

LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

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Susan Thornton, Director

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

8:30 a.m. – Noon

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: Nancy Gibson

1. 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.

Co-Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

2. Continuation from October 22 meeting - Proposal Allocation Recommendations for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for FY15 (July 1, 2014)

Staff provided out a spreadsheet titled "2014 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposals Still Under Consideration Following 10/22/2013 Meeting" for a starting point for today's discussion.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 009-A "State Spring Inventory for Resource Management and Protection", MN DNR, Jan Falteisek at \$200,000. Members stated that the project should get the process started by developing protocol and defining a "spring" - then have all DNR units and citizen science assist with identifying locations. Use a similar approach to that of Wisconsin.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 010-A "Drainage Records Modernization and Statewide GIS Database", BWSR, Allan Kean at \$230,000. Members recommended funding for activity 1 and 2 only.

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

LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 034-B "Watershed Water Budgets for Managing Minnesota's Water", U.S. Geological Survey, David Lorenz at \$129,000.

MOTION: Commissioner Torkelson moved to add into consideration ENRTF ID: 050-B "Restoring Groundwater and Trout Habitat Through Irrigation Efficiencies", Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District, Gerry Maciej at \$240,000 - motion did not prevail (7 yes – 8 no).

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 045-B "Identifying Causes of Exceptionally High Mercury in Fish", MPCA, Bruce Monson at \$743,000. Members recommended that the funding is for project to focus on the Roseau River.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 058-B "Nutrient Capture Through Water Management and Biomass Harvesting", Red River Basin Commission, Jeff Lewis at \$300,000.

MOTION: Commissioner Lillie moved to add into consideration ENRTF ID: 100-D "Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Monitoring and Biocontrol Evaluation", Mark Abrahamson at \$266,000 – motion prevailed.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 107-D "Invasive Species Control in Grassland Habitats", The Nature Conservancy, Brian Winter at \$300,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 109-D "Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Project", Red River Basin Commission, Joe Courneya at \$219,000. Members recommended that the project must coordinate with LSOHC and DNR efforts on local invasive species control. Project will need to provide specific reporting and analysis on outcomes and findings of this alternative approach on what works and what doesn't to make information helpful to other communities.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 122-E "Transitioning Minnesota Farms to Local Energy", U of MN, Michael Reese at \$500,000. Members stated that any installation of infrastructure or improvements must be at the West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC), not private farms. Limit scope to the swine study.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 126-E "Life Cycle Energy of Renewably Produced Nitrogen Fertilizers", U of MN, Joel Tallaksen at 250,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 174-F "Victus Farms: Expanding in New Directions", City of Silver Bay, Lana Fralich at \$176,000. Members recommended that the funding is for activity 3 only.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 182-G "VanderWert Scientific and Natural Area and County Park", Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc., Rich Perrine at \$435,000.

Members agreed to consider ENRTF ID: 183-G "3,500-Foot Shoreland Acquisition on St. Croix River, Washington County, Jane Harper at \$1,250,000. Members stated that funding is contingent on project providing \$2,500,000 or more of local match.

Members agreed ENRTF ID: 066-C "Minnesota Conservation Apprenticeship Academy", BWSR, Jenny Gieseke to recommend an additional \$142,000

LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

Members agreed ENRTF ID: 073-C “Bee Discovery Center at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum”, U of MN - Landscape Arboretum, Peter Moe, to recommend an additional \$165,000. Members stated that the Bee Discovery Center should present best science pertaining to all pollinators and native species. Also, the organization needs to address concerns about access and fees, how it is going to do more outreach, and how it is going to ensure additional underserved children are brought in at no cost or limited cost.

Members agreed ENRTF ID: 074-C “Urban Environmental Education Engaging Students in Local Resources”, Wilderness Inquiry, Gregory Lais to recommend an additional \$493,000. Members recommended that the project needs to address how this effort will transition to a self-sustaining program in the future.

Members agreed ENRTF ID: 097-D “Blocking Asian Carp by Optimizing Lock and Dams”, U of MN, Peter Sorensen to recommend an additional \$391,000 contingent on the administration of the AIS Center and AIS Center research initiatives funding getting resolved in partnership with U of MN. Additional tentative allocation of \$391,000 more (Total = \$854,000) to add Lock and Dam #8 if issues resolved.

Members agreed to set aside the remaining money (\$581,000) for later consideration.

MOTION: Commissioner Dziejcz moved the FY2015 LCCMR Allocations Recommendation Summary (2014 RFP) Spreadsheet for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) – motion prevailed (unanimous).

3. LCCMR Strategic Plan discussion

Members reviewed the strategic plan and selected the following points for further discussion:

- Does it address BMPs standards and development for Rivers and Streams (Maybe add to RFP Priorities)
- Need to discuss the relationship to other funding sources – need to set some boundaries for the ENRTF
- Outcomes and Innovative
- Need to use past accomplishments and outcomes to build on what has been learned. Look back so that we can continue moving in the right direction based on past funding discoveries and results
- Report success stories to public in a very consumer friendly way
- Have presentations on final results of appropriations funding
- Annual vs. biennial and how to continue with site visits, issue seminars and review of final accomplishments from past funding
- Encourage the use of citizen science and community involvement as appropriate

4. Discuss FY16 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP)

Members reviewed the RFP and brought up the following points for consideration in development of the FY16 RFP:

LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

- Does it address BMPs standards and development for Rivers and Streams (Maybe add to Strategic Plan Priorities)
 - Evaluation Criteria for proposer to go thru as part of a checklist that ENRTF is the best place for funding. Provide a list of other funding opportunities for types of proposals other than ENRTF
 - Enhance to clearly delineate who else they have proposed the funding to such as federal, state and/or LSOHC
 - ENRTF not an ongoing source of funding – be very clear
 - Clearly state that outcomes and reports of results are expected
 - Outcomes and Innovative
 - If applied and received funding before, give a clear explanation of the long term plan to self sustain
 - Annual vs. Biennial
 - Need to know if phases of funding – what exactly are those phases and outcomes
 - Administrative expenses – allowable expenses needs further review
 - Need to be clear that all levels of funding can propose. Make a declarative statement. Call attention that the RFP is open to all dollar amounts - not a minimum
 - Should do more outreach of announcement of funding to college and University systems
 - As select for presentation and funding recommendations -- keep track of the size and location of projects, etc.
 - Encourage the use of citizen science and community involvement as appropriation
 - 116P Intellectual Property and sales cost share should be explicit in the RFP
 - Requirements for a Work plan, reporting and statements of outcomes should be very clear in the RFP
5. Other business (as needed)
- Next steps in the process
6. Adjourn
- Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

