
Susan Thornton, Director

Minutes
March 7, 2011
4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Room 5, State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

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

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

Members Absent: Rep. Tom Hackbarth, John Herman

Co-Chair: Sen. Gen Olson

1. Approve agenda for LCCMR meeting for March 7, 2011

Co-Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Co-Chair Olson requested any future LCCMR meetings begin later than 4:30 p.m. due to committee scheduling conflicts.

MOTION: Commissioner Broberg moved to amend the agenda for today's meeting by adding a discussion of the process after the presentations are completed:

- (1) Projects that are being presented tonight;
 - (2) Projects removed from the recommendations on February 28, 2011;
 - (3) Projects being presented that were not in the recommendation; and
 - (4) Reconsideration of the package before the LCCMR meeting on February 28, 2011
- motion prevailed

Commissioner Berner asked for clarification in the discussion process Commissioner Broberg outlined. Commissioner Berner wanted to include a discussion on how the emerging issue topics will be included into the LCCMR recommendations. Commissioner Berner asked if it will be done by a Request for Proposal (RFP) or another method.

2. Members approve minutes for February 28, 2011

MOTION: Commissioner Gibson moved to approve the minutes for February 28, 2011 – motion prevailed.

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

Commissioner Broberg reminded members of the letter he handed out at a previous meeting 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. For this meeting, it is specifically related to Subd. 5g "Zumbro River Watershed Restoration Prioritization" at \$150,000.

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4. Presentations of FY12-13 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund recommendations for which more information has been requested.

See attached Presentation Schedule for March 7, 2011 (Attachment 2)

Susan Thornton stated Chris Pence, Crow Wing County sent an email dated March 4, 2011 withdrawing his proposal - Subd. 3s "Brainerd Lakes Community-Based Conservation and Recreation Planning" at \$275,000 (Attachment 3).

5. Other business

Commissioner Broberg reiterated the process categories: (1) Projects that are being presented tonight; (2) Projects removed from the recommendations on February 28, 2011; (3) Projects being presented that were not in the recommendation; and (4) Reconsideration of the package before the LCCMR meeting on February 28, 2011.

Co-Chair Olson said she believes the LCCMR is informal enough where we do not need to make a motion for every topic we discuss but a motion may come out of the discussion.

Commissioner Wilkens suggested doing some scoring on the presentations held today and returning scores to staff and have further discussion at the next meeting.

Commissioner Gibson asked new LCCMR members for some input into the presentations heard tonight and how they would like to proceed.

Commissioner McNamara stated as far as he is concerned the presentations heard today are in the LCCMR bill unless someone would like to make a motion to remove.

Commissioner Berner asked about the proposals removed last week. Commissioner Berner was interested in discussing the LCCMR recommendation Subd. 3e "Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas – Phase III". Commissioner Gibson noted the project is a collaboration of the U of MN, NRRF and the Audubon Society. Commissioner Gibson said the project is very time sensitive and will be complete with this last phase of funding.

Commissioner Berner suggested discussion of the LCCMR recommendation Subd. 3j "Prairie Management for Wildlife and Bioenergy – Phase II". Commissioner Gibson explained that there is a lot of funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund that is going into prairies and this is one project that complements those investments extremely well.

Commissioners Berner and Gibson commented that it was important to complete final phases of projects such as the Breeding Bird Atlas and Prairie Management for Wildlife and Bioenergy so as to not lose the value of previous investments in the projects.

Commissioner Gibson asked the Environment and Natural Resource Finance Chairs how much money is needed to fund the priorities of the new commission.

Commissioners Broberg and Gibson asked Commissioner McNamara what is the target number that he is looking for to reduce the recommendations. Commissioner McNamara said he does not have a target number or an agenda. Commissioner McNamara said that we can meet again next Monday or another day if needed but this bill needs to be completed by March 21. Commissioner McNamara said "the reality is there are projects in this list that do not fit with the current legislature".

MOTION: Commissioner Gibson moved to add to the "Request for More Information" list five projects that were removed at the last meeting on February 28, 2011. (1) Subd. 3e "Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas – Phase III", Audubon Minnesota and NRRF-UMD, \$330,000; (2) Subd. 3j "Prairie

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Management for Wildlife and Bioenergy – Phase II”, U of MN, \$950,000; (3) Subd. 7f “Conservation Corps Training and Low Income Solar Home Heating Installation”, Conservation Corps – Minnesota, \$500,000; (4) Subd. 8a “Minnesota Schools Conserving Energy and Water”, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, \$825,000; and (5) Subd. 8c “Minnesota Junior Master Naturalist Program”, U of MN, \$365,000.

Commissioner Higgins asked for clarification from Commissioner Gibson on whether or not these projects were being requested to be in the LCCMR recommendations or give a presentation at the next LCCMR meeting. Commissioner Gibson responded that she would prefer the projects being back in the LCCMR recommendations but would be open to requesting a presentation at the next LCCMR meeting.

Co-Chair Olson suggested evaluating the presentations heard today with the results compiled for the next meeting.

Commissioner Ingebrigtsen stated he does not have any agenda. Commissioner Ingebrigtsen suggested finalizing the LCCMR recommendations next week.

Commissioner Broberg asked what the process will be for the new issues. Susan Thornton said staff is arranging for experts to present at the next LCCMR meeting the following topics identified: (1) Wild Rice and Sulfide Impacts and Standards; (2) Chronic Wasting Disease; (3) Emerald Ash Borer; (4) Aquatic Invasive Species; and (5) Coon Rapids Dam.

Commissioner Berner again asked about the process that will be given to the topic areas Ms. Thornton reviewed. Members discussed the idea of having an Emerging Issues Account and asked about the process involved with the Emerging Issues Account. Ms. Thornton explained authority for an Emerging Issues Account is in statute, projects have to line up with the Strategic Plan and have to be forwarded to the governor as a recommendation for signature.

MOTION: Commissioner Gibson renewed and revised her motion to request the following five projects that were removed at the LCCMR meeting on February 28, 2011 provide a presentation at the LCCMR meeting on March 14, 2011 in the same format as presentations today (5 minutes presentation and 5 minutes for questions):

- (1) Subd. 3e “Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas – Phase III”, Audubon Minnesota and NRRI-UMD;
 - (2) Subd. 3j “Prairie Management for Wildlife and Bioenergy – Phase II”, U of MN;
 - (3) Subd. 7f “Conservation Corps Training and Low Income Solar Home Heating Installation”, Conservation Corps – Minnesota;
 - (4) Subd. 8a “Minnesota Schools Conserving Energy and Water”, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; and
 - (5) Subd. 8c “Minnesota Junior Master Naturalist Program”, U of MN.
- motion prevailed.

Commissioner Moody stated that his job is to ensure the LCCMR has the best recommendations possible and then it is the work of the Legislature after that.

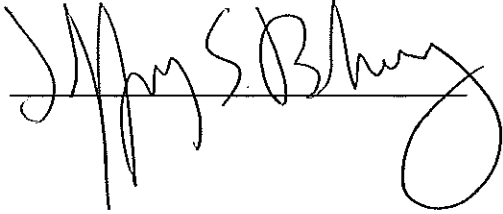
Members discussed the time options for a March 14 meeting and concurred that the next meeting will be Monday, March 14, 2011 from 4:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Room 200 State Office Building. Staff were requested to send an electronic scoring sheet containing March 7 presentations to be returned to the LCCMR office by Friday, March 11.

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6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Blum". The signature is written over a horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.