

Susan Thornton, Director

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

State Office Building, Room 5

St. Paul, MN 55155

Members Present: Jeff Broberg, Tom Cook, Sen. Gary Dahms, Sen. Kari Dziedzic, Rep. Dan Fabian, Nancy Gibson, Bonnie Harper-Lore, John Herman, Norman Moody, Sen. David Tomassoni, Rep. Paul Torkelson, Sen. Torrey Westrom, Rep. Jean Wagenius

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

Members Absent: William Faber, Sen. John Hoffman, Rep. Leon Lillie, Rep. John Persell

Co-Chair: Nancy Gibson

1. Approve agenda for LCCMR meeting for September 18, 2013

Co-Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Moody moved to approve the agenda for September 18, 2013 – motion prevailed.

2. Approve minutes for June 25, 2013

MOTION: Commissioner Dahms moved to approve the minutes for June 25, 2013 – motion prevailed.

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

MS 116P.09 Subd 6 Conflict of interest. A commission member, technical advisory committee member, a peer review panelist, or an employee of the commission may not participate in or vote on a decision of the commission, technical advisory committee, or peer review panel relating to an organization in which the member, panelist, or employee has either a direct or indirect personal financial interest. While serving on the commission, technical advisory committee, or peer review panel, or being an employee of the commission, a person shall avoid any potential conflict of interest.

Commissioner Wagenius reported a conflict of interest for ENRTF ID: 147-F "Healthy Prairies: Seed Storage, Beneficial Microbes, and Adaptation", Ruth Shaw – U of MN because her son collaborates with Ruth Shaw on research.

Commissioner Gibson reported a conflict of interest for ENRTF ID: 086-C "The Wolf At Our Door", Darcy Berus – International Wolf Center because she is on the board of the International Wolf Center.

Commissioner Dziedzic called members attention to a previous letter from Tom Bottern, Senate Counsel, regarding a family member working at the DNR affirming it did not constitute a conflict of interest with MN DNR's proposals submitted. (Attachment #1)

4. Update on White Nose Syndrome in bats in Minnesota – MN DNR and U of MN

Gerda Nordquist (DNR) and Christine Salomon (U of MN) gave a presentation on White Nose Syndrome in bats. Ms. Salomon talked about her work plan M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 03f "Harnessing Soudan Mine Microbes: Bioremediation, Bioenergy and Biocontrol".

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5. Member discussion of LCCMR site visits in June (Southwest MN) and July (North Central MN) findings and follow-up

Members discussed issues from the site visits in June and July.

6. Review of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, M.S. 116P.08 and adopted LCCMR Six-Year Strategic Plan (use Biennial Reports)

Staff gave an overview of Minnesota Constitution Art. XI, Sec.14; M.S. 116p; and the ENRTF Strategic Plan.

7-8. Selection of 2014 RFP proposals for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for further consideration and presentations to the LCCMR

Commissioner Tomassoni started the discussion of reviewing the spreadsheet titled "2014 – LCCMR Member Presentation Selection Rankings: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals" (Blue Sheet) that was handed out by staff. Commissioner Tomassoni suggested a motion of selecting everything that was a priority and selected by 6 or more members as indicated on the blue sheet. (Blue Sheet – Attachment #2)

Commissioner Wagenius spoke to the availability of other funds available. She handed out a sheet containing the language for 1. Minnesota Constitution Art. XI, Sec.14 (ENRTF); 2. Minnesota Constitution Art. XI, Sec. 15 (Outdoor heritage, clean water, parks and trails, and arts and cultural heritage fund); and 3. M.L. 2013, Chp. 114, Sec. 2, Subd. 4 Bioenergy and Value-Added Agriculture (MN Dept. of Ag). (See Attachment #3) Commissioner Wagenius explained there are other opportunities besides the ENRTF fund for possible options for proposers to submit a proposal. As an example, members discussed the viability of directing proposals focusing on prairie and forest protection to LSOHC.

Susan Thornton suggested a presentation at one of the next meetings from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture regarding M.L. 2013, Chp. 114, Sec. 2, Subd. 4 Bioenergy and Value-Added Agriculture.

MOTION: Commissioner Tomassoni moved to have all proposals with a compiled member ranking by "6" or higher members as indicated on the spreadsheet titled "2014 – LCCMR Member Presentation Selection Rankings: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals" (Blue Sheet) receive a presentation – motion prevailed (unanimously).

Members discussed ID: 190-G "Preserving Old Growth Forests on School Trust Lands", Aaron Vande Linde – MN DNR, \$2,082,104.

Members discussed the remaining proposals and below is a list of the selected proposals to consider for presentation:

Category A - Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information

1. Line 14 - ID: 013-A "Redesigned Updating of State and County Forest Inventories", Jon Nelson – MN DNR, \$1,794,640
2. Line 15 – ID: 020-A "Expand the Minnesota Wildflowers Online Botanical Reference", Katy Chayka – MN Wildflowers Information, \$222,450
3. Line 16 - ID: 004-A "Conserving Minnesotas Freshwater Mussel Legacy: Quantifying Habitat Interactions", Jessica Kozarek – U of MN, \$356,843
4. Line 17 – ID: 014-A "Impacts of Forest Quality on Declining Minnesota Moose", James Forester – U of MN, \$394,496
5. Line 19 – ID: 016-A "Moose Decline and Air Temperatures in Northeastern Minnesota", Mike Larson – MN DNR, \$743,648
6. Line 20 – ID: 023-A "Restoring Long-Lost Forest Data and Extending Ecological Monitoring", Alan Ek – U of MN, \$196,000

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Category B - Water Resources

7. Line 46 – ID: 045-B "Identifying Causes of Exceptionally High Mercury in Fish", Bruce Monson – MN Pollution Control Agency, \$2,700,869
8. Line 47 – ID: 033-B "Protecting Bacteria from Contaminants to Preserve Water Quality", Paige Novak – U of MN, \$279,000
9. Line 51 – ID: 062-B "Minnesota River Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality", Scott Sparlin – Friends of the Minnesota Valley, \$85,100
10. Line 53 – ID: 050-B "Restoring Groundwater and Trout Habitat Through Irrigation Efficiencies", Gerry Maciej – Benton County Soil and Water, \$490,649

Category C – Environmental Education

11. Line 82 – ID: 077-C "Building Bridges to a Diverse Natural Resources Community", Michele Hanson – MN DNR, \$1,100,000

Category D – Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species

12. Line 109 – ID: 104-D "Minnesota Deers Risk of Invading Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease", Stacie Robinson – U of MN – College of Veterinary, \$135,847
13. Line 113 – ID: 109-D "Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Project", Joe Courneya – Red River Basin Commission, \$219,890

Category E – Air Quality, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy

14. Line 125 – ID: 125-E "Clean Water/Renewable Energy from Beet Waste/Manure", Jun Zhu – U of MN, \$403,685
15. Line 127 – ID: 134-E "District Heating With Renewable Biomass at Camp Ripley", Mark Anderson - Minnesota Department of Military Affairs/Minnesota National Guard, \$1,970,000
16. Line 128 – ID: 139-E "Eliminating Sulfur from On-Farm Anaerobic Digester Emissions", Kevin Hennessy – MN Department of Agriculture, \$300,000

Category F – Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat

17. Line 163 – ID: 158-F "Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat", Tom Lewanski – Friends of the Mississippi River, \$204,000

Commissioner Herman reported a conflict of interest for Line 163 – ID: 158-F "Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat" because his wife is on the board of Friends of the Mississippi River.

18. Line 167 – ID: 162-F "Dredged Sediment for Forest Restoration on Unproductive Minelands", Tom Levar – U of MN – NRRI, \$495,585
19. Line 168 – ID: 171-F "Ecological Management Plans - Mississippi River Watershed and Minneapolis", Jennifer Ringold – Minneapolis Park and Recreation, \$228,800
20. Line 169 – ID: 147-F "Healthy Prairies: Seed Storage, Beneficial Microbes, and Adaptation", Ruth Shaw – U of MN, \$695,000
21. Line 171 - ID: 172-F "Increasing Habitat and Ecosystem Benefits through Forest management", Kent Jacobson – MN DNR – Div of Forestry, \$268,600

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22. Line 172 – ID: 174-F “Victus Farms: Expanding in New Directions”, Lana Fralich – City of Silver Bay, \$356,000

Category G “Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

23. Line 191 – ID: 183-G “3,500-Foot Shoreland Acquisition on St. Croix River”, Jane Harper – Washington County, \$2,500,000
24. Line 192 – ID: 187-G “Strategic Land Acquisition, Accelerating Sales and Exchanges”, Robert Tomlinson – MN DNR, \$500,000
25. Line 193 – ID: 188-G “Connecting the Minnesota River Water Trail and Morton”, Carl Colwell – City of Morton, \$198,200

MOTION: Commissioner Tomassoni moved to have presentations scheduled for the 67 proposals moved earlier today plus the 25 proposals listed above through member's discussions and include ID: 191-H “Contract Management”, Amanda Graeber – MN DNR, \$135,000 and ID: 192-H “LCC Web”, Greg Hubinger – LCC, \$9,000 – motion prevailed.

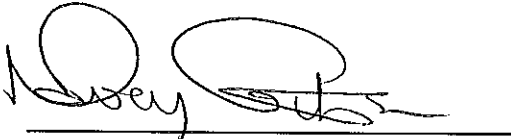
9. **Confirm proposal presentation dates and times and amend adopted 2013 calendar as needed**

Susan Thornton announced the LCCMR Meeting on September 19, 2013 would be canceled.

10. **Other business**

11. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy", is written over a horizontal line.