

39.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 116P.05, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

39.2 Subd. 2. **Duties.** (a) The commission shall recommend an annual or biennial
39.3 legislative bill for appropriations from the environment and natural resources trust fund and
39.4 shall adopt a strategic plan as provided in section 116P.08. Approval of the recommended
39.5 legislative bill requires an affirmative vote of at least 12 members of the commission.

39.6 (b) It is a condition of acceptance of the appropriations made from the Minnesota
39.7 environment and natural resources trust fund, and oil overcharge money under section
39.8 4.071, subdivision 2, that the agency or entity receiving the appropriation must
39.9 submit a work plan and semiannual progress reports in the form determined by the
39.10 Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, and comply with applicable
39.11 reporting requirements under section 116P.16. None of the money provided may be
39.12 spent unless the commission has approved the pertinent work plan. Modifications to
39.13 the approved work plan and budget expenditures shall be made through the amendment
39.14 process established by the commission. The commission shall ensure that the expenditures
39.15 and outcomes described in the work plan for appropriations funded by the environment
39.16 and natural resources trust fund are met.

39.17 (c) The peer review ~~panel~~ procedures created under section 116P.08 must also be
39.18 used to review, comment, and report to the commission on research proposals applying for
39.19 an appropriation from the oil overcharge money under section 4.071, subdivision 2.

39.20 (d) The commission may adopt operating procedures to fulfill its duties under this
39.21 chapter.

39.22 (e) As part of the operating procedures, the commission shall:

39.23 (1) ensure that members' expectations are to participate in all meetings related to
39.24 funding decision recommendations;

39.25 (2) recommend adequate funding for increased citizen outreach and communications
39.26 for trust fund expenditure planning;

39.27 (3) allow administrative expenses as part of individual project expenditures based
39.28 on need;

39.29 (4) provide for project outcome evaluation;

39.30 (5) keep the grant application, administration, and review process as simple as
39.31 possible; and

39.32 (6) define and emphasize the leveraging of additional sources of money that project
39.33 proposers should consider when making trust fund proposals.

39.34 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 116P.08, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

40.1 Subd. 5. **Public meetings.** (a) Meetings of the commission, committees or
 40.2 subcommittees of the commission, technical advisory committees, and peer review panels
 40.3 reviewers must be open to the public. The commission shall attempt to meet throughout
 40.4 various regions of the state during each biennium. For purposes of this subdivision, a
 40.5 meeting occurs when a quorum is present and action is taken regarding a matter within
 40.6 the jurisdiction of the commission, a committee or subcommittee of the commission, a
 40.7 technical advisory committee, or a peer review panel reviewers.

40.8 (b) For legislative members of the commission, enforcement of this subdivision is
 40.9 governed by section 3.055, subdivision 2. For nonlegislative members of the commission,
 40.10 enforcement of this subdivision is governed by section 13D.06, subdivisions 1 and 2.

40.11 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 116P.08, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

40.12 Subd. 6. **Peer review.** (a) Research proposals must include a stated purpose directly
 40.13 connected to the trust fund's constitutional mandate, this chapter, and the adopted strategic
 40.14 plan under subdivision 3, a timeline, potential outcomes, and an explanation of the need
 40.15 for the research. All research proposals must be peer reviewed by a peer review panel
 40.16 before receiving an appropriation.

40.17 (b) In conducting research proposal reviews, the peer review panel reviewers shall:

40.18 (1) comment on the methodology proposed and whether it can be expected to yield
 40.19 appropriate and useful information and data; and

40.20 (2) comment on the need for the research and about similar existing information
 40.21 available, if any; and.

40.22 ~~(3) report to the commission on clauses (1) and (2)~~ (c) Peer reviewers' comments
 40.23 under paragraph (b) must be reported to the commission.

40.24 ~~(e) (d)~~ The peer review panel also must reviewers may review completed research
 40.25 proposals that have received an appropriation and comment and report upon whether the
 40.26 project reached the intended goals.

40.27 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 116P.08, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

40.28 Subd. 7. **Peer review panel membership reviewers.** (a) The peer review panel
 40.29 reviewers must consist of at least five members who are be knowledgeable in general
 40.30 research methods in the areas of environment and natural resources. ~~Not more than two~~
 40.31 ~~members of the panel may be employees of state agencies in Minnesota.~~

40.32 (b) ~~The commission shall select a chair every two years who shall be responsible for~~
 40.33 ~~convening meetings of the panel as often as is necessary to fulfill its duties as prescribed~~

41.1 ~~in this section.~~ Compensation of ~~panel members~~ peer reviewers is governed by section
41.2 15.059, subdivision 3.

41.3 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 116P.09, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

41.4 Subd. 6. **Conflict of interest.** A commission member, a technical advisory
41.5 committee member, a peer review ~~panelist~~ reviewer, or an employee of the commission
41.6 may not participate in or vote on a decision of the commission, advisory committee, or
41.7 peer review ~~panel~~ relating to an organization in which the member, ~~panelist~~ peer reviewer,
41.8 or employee has either a direct or indirect personal financial interest. While serving on the
41.9 commission, technical advisory committee, ~~or as a peer review panel reviewer~~, or being
41.10 an employee of the commission, a person shall avoid any potential conflict of interest.

41.11 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 116P.09, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

41.12 Subd. 8. **Technical advisory committees.** The commission shall make use of
41.13 available public and private expertise on environment and natural resource issues ~~by~~
41.14 ~~appointing~~ and may appoint necessary technical advisory committees to review funding
41.15 proposals and evaluate project outcomes. Compensation for technical advisory committee
41.16 members is governed by section 15.059, subdivision 6.

