reduction of Water Contaminants", \$250,000
- Subd. 7a, "Peatland Carbon Sequestration", \$400,000
- Subd. 7b, "Addressing Ozone Pollution in Minnesota", \$250,000
- Subd. 7c, "Optimizing Biogas' Role in Meeting Minnesota's Energy Goals", \$300,000
- Subd. 7e, "Low Environmental Impact Sustainable Neighborhoods", \$250,000
- Subd. 7f, "Conservation Corps Training and Low-Income Solar Home Heating Installation", \$500,000
- Subd. 8a, "Minnesota Schools Conserving Energy and Water", \$825,000
- Subd. 8c, "Minnesota Junior Master Naturalist Program", \$365,000
- Subd. 8d, "Experiential Environmental Education for Urban Youth", \$708,000
- Subd. 8e, "Eagles Linking Students to Science and Nature", \$170,000
- Subd. 8f, "Cross-Cultural Cooperation in Fish and Wildlife Conservation", \$400,000

Commission members had a thorough discussion regard the motion presented. Members were concerned about many different issues related to the deletion of these projects including what process would be used, jobs impact, geography, the message to public and stakeholders and a lack of time to review the proposal.

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Commissioner Rukavina requested to hear from Subd. 8d, "Experiential Environmental Education for Urban Youth" and Subd. 4q, "Understanding Threats, Genetic Diversity, and Conservation Options for Wild Rice".

Commissioner Higgins requested members vote on each project individually. Commissioner Higgins suggested presentations of all projects in Commissioner McNamara's motion.

Commissioner Broberg expressed concern that the letter Commissioners Ingebrigtsen and McNamara sent out today specifically targeted projects related to research.

Commissioner Wilkens agreed with Commissioner Higgins that the work program managers should be given a hearing before voting on Commissioner McNamara's motion.

Commissioner McNamara said "He appreciates all members support to the projects they selected. I'm sorry but I will tell you the current legislature will not accept all these proposals. The reality is they are not going to work."

Commissioner Gibson asked Commissioner McNamara about hearing presentations. Commissioner McNamara said that he doesn't believe that would be a good use of time.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Skoe moved to amend Commissioner McNamara's motion by removing Subd. 4q, "Understanding Threats, Genetic Diversity, and Conservation Options for Wild Rice". Commissioner McNamara accepted Commissioner Skoe's amendment.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Higgins moved to amend Commissioner McNamara's motion by removing Subd. 8d, "Experiential Environmental Education for Urban Youth". Commissioner McNamara did not accept Commissioner Higgins' amendment. Commissioner Higgins requested a vote.

Commissioner Dill called the previous question on Commissioner Higgins' motion.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Higgins renewed her amendment to remove Subd. 8d, "Experiential Environmental Education for Urban Youth" from Commissioner McNamara's motion – motion prevailed. Commissioner McNamara requested a division – motion prevailed.

Commissioner McNamara withdrew his motion. Commissioner McNamara stated that the LCCMR recommendation needed to be completed by March 22 for the House Environmental Bill.

Members continued discussing process options until they recessed at 7:15.

Members reconvened at 7:35 p.m. and continued discussing the projects.

MOTION: Commissioner Ingebrigtsen moved to shift the following recommended projects that were listed in the Sen. Ingebrigtsen and Rep. McNamara letter under the section titled "Consider removing from list of recommended projects" dated February 28, 2011 to the section "More background information needed" the following three projects - Subd. 4n, "Gulf Oil Spill Impacts on Minnesota's Migratory Bird Species", \$250,000; Subd. 4q, "Understanding Threats, Genetic Diversity, and Conservation Options for Wild Rice", \$195,000; and Subd. 8d, "Experiential Environmental Education for Urban Youth", \$708,000 and to delete for further consideration the following recommendations:

Subd. 3e1/3e2, "Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas Phase III", \$330,000

Subd. 3f "Golden Eagle Survey", \$90,000

Subd. 3h "Canada Lynx Recovery Options", \$50,000

Subd. 3i, "Conserving Prairie Plant Diversity and Evaluating Local Adaptation", \$525,000

Subd. 3j, "Prairie Management for Wildlife and Bioenergy – Phase II", \$950,000

Subd. 3l, "Change and Resilience in Boreal Forests in Northern Minnesota", \$200,000

Subd. 3r, "Saint Croix Basin Conservation Planning and Protection", \$200,000

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Subd. 4p, "Controlling Encroachment of Woody Vegetation in Grasslands", \$200,000
Subd. 4v, "Assessment of Tree Retention Forestry Harvest Guidelines", \$100,000
Subd. 5a, "Groundwater Sustainability Assessment in the I-94 Growth Corridor", \$450,000
Subd. 5c, "Assessment of Changes in Minnesota's Wilderness Lakes", \$300,000
Subd. 5i, "Determination of Phosphorus Reduction from Perpetual Easements", \$125,000
Subd. 5k, "Community-Based Reduction of Water Contaminants", \$250,000
Subd. 7a, "Peatland Carbon Sequestration", \$400,000
Subd. 7b, "Addressing Ozone Pollution in Minnesota", \$250,000
Subd. 7c, "Optimizing Biogas' Role in Meeting Minnesota's Energy Goals", \$300,000
Subd. 7e, "Low Environmental Impact Sustainable Neighborhoods", \$250,000
Subd. 7f, "Conservation Corps Training and Low-Income Solar Home Heating Installation",
\$500,000
Subd. 8a, "Minnesota Schools Conserving Energy and Water", \$825,000
Subd. 8c, "Minnesota Junior Master Naturalist Program", \$365,000
Subd. 8e, "Eagles Linking Students to Science and Nature", \$170,000
Subd. 8f, "Cross-Cultural Cooperation in Fish and Wildlife Conservation", \$400,000
- motion prevailed.

Commissioner Broberg indicated he could not support the motion.

Commissioner Gibson suggested hearing presentations from Subd. 4n, "Gulf Oil Spill Impacts on Minnesota's Migratory Bird Species", \$250,000; Subd. 4q, "Understanding Threats, Genetic Diversity, and Conservation Options for Wild Rice", \$195,000; and Subd. 8d, "Experiential Environmental Education for Urban Youth", \$708,000 and at the next meeting to hear presentations for five minutes and allow 5 minutes for question/answers.

Commissioner Gibson also recommended having further discussion in regards to funding legislative issues such as sulfide standards and wild rice, aquatic invasive species, chronic wasting disease, and on the ground emerald ash borer control.

Commissioner Berner requested Subd. 5a, "Groundwater Sustainability Assessment in the I-94 Growth Corridor" be allowed to present at the next meeting. Commissioner Hackbarth objected. Commissioner McNamara stated the Clean Water Fund would be a more appropriate funding source for Subd. 5a, "Groundwater Sustainability Assessment in the I-94 Growth Corridor".

Commissioner Moody requested Subd. 3h "Canada Lynx Recovery Options" and Subd. 4v, "Assessment of Tree Retention Forestry Harvest Guidelines" be allowed to present at the next meeting. Commissioner Hackbarth objected.

Members agreed Subd. 4l, "Acceleration of Minnesota Conservation Assistance" and LCCMR ID: 178-G, "Minnesota Conservation Apprentice Academy" should also be included in any presentations being heard.

MOTION: Commissioner Ingebrigtsen moved to recommend the projects listed in the Sen. Ingebrigtsen and Rep. McNamara letter under the section titled "More background information needed" dated February 28, 2011 to give a five minute presentation and allow 5 minutes for questions/answers. Members also agreed to add to this list the following five projects: Subd. 4n, "Gulf Oil Spill Impacts on Minnesota's Migratory Bird Species", \$250,000; Subd. 4l, "Acceleration of Minnesota Conservation Assistance", 500,000, Subd. 4q, "Understanding Threats, Genetic Diversity, and Conservation Options for Wild Rice", \$195,000; Subd. 8d, "Experiential Environmental Education for Urban Youth", \$708,000; and LCCMR ID: 178-G, "Minnesota Conservation Apprentice Academy", \$387,000.

Subd. 3g, "Determining Causes of Mortality in Moose Populations", \$600,000
Subd. 3s, "Brainerd Lakes Community-Based Conservation and Recreation Planning, \$270,000
Subd. 4a, "Lake Vermillion State Park Development", \$3,000,000

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- Subd. 4g, "Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition", \$2,000,000
 - Subd. 4l, "Acceleration of Minnesota Conservation Assistance", 500,000
 - Subd. 4n, "Gulf Oil Spill Impacts on Minnesota's Migratory Bird Species", \$250,000
 - Subd. 4o, "Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species", \$147,000
 - Subd. 4q, "Understanding Threats, Genetic Diversity, and Conservation Options for Wild Rice", \$195,000
 - Subd. 4u, "Restoring North Shore Forest", 63,000
 - LCCMR ID: 178-G, "Minnesota Conservation Apprentice Academy", \$387,000
 - Subd. 5b, "Lake Superior Water Quality Monitoring", \$500,000
 - Subd. 5g, "Zumbro River Watershed Restoration Prioritization", \$150,000
 - Subd. 5j, "Wastewater Phosphorous Filtration Using Recycled By-Products", \$170,000
 - Subd. 6c, "Emerald Ash Borer Landscape Management Impacts", \$340,000
 - Subd. 6d, "Evaluation of Switchgrass as Biofuel Crop", \$120,000
 - Subd. 7d, "Supporting Community-Driven Sustainable Bioenergy Projects", \$150,000
 - Subd. 8d, "Experiential Environmental Education for Urban Youth", \$708,000
- Motion prevailed.

6. Discuss 2011 Calendar and future process

Susan Thornton reviewed the calendars for both a biennial or annual calendar year. Next LCCMR Meeting will be Monday, March 7, 2011 from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

7. Review open and past appropriations (Biennial Report Section II. Projects Funded Preceding Biennium and Section III. Completed Research Projects)

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

