



LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

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Becca Nash, Director

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Time: 10:15 AM to 2:00 PM

Location: through electronic means (Zoom)

Members Present: Sen. Gary Dahms, Sen. Kari Dziedzic, Rep. Rob Ecklund, William Faber, Nancy Gibson, Rep. Rick Hansen, Rep. Josh Heintzeman, Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen, Nicole Kessler, Denny McNamara, Norman Moody, Michael Reese, Rep. Tama Theis, Sen. David Tomassoni, Rep. Jean Wagenius, Sen. Torrey Westrom, Della Young

Staff Present: B. Nash, M. Varien, C. Layfield, R. Anderson, D. Griffith

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

Co-Chair: Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen

Co-Chair Ingebrigtsen started the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Diana Griffith took roll call for attendance. There were 15 members present at the time of roll-call and nine were needed for a quorum.

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Dahms - Sen	x		Commissioner McNamara	x	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	x		Commissioner Moody	x	
Commissioner Ecklund – Rep	excused		Commissioner Reese	x	
Commissioner Faber	x		Commissioner Tama Theis - Rep	excused	
Commissioner Gibson	x		Commissioner Tomassoni - Sen	x	
Commissioner Hansen - Rep	x		Commissioner Wagenius - Rep	x	
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	x		Commissioner Westrom - Sen	x	
Commissioner Ingebrigtsen - Sen	x		Commissioner Young	x	
Commissioner Kessler	x				

Director Nash reminded members of the guidelines for participating by Zoom and explained the Zoom breakout rooms feature that will be used today for breaks during the meeting.

1. [00:06:52] Approve the minutes for LCCMR meeting on August 13, 2020

MOTION [06:59:00]: Commissioner Heintzeman moved to approve the minutes for the LCCMR meeting on August 13, 2020 – motion prevailed.

2. [07:22:22] Members report potential conflicts of interest regarding today’s business

Sen. Gary Dahms, Sen. Kari Dziedzic, Rep. Rob Ecklund, William Faber, Nancy Gibson, Rep. Rick Hansen, Rep. Josh Heintzeman, Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen, Nicole Kessler, Denny McNamara, Norman Moody, Michael Reese, Rep. Tama Theis, Sen. David Tomassoni, Rep. Jean Wagenius, Sen. Torrey Westrom, Della Young

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Members reported the following conflicts of interest for 2020 Proposals:

ENRTF ID	Title/Organization	Commission Member
025-A	Healthy Prairies III: Restoring MN prairie plant diversity	Rep. Jean Wagenius
031-A	Morrison County Performance Drainage and Hydrology Management Phase II	Bill Faber
156-D	Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EAB	Denny McNamara
173-E	Storing Renewable Energy in Flow-Battery for Grid Use	Michael Reese
192-E	Phase 2: Integrated Small-Scale Ammonia Synthesis	Michael Reese
194-E	Minnesota Shrimp Production Using Clean Energy	Michael Reese
201-EH	Identifying Agricultural Energy Consumption and Impacts in Minnesota	Michael Reese
216-F	Implementing Hemp Crop Rotation to Improve Water Quality	Michael Reese Bill Faber

Members reported the following conflicts of interest 2021 Proposals:

ENRTF ID	Title/Organization	Organization	Project Manager	Commission Member
2021-162	Oak Wilt Suppression at the Northern Edge II	Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District	Shannon Wettstein	Bill Faber
2021-191	Agrivoltaics To Improve The Environment And Farm Resiliency	U of MN, WCROC	Bradley Heins	Michael Reese
2021-238	Morrison County Performance Drainage And Hydrology Management II	Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District	Shannon Wettstein	Bill Faber

Director Nash explained these conflicts of interest were posted on the meeting page of the website for both 2020 and 2021 ENRTF proposals.

3. [00:07:52] Director's report

Director Nash provided an update on the online system, that the LCCMR staff position has been approved, and Michelle Weber (LCC Director) has started her new position since Greg Hubinger retired. Members discussed.

4. [00:14:29] Status of M.L. 2020 Tentative Recommendations

Co-Chair Ingebrigtsen and Rep. Hansen provided an update on 2020 Tentative Recommendations.

5. [00:18:54] Action: Mesabi Trail request for extension ML 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i "Mesabi Trail Development Soudan to Ely - Phase II ", \$1,000,000

- **Bob Manzoline and Bill Dahl, St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority**

Director Nash provided an overview of the extension request.

Bob Manzoline, St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority, answered questions.

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MOTION [00:30:52]: Commissioner Tomassoni moved to approve the Mesabi Trail request for extension to Dec. 2021 to match a federal grant on ML 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i “Mesabi Trail Development Soudan to Ely - Phase II “, \$1,000,000 – motion prevailed (12_ Yes / 1_ No / 2 Absent / 2 Abstained)

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Dahms - Sen	x		Commissioner McNamara	x	
Commissioner Dzedzic - Sen	excused		Commissioner Moody	x	
Commissioner Ecklund – Rep	excused		Commissioner Reese	x	
Commissioner Faber	x		Commissioner Tama Theis - Rep	x	
Commissioner Gibson		x	Commissioner Tomassoni - Sen	x	
Commissioner Hansen - Rep	abstained		Commissioner Wagenius - Rep	abstained	
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	x		Commissioner Westrom - Sen	x	
Commissioner Ingebrigtsen - Sen	x		Commissioner Young	x	
Commissioner Kessler	x				

6. [00:32:55] Update and Possible Action: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e “National Loon Center”, National Loon Center Foundation, \$4,000,000

- **Leah Heggerston, NLCF Board member, and NLC Project manager**
- **Mike Angland, WSN, NLCF Board member, and proposed NLC project manager**

Director Nash provided an overview of the posted memo on M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e “National Loon Center.”

Mike Angland, WSN, shared a video. Leah Heggerston, National Loon Center, provided an update on the project.

MOTION [01:11:22]: Commissioner Heintzeman moved to grant the COVID extension for two years for M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e “National Loon Center”.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Hansen amended Commissioner Heintzeman motion to allow all ML 2019 work plans to receive two year COVID extensions – amendment prevailed (8 Yes / 7 No / 2 Excused)

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Dahms - Sen		x	Commissioner McNamara	x	
Commissioner Dzedzic - Sen	x		Commissioner Moody	x	
Commissioner Ecklund – Rep	excused		Commissioner Reese		x
Commissioner Faber	x		Commissioner Tama Theis - Rep		x
Commissioner Gibson	x		Commissioner Tomassoni - Sen		x
Commissioner Hansen - Rep	x		Commissioner Wagenius - Rep	x	
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep		x	Commissioner Westrom - Sen	excused	
Commissioner Ingebrigtsen - Sen	x		Commissioner Young		x
Commissioner Kessler		x			

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RENEWED MOTION: Commissioner Heintzeman moved to grant the COVID extension for two years for M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e “National Loon Center” – Withdrawn by Commissioner Heintzeman.

7. [1:30:39] Completed Project Presentation: M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 04g “Identification of Chemicals of Emerging Concern in Minnesota Fish”, \$400,000

- **Seth Moore, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa**

Seth Moore, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, provided an overview of his completed project - M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 04g “Identification of Chemicals of Emerging Concern in Minnesota Fish”. Members discussed.

8. [01:53:23] Completed Project Presentation: M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 06e “Elimination of Target Invasive Plant Species – Phase II”, \$750,000

- **Monika Chandler, Department of Agriculture, \$511,000**
- **Angela Gupta, U of MN, \$239,000**

Monika Chandler, Department of Agriculture, and Angela Gupta, U of MN, provided an overview of their completed project - M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 06e “Elimination of Target Invasive Plant Species – Phase II”. Members discussed.

Commissioner Ecklund is present at the meeting.

Commissioner Theis is present at the meeting.

9. [02:16:08] 2021 ENRTF Recommendations: Peer review status update

Corrie Layfield provided an update on peer review for 2021 ENRTF Recommendations. Members discussed.

10. [02:19:07] Break

Members recessed at 12:33 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

11. [2:57:07] Action: Review draft language for 2021 ENRTF Recommendations

a. Legislative Coordinating Commission: \$2,000 for Legacy website

Director Nash explained the proposed addition of \$2,000 for the Legacy website and reduction of the Emerging Issues Account by \$2,000 in the ENRTF bill.

b. Draft letter re: criminal background checks

Director Nash referred members to the draft letter posted on the meeting page of the website and thanked members Reese and McNamara and house and senate counsel for their help drafting it. Members discussed.

c. Draft 2021 ENRTF bill language

Director Nash provided an overview of the posted 2021 ENRTF bill language.

d. Specific project contingencies/issues

Director Nash provided an overview of specific project contingencies and/or issues.

MOTION [03:37:54]: Commissioner Tomassoni moved to approve the 2021 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) Bill Language, including the following, with the caveat to allow staff to make technical and grammatical changes necessary for presentation to the 2021 Minnesota Legislature:

1. Appropriation for the Legacy website for \$2,000 and reduction of the Emerging Issues Account by \$2,000
2. Mesabi Trail Language in Subdivision 9:

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(b) Mesabi Trail CSAH 88 to Ely

\$1,650,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority to acquire, engineer and construct a segment of the Mesabi Trail beginning at the intersection of County State Aid Highway 88 towards Ely.

3. Subdivision 18 Carryforward; Extensions due to COVID, with the following language:

Subd. 18. Carryforward; Extension due to COVID

(a) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.28, or any other law to the contrary, the availability of any appropriation or grant of money from the environment and natural resources trust fund that would otherwise cancel, lapse, or expire on June 30, 2021, is extended to June 30, 2022, if the recipient or grantee does both of the following:

(1) by April 30, 2021, notifies the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources in the manner specified by the commission that the recipient or grantee intends to avail itself of the extension available under this section; and

(2) modifies the applicable work plan where required by Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.05, subdivision 2, in accordance with the work plan amendment procedures adopted under that section.

(b) The commission must notify the commissioner of management and budget and the commissioner of natural resources of any extension granted under this section.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This subdivision is effective the day following final enactment.

4. A Subdivision 19 Technical Corrections, with the following language:

Subd. 19 Technical Corrections

Section 1. Laws 2018, chapter 214, article 4, section 2, subdivision 9, is amended to read:(h) Protecting North-Central Minnesota Lakes\$750,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District to increase watershed protection to maintain and improve water quality in lakes and rivers in Aitkin and Crow Wing Counties with about ten permanent RIM conservation easements and 12 forest stewardship plans and by implementing six best management practices. Of this amount, up to \$59,000 may be contributed to an easement stewardship account established under Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.103, as approved in the work plan. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2022, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered. EFFECTIVE DATE. This subdivision is effective retroactively from July 1, 2019.

– motion prevailed (15 Yes / 0 No / 2 Excused) (12 votes required)

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Dahms - Sen	x		Commissioner McNamara	x	
Commissioner Dziedzic - Sen	x		Commissioner Moody	x	
Commissioner Ecklund – Rep	x		Commissioner Reese	x	
Commissioner Faber	x		Commissioner Tama Theis - Rep	x	
Commissioner Gibson	x		Commissioner Tomassoni - Sen	x	
Commissioner Hansen - Rep	x		Commissioner Wagenius - Rep	x	
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	excused		Commissioner Westrom - Sen	x	

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Commissioner Ingebrigtsen - Sen	x		Commissioner Young	x	
Commissioner Kessler	excused				

12. LCCMR Other business

a. Next meeting: December 9 or December 17?

Director Nash discussed canceling either the December 9th or December 17th meeting dates. Members discussed.

Members agreed to cancel the LCCMR meeting on December 9th and meet December 17th

13. Public Testimony

The public is asked to keep their comments brief. If you would like to testify, please contact Diana Griffith at diana.griffith@lccmr.leg.mn by 4:00 pm the day before the meeting and specify to which agenda item your testimony relates. The chair will accommodate testimony at the requested agenda item as time allows.

No public testimony.

14. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.
