LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES
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Becca Nash, Director

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Location: Remote 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, Seth Moore, Sen. Aric Putnam, Michael Reese, Rep. Roger Skraba, Sen. Torrey Westrom

Staff Present: B. Nash, M. Varien, M. Campana, E .Barton, D. Griffith

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

Co-Chair: Rep. Sydney Jordan

Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Commissioner Hawj stated that he will be attending today's meeting from his office in the capital complex

1. Roll call attendance

Chair Jordan requested a roll call. Diana Griffith took roll call for attendance. There were 13 members present at the time of roll call, and nine were needed for a quorum.

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

2. Approve minutes for November 19, 2025

MOTION: Commissioner Faber moved to approve the minutes for November 19, 2025 – motion prevailed.

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

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	Yes
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	Yes
2026-436	Chris	Lindholm	Outdoor Learning Center and Trails	Cook County Schools ISD 166	Seth Moore	Yes

4. Director's Report

Director Nash reminded members we have four citizen member openings on the commission at the end of the year and five positions open on the Citizen Selection Committee that advises the Governor on the Governor's appointments.

Michael Varien provided an overview of the final reports for 2025.

Director Nash stated there is no public testimony for today's meeting.

Director Nash mentioned item 7b would be discussed first during agenda item 7 .

5. Action: Emerging Issues Account Requests 2025 Round #2

a. Proposals Received

Commissioner Green joined the meeting at 8:17 pm.

Commissioner Lillie joined the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Erin Barton delivered an overview of the emerging issues proposals received and outlined today's process for the emerging issues.

b. Presentations

- **John Nieber, Water Sustainability in the Era of Data Centers, U of MN**

Nigel Pickering, Geosyntec, delivered a presentation on John Nieber's proposal titled, "Water Sustainability in the Era of Data Centers". Members discussed.

- **Carrie Jennings, The Minnesota Water Risk Atlas, Freshwater**

Commissioner Skraba joined the meeting at 8:48 pm.

Carrie Jennings, Freshwater, delivered a presentation on "The Minnesota Water Risk Atlas". Members discussed.

c. Recommendations for funding

Commissioner Reese declared a conflict of interest for Veluchamy Chitraichamy emerging issues proposal.

Commissioner McEwen joined the meeting at 9:01 am.

Members continued discussions on the emerging issue proposals submitted.

Director Nash identified that a roll call was necessary to establish current member attendance. The current attendance would then inform the required votes to meet the 60% recommendation threshold for funding an emerging issue proposal.

MOTION: Commissioner Fischer moved to approve for full funding the following emerging issue proposals:

1. John Nieber, Water Sustainability in the Era of Data Centers, U of M
2. Carrie Jennings, The Minnesota Water Risk Atlas, Freshwater

And to provide authority to staff to approve the work plans.Members discussed.

Commissioner Fischer agreed to divide the motion.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Green moved to amend Commissioner Fischer's motion to have only members that were present under the initial roll call taken for emerging issues be allowed to vote – amendment withdrawn.

Chair Jordan requested a roll call of members attendance to determine how many votes are needed to meet the 60% threshold to recommend funding for an emerging issues proposal (17 members were present).

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	X	
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				

Director Nash announced that each individual project within Commissioner Fischer's motion will require 11 members voting in the affirmative to pass.

RENEWED MOTION: Commissioner Fischer moved to recommend the emerging issue proposal from John Nieber, Water Sustainability in the Era of Data Centers, U of M, at the full amount ($336,000) and to provide authority to staff to approve the work plan – motion prevailed (12 Yes / 5 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	X	
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				

RENEWED MOTION: Commissioner Fischer moved to recommend the emerging issue proposal from Carrie Jennings, The Minnesota Water Risk Atlas, Freshwater, at the full amount ($400,000) and to provide authority to staff to approve the work plan – motion prevailed (11 Yes / 6 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		X
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				

6. Action: Emerging Issues Account Procedures

a. Updated Operating Procedures from July 18, 2025

b. Feedback on Emerging Issues Account proposal questions

Director Nash provided an overview of the revisions to the Emerging Issues Account Procedures. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Westrom moved to approve Option A: "*Implement a solution where delay and following the standard LCCMR funding cycle would have significant detrimental impact on the environment or natural*

resources before the next legislative session." from the material posted for Agenda Item 06 – motion prevailed (17 Yes / 0 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	X	
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 Albrecht moved to adopt the updated Emerging Issues Procedure as edited by staff and presented today which includes Commissioner Westrom's motion for Option A from the material posted for Agenda Item 06 – motion prevailed (14 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	X	
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 discussed the emerging issues deadlines for next year and agreed to continue discussions under Agenda Item 10 when discussing the calendar.

7. **Action:** Draft LCCMR Policy Recommendations for M.L. 2026

Chair Jordan announced the transition to Agenda Item 7b and welcomed DNR Assistant Commissioner Bob Meier.

b. DNR approval of non-state acquisition

- **Bob Meier, DNR Assistant Commissioner**

Director Nash provided an overview of options for revising M.S. 116P.17 and reminded members 11 affirmative votes would be required for any recommendation to the legislature. Bob Meier, DNR Assistant Commissioner, provided an overview of DNR's position. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Reese moved to recommend Option 2 from the material posted for Agenda Item 07b to repeal M.S. 116P.17 "ACQUIRING LANDS OR INTEREST IN LANDS; COMMISSIONER APPROVAL" – motion prevailed (16 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	X	
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				

a. Conflict of Interest

Director Nash provided an overview of proposed revisions to M.S. 116P.09, Subd. 6 (Conflict of Interest) and M.S. 116P.18 (Lands in Public Domain) and stated 11 votes would be required for a recommendation to the 2026 legislature. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Moore moved to recommend the revisions to M.S. 116P.09, Subd. 6 (Conflict of Interest) and M.S. 116P.18 (Lands in Public Domain) as shown in the material posted for Agenda Item 07a – motion prevailed (14 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	X	
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				

8. Action: Draft LCCMR Funding Recommendations Bill for M.L. 2026

- **a. ENRTF appropriations**
- **b. Extensions and technical corrections**
- **c. Balance**
- **d. Peer review**

Director Nash provided an overview of the peer review status, provided an overview of the LCCMR funding recommendations bill for M.L. 2026, and reminded members that due to conflicts of interest of a certain nature, 8 votes would be needed for a recommendations bill to the legislature. Michael Varien provided an overview of the carryforwards in the LCCMR funding recommendations bill. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Faber moved to approve the LCCMR funding recommendations bill to the legislature for M.L. 2026 (FY2027) with the caveat to allow staff to make technical corrections – motion prevailed (12 Yes / 2 No / 3 abstained).

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	abstained	
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: Proposal evaluation and recommendation process for 2027 RFP

Mike Campana started review of the proposal evaluation and recommendation process as shown in the materials for Agenda Item 9. Mr. Campana suggested reviewing Action items individually for motions. Members discussed Action #1.

MOTION: Commissioner Reese moved to adopt the presentation of staff scores as shown in the material for Agenda Item 09 (Action #1: Presentation of Staff Scores) – motion prevailed (15 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	X	
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				

Mr. Campana started discussion on Action #2. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Albrecht moved to adopt the Evaluation #1 and presentation selection process using the alternative approach for step 3 and step 4 as shown in the material for Agenda Item 09 (Action #2: Evaluation #1 and selecting Proposals for Presentations (First Cut)).

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Reese moved to amend Commissioner Albrecht's motion to exclude the alternative approach for step 4 as shown in the material for Agenda Item 09. Commissioner Albrecht accepted the amendment as friendly.

RENEWED MOTION: Commissioner Albrecht renewed her motion to adopt the Evaluation #1 and presentation selection process using the alternative approach for step 3 as shown in the material for Agenda Item 09 (Action #2: Evaluation #1 and selecting Proposals for Presentations (First Cut)) – motion prevailed (17 Yes / 0 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	X	
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				

Mr. Campana started discussion on Action #3. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Westrom moved to adopt the presentation format and timing as shown in the material for Agenda Item 09 (Action #3: Presentations Format and Timing) – motion prevailed (16 Yes / 0 No).

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Langseth	X	
Commissioner Beeman	X		Commissioner Lillie – Rep		
Commissioner Faber	excused		Commissioner McEwen – Sen	X	
Commissioner Fischer – Rep	X		Commissioner Moore	X	
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. Action: 2026 LCCMR meeting calendar

Michael Varien started discussion on the 2026 LCCMR meeting calendar. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Albrecht moved to adopt the alternate LCCMR 2026 meeting calendar option as shown in the material for Agenda Item 10.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Westrom moved to amend Commissioner Albrecht's motion to change the Emerging Issue Account Proposals Due Date #1 from April 1, 2026, to March 18, 2026, to align with the regular RFP due date. Commissioner Albrecht accepted the amendment as friendly.

RENEWED MOTION: Commissioner Albrecht renewed her motion to adopt the alternate LCCMR 2026 meeting calendar option as shown in the material for Agenda Item 10 with the following adjustment: change the Emerging Issue Account Proposals Due Date #1 from April 1, 2026, to March 18, 2026, to align with the regular RFP due date – 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	excused		Commissioner McEwen – Sen	X	
Commissioner Fischer – Rep	X		Commissioner Moore	X	
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				

11. Thank you to members with terms ending

Chair Jordan and Director Nash thanked Commissioner Fischer and Commissioner Reese for their contributions to the LCCMR. Members continued by expressing their thanks to Commissioner Reese and Commissioner Fischer.

12. LCCMR other business

Chair Jordan announced to the members that the LCCMR meeting planned for January 7, 2026, will be cancelled.

13. Public testimony

There was no public testimony

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Signed by Senator Steve Green
Minutes approved at LCCMR meeting on June 17, 2026