

LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

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Susan Thornton, Director

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 22, 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, William Faber, Rep. Dan Fabian, Nancy Gibson, Bonnie Harper-Lore, John Herman, Rep. Leon Lillie, Norman Moody, Rep. John Persell, Sen. David Tomassoni, Rep. Paul Torkelson, Rep. Jean Wagenius, Sen. Torrey Westrom

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

Members Absent: Sen. John Hoffman

Co-Chair: Rep. Jean Wagenius

1. Approve the minutes for October 15 – 17, 2013

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

MOTION: Commissioner Herman moved to approve the minutes for October 15-17, 2013 – motion prevailed.

2. 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 Faber reported a conflict of interest for ENRTF ID: 050-B "Restoring Groundwater and Trout Habitat through Irrigation Efficiencies", Gerry Maciej – Benton

Jeff Broberg, Tom Cook, Sen. Gary Dahms, Sen. Kari Dziedzic, William Faber, Rep. Dan Fabian, Nancy Gibson, Bonnie Harper-Lore, John Herman, Sen. John Hoffman, Rep. Leon Lillie, Norman Moody, Rep. John Persell, Sen. David Tomassoni, Rep. Paul Torkelson, Rep. Jean Wagenius, Sen. Torrey Westrom

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County Soil and Water Conservation District because he is on the board of the Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Commissioner Faber reported a conflict of interest for ENRTF ID: 134-E “ District Heating With Renewable Biomass at Camp Ripley”, Mark Anderson – Minnesota Department of Military Affairs/Minnesota National Guard because he is on the board of the Citizen Committee.

Commissioner Moody reported a conflict of interest for ENRTF ID: 137-E “ Solar PV at Minnesotas Residential Environmental Learning Centers”, Dale Yerger– Deep Portage Learning Center because he serves on the Executive Committee of the Deep Portage Foundation.

Commissioner Dziejcz 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.

Commissioner Herman reported a conflict of interest for ENRTF ID: 074-C “Urban Environmental Education Engaging Students in Local Resources”, Greg Lais.

3. Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars available for FY15 (Susan Thornton, LCCMR)

Susan Thornton stated that approximately \$29.4 million (of the \$33,810,000 FY15 Appropriation) is available for allocations because last year \$4,350,000 for FY15 was appropriated in M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 06a “An Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center”.

4. Proposal Allocation Recommendations for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for FY15 (July 1, 2014)

Members started the discussion on the spreadsheet handout titled “2014 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals – Cumulative Average of Member Rankings – Listed by Category Rank – High to Low”. Members agreed to review proposals with a cumulative average rank of 5.5 or higher by Category area. Commissioner Wagenius stated that dollars would be rounded down to the nearest thousandths as is common practice for appropriations. See Attachment #1.

Commissioner Dziejcz reminded members last year there was about one million dollars not recommended for allocation initially in order to recommend adjustments to proposals after proposers reviewed the dollar amount that was recommended for their project and provided feedback.

Members started reviewing proposals in Category area A. Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 005-A “Contaminants in Minnesota’s Loons and Pelicans: Phase 2”, MN DNR, Carrol Henderson at \$260,000. Members requested that analysis be completed in Minnesota instead of Connecticut if possible.

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Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 004-A "Conserving Minnesota's Freshwater Mussel Legacy: Quantifying Habitat Interactions", U of MN, Jessica Kozarek at \$350,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 017-A "Prairie Butterfly Conservation, Research and Breeding Program", Minnesota Zoological Garden, Erik Runquist at \$625,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 006-A "Wild Bee Surveys in Prairie-Grassland Habitats", MN DNR, Gerda Nordquist at \$370,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 016-A "Moose Decline and Air Temperatures in Northeastern Minnesota", MN DNR, Mike Larson at \$600,000.

Members started reviewing proposals in Category area B. Water Resources.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 040-B "Measuring Hydrologic Benefits from Glacial Ridge Habitat Restoration", Red Lake Watershed District, Tim Cowdery at \$168,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 038-B "Rain Water Reuse and Valuation Investigation", U of MN, Scott Alexander at \$300,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 035-B "Protecting the State's Confined Drinking-Water Aquifers", U. S. Geological Survey, James Stark at \$394,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 030-B "Antibiotics and Antibiotic Resistance Genes in Minnesota Lakes", U of MN, William Arnold at \$300,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 033-B "Protecting Bacteria from Contaminants to Preserve Water Quality", U of MN, Paige Novak at \$279,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 031-B "Wastewater Estrogen: Removal Options, Fish Abundance, and Cost", U of MN, Paige Novak at \$500,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 048-B "Estrogen exposure analyses in Minnesota's Shallow Lake Wildlife", St. Thomas University, Kurt Illig at \$136,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 036-B "Water: Solar Driven Destruction of Pesticides, Pharmaceuticals, Contaminants", U of MN, William Arnold at \$291,000.

Members started reviewing proposals in Category area C. Environmental Education.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 066-C "Minnesota Conservation Apprenticeship Academy", BWSR, Jenny Gieseke at \$250,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 071-C "Youth-led Sustainability Initiatives in 40 Greater MN Communities", Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, Dave Pederson at \$350,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 076-C "Raptor Lab: Online and Outdoors!", U of MN, Julia Ponder at \$186,000.

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Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 069-C "Minnesota Stories in a Changing Climate", Will Steger Foundation, Kristen Poppleton at \$325,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 072-C "Minnesota Pollinator Partnership", Pheasants Forever, Matt Holland at \$100,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 074-C "Urban Environmental Education Engaging Students in Local Resources", Wilderness Inquiry, Gregory Lais at \$600,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 083-C "Reducing Lake Quality Impairments through Citizen Action", Freshwater Society, Alex Gehrig at \$59,000.

Members started reviewing proposals in Category area D. Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 097-D "Blocking Asian Carp by Optimizing Lock and Dams", U of MN, Peter Sorensen at \$463,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 101-D "Bioacoustics to Detect, Deter and Eliminate Flying Carp", U of MN Duluth, Allen Mensinger at \$262,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 098-D "Biosurveillance and Biocontrol of EAB - Phase 2", MN Department of Agriculture, Monika Chandler at \$447,000. Members recommended funding for activities 1, 2, and 4 only.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 099-D "Mountain Pine Beetle: Invasive Threat to Minnesota's Pines", U of MN, Brian Aukema at \$250,000.

Members started reviewing proposals in Category area E. Air Quality, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 121-E "Demonstrating Innovative Technologies to Fully Utilize Wastewater Resources", U of MN, Roger Ruan at \$1,000,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 125-E "Clean Water/Renewable Energy from Beet Waste/Manure", U of MN, Jun Zhu at \$400,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 112-E "Solar Cell Materials from Sulfur and Common Metals", U of MN, Lee Penn at \$494,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 116-E "Innovative Groundwater-Enhanced Geothermal Heat Pump Study", U of MN, Martin Saar at \$196,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 133-E "Next Generation Septic Tank Systems", U of MN, Bo Hu at \$258,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 137-E "Solar PV at Minnesota's Residential Environmental Learning Centers", Eagle Bluff, Wolf Ridge, Deep Portage, Long Lake, Audubon Center of the Northwoods, Laurentian ELC, Dale Yerger at \$150,000.

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Members started reviewing proposals in Category area F. Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 151-F "Protecting Bees by Understanding Systemic Insecticides", U of MN, Vera Krischik at \$326,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 163-F "Cattail Management for Wetland Wildlife and Bioenergy Potential", U of MN, Daniel Svedarsky at \$74,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 152-F "Northeast Minnesota White Cedar Restoration, Phase 2", BWSR, Dale Krystosek at \$335,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 146-F "Achieving Pollinator Landscapes with the Greatest Multiple Benefits", U of MN, Marla Spivak at \$864,000. Members stated that the funding is for activities 1 and 2 only. Proposer is encouraged to apply to the Dept. of Agriculture grant programs for funding of other proposal elements.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 154-F "Protecting the Best of the Best in Southeast", The Nature Conservancy, Richard Biske at \$200,000.

Members started reviewing proposals in Category area G. Land Acquisition.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 188-G "Connecting the Minnesota River Water Trail and Morton", City of Morton, Carl Colwell at \$198,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 184-G "Mesabi Trail Development - Soudan to Ely Segment", St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority, Robert Manzoline at \$1,000,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 177-G "SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Improvement & Citizen Engagement", MN DNR, Peggy Booth at \$2,540,000. Members recommended that priority must be given to lands that have been challenged to garner support in the LSOHC process, such as particularly fragile lands or lands only suited for passive recreation.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 178-G "Metropolitan Regional Park System Acquisition--Phase 3", Metropolitan Council, Arne Stefferud at \$1,500,000.

Members started reviewing proposals in Category area H. Other.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 192-H "LCC - Web", LCC, Greg Hubinger at \$9,000 per M.S. 3.303, subd. 10.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 191-H "Contract Management", MN DNR, Amanda Graeber at \$135,000. Members stated that the project should provide better reporting/breakdown of expenditures, such as hours spent per project.

Members agreed to add ENRTF ID: n/a "LCCMR Database", LCCMR, Susan Thornton at \$100,000.

Members recessed at 12:40 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

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5. Continue Proposal Allocation Recommendations for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for FY15 (July 1, 2014)

Staff provided three different scenarios for members to review to continue discussions on allocations. Members agreed to start with the handout titled "2014 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals Cumulative Average of Member Rankings – Listed in Overall Rank – High to Low All Proposals Scoring Below 5.5 with 9 or More Votes of 6 and Above (11 Proposals / \$5,686,467). See Attachment #2.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 073-C "Bee Discovery Center at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum", U of MN, Landscape Arboretum, Peter Moe at \$450,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 157-F "Restoring our Lands and Waters", Great River Greening, Wiley Buck at \$300,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 077-C "Building Bridges to a Diverse Natural Resources Community", MN DNR, Michele Hanson at \$500,000. Members stated that the project does not include funds for amphitheater or fishing pond. Proposers need to meet with LCCMR staff on potential implications for scope of work at this funding amount and must coordinate with Wilderness Inquiry's related proposal.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 008-A "Analyzing and Sharing the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas", Audubon Minnesota, Mark Martell at \$300,000. Members stated that the funds cannot be used for the publication of the book.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 147-F "Healthy Prairies: Seed Storage, Beneficial Microbes, and Adaptation", U of MN, Ruth Shaw at \$600,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 014-A "Impacts of Forest Quality on Declining Minnesota Moose", U of MN, James Forester at \$300,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 158-F "Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat", Friends of the Mississippi River, Tom Lewanski at \$200,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 019-A "Sandhill Crane Populations and Management in Minnesota", U of MN, David Andersen at \$250,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 046-B "Sedimental Journey: Watershed-Scale Monitoring of BMP Effectiveness", Science Museum of Minnesota - St. Croix Watershed Research Station, Daniel Engstrom at \$900,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 162-F "Dredged Sediment for Forest Restoration on Unproductive Minelands", U of MN - NRRI, Tom Levar at \$300,000. Members recommended that the project must address the overall role of the Army Corps of Engineers and clarify the permitting needed from MPCA.

Members agreed to discuss the handout titled "2014 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals Cumulative Average of Member Rankings – Listed in Overall Rank – High to Low

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All Proposals Scoring Below 5.5 with 8 or More Votes of 6 and Above (6 Proposals / \$2,145,785). See Attachment #3.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 111-E "Assessing Species Vulnerability to Climate Change Using Phenology", U of MN, Rebecca Montgomery at \$175,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 020-A "Expand the Minnesota Wildflowers Online Botanical Reference", MN Wildflowers Information, Katy Chayka at \$150,000. Members recommended the project needs to address a transfer of assets to the state in the event organization dissolves or no longer maintains the website. Organization needs to meet with staff to discuss fiscal issues.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 001-A "Mapping Landscapes for Better Land and Water Management", U of MN, Joseph Knight at \$300,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 023-A "Restoring Long-Lost Forest Data and Extending Ecological Monitoring", U of MN, Alan Ek at \$100,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 140-E "Itasca Boiler/Woody Biomass Utilization Project", Itasca Community College, Bart Johnson at \$112,000. Members stated that funding is for final design only. Students must be involved in the design process. Proposers are encouraged to apply for bonding for the construction.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 086-C "The Wolf At Our Door", International Wolf Center, Darcy Berus at \$120,000.

Members agreed to discuss the handout titled "2014 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals Cumulative Average of Member Rankings – Listed in Overall Rank – High to Low All Proposals Scoring Below 5.5 with 9 or More Votes of 5 and Above (7 Proposals / \$4,367,169). See Attachment #4.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 032-B "Does Triclosan Create Super Bugs During Wastewater Treatment", U of MN, Timothy LaPara at \$380,000.

Members stopped reviewing the handout and members suggested the following projects for continued discussion at the LCCMR meeting on October 23, 2013:

ENRTF ID: 009-A "State Spring Inventory for Resource Management and Protection"

ENRTF ID: 010-A "Drainage Records Modernization and Statewide GIS Database"

ENRTF ID: 034-B "Watershed Water Budgets for Managing Minnesota's Water"

ENRTF ID: 045-B "Identifying Causes of Exceptionally High Mercury in Fish"

ENRTF ID: 050-B "Restoring Groundwater and Trout Habitat Through Irrigation Efficiencies"

ENRTF ID: 058-B "Nutrient Capture Through Water Management and Biomass Harvesting"

ENRTF ID: 066-C "Minnesota Conservation Apprenticeship Academy"

ENRTF ID: 073-C "Bee Discovery Center at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum"

ENRTF ID: 074-C "Urban Environmental Education Engaging Students in Local Resources"

ENRTF ID: 097-D "Blocking Asian Carp by Optimizing Lock and Dams"

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ENRTF ID: 100-D "Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Monitoring and Biocontrol Evaluation"

ENRTF ID: 107-D "Invasive Species Control in Grassland Habitats"

ENRTF ID: 109-D "Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Project"

ENRTF ID: 122-E "Transitioning Minnesota Farms to Local Energy"

ENRTF ID: 126-E "Life Cycle Energy of Renewably Produced Nitrogen Fertilizers"

ENRTF ID: 174-F "Victus Farms: Expanding in New Directions"

ENRTF ID: 182-G "VanderWert Scientific and Natural Area and County Park"

ENRTF ID: 183-G "3,500-Foot Shoreland Acquisition on St. Croix River"

6. Other business (as needed)

- Next steps in the process

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norm Moody". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.