LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES
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Becca Nash, Director

MINUTES

Friday, July 18, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Location: HYBRID: Room G-23, Minnesota State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155 and through electronic means (YouTube)

Members Present: Rita Albrecht, Michelle Beeman, William Faber, Rep. Peter Fischer, Sen. Steve Green, Sen. Foung Hawj, Monica Hedstrom, Rep. Josh Heintzeman, Rep. Sydney Jordan, Shona Langseth, Rep. Leon Lillie, Sen. Jennifer McEwen, Sen. Aric Putnam, Michael Reese, Rep. Roger Skraba, Sen. Torrey Westrom

Staff Present: B. Nash, M. Varien, M. Campana, D. Griffith, N. Fribley

Members Excused: Seth Moore

Members Absent:

Co-Chair: Rita Albrecht

Chair Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Roll call attendance

Chair Albrecht asked for a roll call. Diana Griffith took roll call for attendance. There were 14 members present at the time of roll call, and nine were needed for a quorum.

Member	Attendance	Member	Attendance
Commissioner Albrecht	Yes	Commissioner Langseth	Yes (remote)
Commissioner Beeman	Yes	Commissioner Lillie - Rep	Yes
Commissioner Faber	Yes	Commissioner McEwen - Sen	Yes (remote)
Commissioner Fischer – Rep	Yes	Commissioner Moore	Excused
Commissioner Green – Sen	Yes	Commissioner Putnam – Sen	Excused
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Yes	Commissioner Reese	Yes
Commissioner Hedstrom	Yes	Commissioner Skraba – Rep	Excused
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	Yes	Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Yes
Commissioner Jordan - Rep	Yes (remote)		

2. Approve minutes for June 11 and June 24-27, 2025

MOTION: Commissioner Hawj moved to approved the minutes for June 11, 2025, and June 24, 25, 26, and 27, 2025 – motion prevailed.

Commissioner Skraba joined the meeting in person.

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

Members reported the following conflicts of interest for 2026 proposals:

Member Conflict of Interest Report - M.L. 2026 (FY27)

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	Organization	Members With Conflict of Interest	Direct Personal Financial Interest in the Organization
2026-168	Veluchamy	Chitraichamy	Integrating Biological-Carbon Capture and Microalgae for Sustainable Biofuel Production	U of MN, WCROC	Michael Reese	Yes
2026-318	Tiffany	Wolf	United in Responding to CWD in Minnesota	U of MN, College of Veterinary Medicine	Monica Hedstrom	Yes
2026-318	Tiffany	Wolf	United in Responding to CWD in Minnesota	U of MN, College of Veterinary Medicine	Seth Moore	No
2026-329	Eric	Buchanan	Making Solar Work for Minnesota Dairy Farmers	U of MN, WCROC	Michael Reese	Yes
2026-396	Skip	Langer	Southeast Minnesota Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Initiative	Olmsted County	Shona Langseth	No
2026-436	Chris	Lindholm	Outdoor Learning Center and Trails	Cook County Schools ISD 166	Seth Moore	Yes

4. Information: 2025 Session Report

Director Nash provided a review of the 2025 Session Report. Members discussed.

5. Information: Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Grant Unit role in monitoring appropriations. Katherine Sherman-Hoehn, DNR

Katherine Sherman-Hoehn, DNR, gave a presentation on their role in monitoring appropriations. Members discussed.

6. Action: Request to convey interest in real property acquired with ENRTF funds: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(e), Lake Tamarack, University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Andrew Gapinski, Executive Director

Michael Varien provided an overview of the request to convey interest in real property acquired with ENRTF funds. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Jordan moved to approve the conveyance to the Board of Water and Soil Resource of a perpetual environmental easement on approximately 8 acres of land acquired with ENRTF funds "M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04e", Lake Tamarack, U of MN Landscape Arboretum and provided a final draft of the easement has been reviewed by LCCMR staff – motion prevailed (12 Yes / 3 No).

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Langseth	X	
Commissioner Beeman	X		Commissioner Lillie - Rep	X	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner McEwen - Sen	X	
Commissioner Fischer – Rep	X		Commissioner Moore	Excused	

Commissioner Green – Sen		X	Commissioner Putnam – Sen	Excused	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hedstrom	X		Commissioner Skraba – Rep		X
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep		X	Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	
Commissioner Jordan - Rep	X				

7. Action: Work plans for projects funded in M.L. 2025

a. Approve consent agenda

b. Non consent items

c. Plan for remaining work plans

Michael Varien provided an overview of the spreadsheet titled, "Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Final Work Plan Review and Approvals – M.L. 2025 (FY2026)-July 18, 2025". Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Faber moved to approve from the spreadsheet titled "Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Final Work Plan Review and Approvals – M.L. 2025 (FY2026)-July 18, 2025" Lines 3 to 5 under "Category A. Consent Agenda work plans accepted by staff with reasonable changes from original proposals" and is subject to the notes and contingencies provided on the spreadsheet – motion prevailed (13 Yes / 2 No).

Member	**Y**	**N**	**Member**	**Y**	**N**
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Langseth	X	
Commissioner Beeman	X		Commissioner Lillie - Rep	X	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner McEwen - Sen	X	
Commissioner Fischer – Rep	X		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Green – Sen		X	Commissioner Putnam – Sen	Excused	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hedstrom	X		Commissioner Skraba – Rep	X	
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	X		Commissioner Westrom – Sen		X
Commissioner Jordan - Rep	X				

8. Action: Allocation Recommendations for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for 2026 (FY27)

Mike Campana proved an overview of the members evaluation #2 results. Director Nash explained the changes in conflict of interest declared by members. Members discussed.

Commissioner Putnam joined the meeting remotely.

MOTION: Commissioner Hawj moved to recommend from the spreadsheet titled, "Members 2026 RFP LCCMR Proposal Allocation Options", the Allocation Option (Reese) and allow staff to make technical changes and create the draft bill language.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Westrom moved to amend Commissioner Hawj's motion to allow reducing any project over $1 million dollars – amendment did not prevail (5 Yes / 10 No).

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Albrecht		X	Commissioner Langseth	Abstained	
Commissioner Beeman		X	Commissioner Lillie - Rep		X
Commissioner Faber		X	Commissioner McEwen - Sen		X
Commissioner Fischer – Rep		X	Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Green – Sen	X		Commissioner Putnam – Sen		X
Commissioner Hawj – Sen		X	Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hedstrom		X	Commissioner Skraba – Rep	X	
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	Passed		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	
Commissioner Jordan - Rep		X			

Returned to Commissioner Heintzeman.

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Albrecht		X	Commissioner Langseth	Abstained	
Commissioner Beeman		X	Commissioner Lillie - Rep		X
Commissioner Faber		X	Commissioner McEwen - Sen		X
Commissioner Fischer – Rep		X	Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Green – Sen	X		Commissioner Putnam – Sen		X
Commissioner Hawj – Sen		X	Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hedstrom		X	Commissioner Skraba – Rep	X	
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	X		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	
Commissioner Jordan - Rep		X			

Members continued discussions.

RENEWED MOTION: Commissioner Hawj renewed his motion to move to recommend the initial agreement from the spreadsheet titled "Members 2026 RFP LCCMR Proposal Allocation Options" with the following changes:

1. Reduce all proposals selected by 10 members by 27.3% (lines 100-114). Small projects are exempt from this reduction, and no project should be reduced below $300,000.
2. Add Proposal 2026-318 "United in Responding to CWD in Minnesota" (line 117), U of MN at $2,200,000.
3. Reduce Proposal 2026-332 "Survival and Movement of Deer in Minnesota's Prairie" (line 55), MN DNR to $1,000,000.
4. Apply an additional 4% reduction to all proposals that continue to have an allocation of $2,500,000 and above.

5. Reduce the commission buffer (line 6) to $38,000.

Staff are allowed to make technical changes and create the draft bill language.

- motion prevailed (13 Yes / 1 No).

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Langseth	Abstained	
Commissioner Beeman	X		Commissioner Lillie - Rep	X	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner McEwen - Sen	X	
Commissioner Fischer – Rep	X		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Green – Sen		X	Commissioner Putnam – Sen	X	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hedstrom	Abstained		Commissioner Skraba – Rep	X	
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	Passed		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	
Commissioner Jordan - Rep	X				

Returned to Commissioner Heintzeman.

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Langseth	Abstained	
Commissioner Beeman	X		Commissioner Lillie - Rep	X	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner McEwen - Sen	X	
Commissioner Fischer – Rep	X		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Green – Sen		X	Commissioner Putnam – Sen	X	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hedstrom	Abstained		Commissioner Skraba – Rep	X	
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	X		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	
Commissioner Jordan - Rep	X				

9. Action: Updated emerging issues account policy and procedures

Director Nash provided an overview of the Emerging Issues Memo dated June 26, 2025. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Heintzeman moved to approve from the document titled "Emerging Issues account Policy and Procedures Update – Draft for Consideration on 7/18/25" Screening Option 1 under Awarding Funds on page 3:

Request materials will be distributed to the full commission for evaluation according to the Emerging Issues Account criteria. Members will submit to staff their evaluation that includes their interest in receiving a presentation from the applicant. If a simple majority of members indicate interest in receiving a

presentation, with at least 8 total responses received, the applicant will be invited to present to the commission at the next appropriate LCCMR meeting. Following presentation at that LCCMR meeting, all requests received will be voted upon by the full commission.

- motion prevailed (15 Yes / 0 No).

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Langseth	Excused	
Commissioner Beeman	X		Commissioner Lillie - Rep	X	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner McEwen - Sen	X	
Commissioner Fischer – Rep	X		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Green – Sen	X		Commissioner Putnam – Sen	X	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hedstrom	X		Commissioner Skraba – Rep	X	
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	X		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	
Commissioner Jordan - Rep	X				

MOTION: Commissioner Westrom moved to approve from the document titled "Emerging Issues account Policy and Procedures Update – Draft for Consideration on 7/18/25" the Emerging Issues Account Criteria and Eligibility on page 1 with the following change:

The Emerging Issues Account is for efforts addressing an unexpected and urgent need that cannot be accommodated through the standard funding cycle and need to be addressed in an expedited manner. Proposed efforts must:

1. Be consistent with the constitutional purpose of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) and the commission's strategic plan.

2. Address an issue that came up unexpectedly.

3. Implement a solution where delay and following the standard funding cycle would have significant detrimental impact on the environment or natural resources <u>before the next legislative session</u>.

4. Be ready to be implemented as soon as funds are available.

Requests received will be evaluated based on these criteria in addition to the LCCMR's standard evaluation and selection criteria.

- motion prevailed (15 Yes / 1 No).

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Langseth	X	
Commissioner Beeman	X		Commissioner Lillie - Rep	X	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner McEwen - Sen	X	
Commissioner Fischer – Rep	X		Commissioner Moore	Excused	

Commissioner Green – Sen	X		Commissioner Putnam – Sen	X	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hedstrom	X		Commissioner Skraba – Rep	X	
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep		X	Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	
Commissioner Jordan - Rep	X				

Members recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Green moved to approve from the document titled "Emerging Issues account Policy and Procedures Update – Draft for Consideration on 7/18/25" the Ineligibility Option under Emerging Issues Account Criteria and Eligibility on pages 1-2:

The following efforts are not eligible for funding from the Emerging Issues Account, except in extraordinary circumstances where it can be demonstrated how funding is necessary to avoid imminent damage to or loss of an opportunity to protect the environment or natural resources in a timely fashion:

- *Land acquisition*
- *Capital construction*
- *Research*

- motion prevailed (15 Yes / 0 No).

Member	**Y**	**N**	**Member**	**Y**	**N**
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Langseth	X	
Commissioner Beeman	X		Commissioner Lillie - Rep	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner McEwen - Sen	Excused	
Commissioner Fischer – Rep	X		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Green – Sen	X		Commissioner Putnam – Sen	X	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hedstrom	X		Commissioner Skraba – Rep	X	
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	X		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	
Commissioner Jordan - Rep	X				

MOTION: Commissioner Reese moved to approve from the document titled "Emerging Issues account Policy and Procedures Update – Draft for Consideration on 7/18/25" the Unspent Funds Option 2 under Awarding Funds on page 4:

If the funds are not spent for an unexpected and urgent need before the start of the legislative session prior to the Emerging Issues Account appropriation expiration, the Emerging Issues Account funds will return to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

- motion prevailed (15 Yes / 0 No).

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Langseth	X	
Commissioner Beeman	X		Commissioner Lillie - Rep	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner McEwen - Sen	X	
Commissioner Fischer – Rep	X		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Green – Sen	X		Commissioner Putnam – Sen	X	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hedstrom	X		Commissioner Skraba – Rep	X	
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	X		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	
Commissioner Jordan - Rep	X				

10. Debrief on 2026 RFP recommendation process

Chair Albrecht asked members how they thought the process went for the 2026 proposals. Members discussed.

11. LCCMR other business

There was no other business.

12. Public testimony

Written public testimony was provided by Tiffany Wolf on Agenda Item 8. Written letters of support and written letters of concern received since March 19, 2025, for proposals selected for presentation were entered as public testimony.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Signed by Michael Reese
Minutes approved at LCCMR meeting on November 19, 2025