

Denny McNamara
State Representative
District 54B
Dakota and Washington Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES:

CHAIR, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY AND FINANCE
MINING AND OUTDOOR RECREATION POLICY
TRANSPORTATION POLICY AND FINANCE
WAYS AND MEANS

October 20, 2015

LCCMR Members
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 65
St. Paul, MN 55155

Members,

I would like to bring your attention to a troubling situation I witnessed earlier today. I noticed Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) Co-Chair John Persell hosting a meeting of the LCCMR executive committee in his office behind closed doors Tuesday morning. Rep. Persell was joined by two executive committee members, Sen. David Tomassoni and Nancy Gibson, a citizen member appointed by Governor Mark Dayton, constituting a quorum. In addition, LCCMR Director Susan Thornton and Assistant Director Mike Banker were present at the meeting.

As a subcommittee of the full LCCMR, the executive committee is subject to open meeting laws and must be open to the public. Furthermore, our the Procedures of the LCCMR state "if there is one citizen member, one house member and one senate member present at an executive committee meeting this will constitute a quorum." After consulting with other members, I am unaware of any public notice for this meeting despite that historically having been the practice for meetings of this type. The current LCCMR staff and procedures have been in place for several years and the public was notified of past executive committee meetings. It remains unclear why the meeting hosted by Rep. Persell Tuesday was not publicly noticed.

Before taking any further action, I wanted to offer Rep. Persell an opportunity to explain his actions to commission members and the public. Minnesota Statute 3.055 and House Rule 6.23 state that violations of each body's open meeting rules are to be made known to the Speaker of the House and the chair of the Senate Rules Committee, respectively.

The work we do as members of the LCCMR on behalf of Minnesota taxpayers is critical. We are responsible for making recommendations to the legislature about \$46 million worth of projects intended to protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources. With their tax dollars at stake, Minnesotans rightfully expect oversight and transparency.

Thank you for your service on this commission and for your attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Denny McNamara".

Denny McNamara
District 54B – Representative

