

VIII. Findings

“any findings or recommendations that are deemed proper to assist the legislature in formulating legislation;”

Capital Projects Funded from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF); Report to the Legislature

As required by Sec. 4 of M.L. 2022, Chapter 94

Adopted August 30, 2022

Capital Projects Funded from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

Report to the Legislature

As Required by Sec. 4 of M.L. 2022, Chapter 94.

Adopted August 30, 2022

Prepared by:

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Becca Nash, Director

October 13, 2022

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The Honorable Rick Hansen
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To the Honorable Chairs:

In June 2022, the Legislature adopted M.L. 2022, Chapter 94, Sec. 4 directing the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) to “consider whether statutorily requiring additional information to accompany proposals for capital projects would help the commission better evaluate those proposals.” The LCCMR was directed to submit a report and recommendations, along with any proposed statutory changes, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources by October 15, 2022.

This report is transmitted in fulfillment of this requirement and contains recommendations for statutory changes that the LCCMR believes will help the commission better evaluate proposals and provide appropriate safeguards to help ensure the successful use of state dollars and completion of capital construction projects using Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) dollars. In making these recommendations, the commission worked to balance the need for additional information and safeguards with the potential burden on applicants and recipients of ENRTF dollars.

Please let me know if you have questions or would like additional discussion.

Sincerely,

Becca Nash, Director
On behalf of the LCCMR

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Executive Summary

M.L. 2022, Chapter 94, Sec. 4 directed the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) to submit a report and recommendations to the Legislature on additional information that should be required to accompany proposals to the LCCMR for capital project funding. The legislative charge relates to ongoing discussions within the LCCMR regarding capital projects and the increasing number and size of projects seeking funding for these types of projects from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The LCCMR appointed a subcommittee to discuss and make recommendations to the full commission. The subcommittee met multiple times during the summer of 2022 to develop recommendations for inclusion in this report, which were later adopted by the full commission. In making these recommendations, the commission worked to balance the need for appropriate safeguards to ensure successful completion of funded projects with the additional burden those safeguards may place on applicants and recipients of ENRTF dollars.

The LCCMR recommends that the Legislature enact statutory changes that will allow the commission to better evaluate capital project proposals, make funding recommendations to the Legislature, and improve the likelihood of the successful spending of state dollars and the timely completion of projects. To this end, the commission is making specific recommendations related to matching funds, full funding, sustainable building guidelines, sale and alteration of use of the capital improvement, and public access. The commission recommends that these new requirements be limited to capital construction projects and include a de minimis exception. The commission also recommends that the Legislature provide additional clarification for existing statutory requirements for capital projects that may apply to certain ENRTF-funded projects.

Background

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) has funded a variety of capital projects related to its constitutional purpose of protecting, conserving, preserving, and enhancing the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. From 2013 to 2021, 163 projects have included some sort of capital activity, and roughly \$169.5 million has gone toward those activities. The following list describes some of the types of capital activities that have been funded through the ENRTF during that period:

Building Design and/or Construction – The design and construction of large buildings and facilities. Examples: visitor centers, learning centers.

Conservation Easements – Acquisition of easements on private land for conservation.

Educational Exhibits – The design and installation of educational exhibits. Examples: kiosks, displays.

Land Acquisition – Fee title acquisition of land for recreation, conservation, or other purposes related to natural resources and the environment. Examples: scientific and natural areas, parks.

Recreational Facilities – The design and construction of recreational facilities and supporting infrastructure. Examples: campgrounds (and at times associated offices), restrooms, shower facilities, docks, canoe landings, picnic areas, boat wash stations, parking lots, access roads.

Renewable Energy – The design and construction of renewable energy systems. Examples: solar gardens, biomass boiler systems.

Research and Demonstration – The design and construction of research facilities, installation of long-term monitoring equipment, and evaluation and demonstration of innovative technologies. Examples: AIS deterrents, wastewater treatment, renewable energy systems.

Restoration (Large-Scale) – Restoration involving large-scale earth-moving and placement of materials. Examples: shoreline stabilization, grading, stream restoration.

Stormwater – The design and construction of stormwater infrastructure to improve water quality or habitat. Examples: retention basins, rain gardens.

Trails – The engineering, design, and construction of trails.

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) has received an increasing number of proposals for funding capital projects in the last decade. The number of projects funded each year that include a capital activity increased from 24% of projects to 36% of projects from 2013 to 2021, and the proportion of ENRTF dollars directed towards capital activities each year has increased from 22% of ENRTF funding to 48% of ENRTF funding (See Appendix C). This rise has primarily been driven by increased funding to construct recreational facilities and trails. In addition, two projects in the last four years have been appropriated approximately \$6.7 million from the ENRTF to design and construct buildings.

With the increasing number, size, and complexity of capital projects, the LCCMR wanted to ensure that it is receiving sufficient information with proposals to make informed funding recommendations to the Legislature, and that, once funded, conditions and requirements are in place that will lead to successful completion of the project. To this end, the LCCMR directed its staff to review and report on the conditions and requirements applied to capital projects funded through general obligation bond proceeds. The LCCMR had some initial discussions on this issue in December 2021.

In June 2022, the Legislature directed the LCCMR to consider whether statutorily requiring additional information to accompany proposals for capital projects would help the commission better evaluate those proposals (M.L. 2022, Chapter 94, Sec. 4). The LCCMR was directed to submit a report, recommendations, and any proposed statutory changes to the Legislature by October 15, 2022.

Process

The LCCMR appointed a subcommittee to discuss capital projects and make recommendations to the full commission. The LCCMR Subcommittee on Capital Projects met on July 25, August 8, August 16, and August 17. At its first meeting, the subcommittee decided not to limit its recommendations only to additional information to accompany proposals. Therefore, it also considered additional requirements that would need to be met by applicants and recipients as a condition of receiving funding from ENRTF. The subcommittee narrowed its focus to capital construction projects rather than all capital projects and activities, although it still wished to include any land acquisitions associated with construction.

The subcommittee followed an iterative process to develop a list of recommendations. The subcommittee reviewed background information on capital projects compiled by LCCMR staff during the previous year. This information included a list of requirements and conditions for bonding and other state-funded capital projects culled by staff from Minnesota Management & Budget (MMB) operating policies, orders, memos, and other documents, which allowed the subcommittee to consider items related to eligibility, assurances, and consultation and review (See Appendix B). After that meeting, each subcommittee member independently chose requirements and conditions that it wished to assess, either as a requirement for more information to be provided by applicants or as a requirement that must be met before or after funding is awarded. Staff compiled the results, and only requirements and conditions selected by a majority of members moved forward.

The subcommittee then considered the selected conditions and requirements, along with sample language of how that condition or requirement might look as a requirement for ENRTF funding. During its discussions, the subcommittee chose to split its recommendations into two sections: (1) recommendations for new statutory language to be submitted as part of the report to the Legislature, and (2) recommendations for the commission to incorporate into its current business practices that do not require further legislative action. After this meeting, House and Senate nonpartisan counsel assisted LCCMR staff with drafting proposed statutory language for the first set of recommendations.

The subcommittee discussed the proposed recommendations, considered final questions presented by staff and additional recommendations proposed by members, and voted on each recommendation to be made to the Legislature and the commission. The subcommittee tasked LCCMR staff with drafting the legislative report for individual comment by the subcommittee members and submittal to the full commission.

LCCMR staff reached out to officials with the MMB, the Department of Administration, the Department of Natural Resources, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the University of Minnesota's Center for Sustainable Building Research (CSBR) for comment on the subcommittee recommendations. Based on feedback, slight modifications were made to the subcommittee's recommended statutory changes. The LCCMR adopted this legislative report at its August 30, 2022 meeting.

Recommendations to the Legislature

The LCCMR makes the following recommendations for statutory changes. The LCCMR believes the adoption and implementation of these recommendations will provide appropriate safeguards to help ensure the successful use of state dollars and completion of capital construction projects funded from the ENRTF that support the protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, other natural resources, and outdoor recreation.

The commission was sensitive to not recommend requirements that would create an undue burden on applicants and recipients of trust fund dollars. In particular, the ENRTF is a valuable source of funding for smaller local communities and organization that may be more limited in their resources. It is the hope of the commission that these recommendations, if enacted, will help these smaller communities and organizations and all other recipients of ENRTF dollars achieve greater success and meet their goals and the goals of the ENRTF.

Match

The LCCMR recommends that the Legislature require any entity requesting money from the ENRTF for a capital construction project to provide a 50% match from non-ENRTF sources to ensure the applicant's commitment and readiness to complete the project.

The following amendatory language to MS 116P.08 is offered to implement this recommendation:

116P.08 TRUST FUND EXPENDITURES.

...Subd. 8. A recipient of money appropriated from the trust fund for a capital construction project must provide a cash or in-kind match from non-trust fund sources of at least 50 percent of the total eligible project costs.

Full Funding

The LCCMR recommends that the Legislature require that all funds needed to complete a capital construction project or project phase be committed and secured prior to ENRTF funds being available. This requirement would be similar to current requirements applied to capital projects funded from state general obligation bond proceeds under MS 16A.502. The commission believes adopting this type of requirement for ENRTF-funded projects would avoid scenarios where construction may begin using ENRTF funds but cannot be completed or construction would be significantly delayed because funds originally expected to be available from other sources did not materialize.

The commission recommends the following new section be added to Chapter 116P:

116P.XX [FULL FUNDING REQUIRED]

(a) If an appropriation from the trust fund for a capital construction project or project phase is not sufficient, by itself, to complete the project or project phase, and thus requires a commitment from sources other than the trust fund:

(1) the commitment must be in an amount that, when added to the appropriation, is sufficient to complete the project or project phase; and

(2) the agency administering the appropriation shall not distribute the funds until the commitment is determined to be sufficient. In determining the sufficiency of a commitment under this paragraph, the agency shall apply the standards and principles applied by the commissioner of management and budget under section 16A.502.

Sustainable Building Guidelines

The LCCMR recommends that the Legislature require that capital construction projects for new buildings or major renovations funded in whole or in part from the ENRTF comply with sustainable building guidelines. For over a decade, appropriation rider language that has accompanied appropriations from the ENRTF has included a provision that a recipient of funding for a capital improvement project "must ensure that the project complies with the applicable energy conservation and sustainable building guidelines and standards contained in law..." The commission believes incorporating the sustainable building guideline requirement into the LCCMR implementing statute will provide greater clarity for entities seeking funding from the trust fund. The proposed requirement would also parallel current

requirements for capital projects funded from state general obligation bond proceeds under MS 16B.325, subd. 3.

To implement this recommendation, the commission recommends the following new section be added to Chapter 116P:

116P.XX [SUSTAINABLE BUILDING GUIDELINES]

The sustainable building guidelines established under sections 16B.325 and 216B.241, subdivision 9, apply to new buildings and major renovations receiving funding from the environment and natural resources trust fund. A recipient of money appropriated from the trust fund for a new building or major renovation must ensure that the project complies with the guidelines.

Sale and Alteration of Use

The LCCMR recommends that the Legislature create protections to ensure that buildings or other capital assets constructed in whole or in part with ENRTF funds continue to be used for their intended purpose. Specifically, the LCCMR recommends:

- Any alteration in use or conveyance, such as a sale, of an interest in the capital asset should require LCCMR approval and notification of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over the trust fund.
- The following conditions must be met for LCCMR approval: a sale price of at least fair market value and repayment to the trust fund proportional to the funds originally contributed to the construction project.
- The approval conditions be waived if recommended by the LCCMR and approved by the Legislature to account for potential situations where the capital asset may be conveyed but the use maintained, the proposed altered use may be different than the original intended purpose but still consistent with the purposes of the trust fund, or some other mitigating circumstance.
- The alteration of use restrictions remain in place for 25 years.

In addition, to help maintain awareness and tracking of the associated restrictions, the LCCMR recommends the inclusion of requirements for (1) recording a notice of funding restrictions in the appropriate local government office and (2) annual reporting to the LCCMR certifying the property status and its continued use for its intended purpose. These recommendations parallel current statutory restrictions for land acquired using ENRTF dollars and are similar to requirements for capital projects funded using state general obligation bond proceeds.

To implement this recommendation, the commission recommends the following amendatory language for MS 116P.15 and MS 116P.16:

116P.15 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION; RESTRICTIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** A recipient of an appropriation from the trust fund ~~or the Minnesota future resources fund~~ who uses any portion of the appropriation for a capital construction project must comply with subdivision 3 of this section. A recipient of an appropriation from the trust fund or the Minnesota future resources fund who acquires any other interest in real property with the appropriation must comply with subdivision 2 of this

section. ~~For the purposes of this section, "interest in real property" includes, but is not limited to, an easement or fee title to property.~~

Subd. 2. ~~Restrictions; modification procedure~~ **Land acquisitions.** (a) An easement, fee title, or other interest in real property acquired with an appropriation from the trust fund or the Minnesota future resources fund must be used in perpetuity or for the specific term of an easement interest for the purpose for which the appropriation was made. The ownership of the interest in real property transfers to the state if:

(1) the holder of the interest in real property fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement or work plan; or

(2) restrictions are placed on the land that preclude its use for the intended purpose as specified in the appropriation.

(b) A recipient of funding who acquires an interest in real property subject to this section may not alter the intended use of the interest in real property or convey any interest in the real property acquired with the appropriation without the prior review and approval of the commission or its successor. The commission shall notify the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the trust fund or Minnesota future resources fund at least 15 business days before approval under this paragraph. The commission shall establish procedures to review requests from recipients to alter the use of or convey an interest in real property. These procedures shall allow for the replacement of the interest in real property with another interest in real property meeting the following criteria:

(1) the interest must be at least equal in fair market value, as certified by the commissioner of natural resources, to the interest being replaced; and

(2) the interest must be in a reasonably equivalent location, and have a reasonably equivalent useful conservation purpose compared to the interest being replaced, taking into consideration all effects from fragmentation of the whole habitat.

(c) A recipient of funding who acquires an interest in real property under paragraph (a) must separately record a notice of funding restrictions in the appropriate local government office where the conveyance of the interest in real property is filed. The notice of funding agreement must contain:

(1) a legal description of the interest in real property covered by the funding agreement;

(2) a reference to the underlying funding agreement;

(3) a reference to this section; and

(4) the following statement:

"This interest in real property shall be administered in accordance with the terms, conditions, and purposes of the grant agreement controlling the acquisition of the property. The interest in real property, or any portion of the interest in real property, shall not be sold, transferred, pledged, or otherwise disposed of or further encumbered without obtaining the prior written approval of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources or its successor. The ownership of the interest in real property transfers to the state if: (1) the holder of the interest in real property fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement or work

plan; or (2) restrictions are placed on the land that preclude its use for the intended purpose as specified in the appropriation.

Subd. 3. **Capital Construction.** (a) A recipient of an appropriation from the trust fund who uses the appropriation to wholly or partially construct a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset may not alter the intended use of the capital asset or convey any interest in the capital asset for 25 years from the date of project completion without the prior review and approval of the commission or its successor. The commission shall notify the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the trust fund at least 15 business days before approval under this paragraph. The commission shall establish procedures to review requests from recipients to alter the use of or convey an interest in a capital asset under this paragraph. These procedures must require that:

(1) the sale price must be at least fair market value; and

(2) the trust fund must be repaid a proportion of the sale price equal to the percentage of the total funding provided by the fund for constructing the capital asset.

(b) Requirements under clause (1) and (2) above may be waived by the commission or its successor through recommendation to the legislature if the transfer allows for a continued use of the asset in a manner consistent with the original appropriation purpose or with the purposes of the trust fund.

(c) If both a capital asset and the real property on which it sits were wholly or partially purchased with an appropriation from the trust fund and the commission approves a request to alter the use of or convey an interest in the real property under subdivision 2, a separate approval under this subdivision to alter the use of the capital asset is not required.

(d) A recipient of an appropriation from the trust fund who uses the appropriation to wholly or partially construct a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset must separately record a notice of funding restrictions in the appropriate local government office. The notice of funding restrictions must contain:

(1) a legal description of the interest in real property covered by the funding agreement;

(2) a reference to the underlying funding agreement;

(3) a reference to this subdivision; and

(4) the following statement:

"This interest in real property shall be administered in accordance with the terms, conditions, and purposes of the grant agreement controlling the improvement of the property. The interest in real property, or any portion of the interest in real property, shall not be altered from its intended use or be sold, transferred, pledged, or otherwise disposed of or further encumbered without obtaining the prior written approval of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources or its successor."

116P.16 REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS; REPORT.

(a) By December 1 each year, a recipient of an appropriation from the trust fund, that is used for the acquisition of an interest in real property, including, but not limited to, an easement or fee title, or for the construction of a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset must submit annual reports on the status of the real property to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources or its successor in a form determined by the commission. The responsibility for reporting under this section may be transferred by the recipient of the appropriation to another person who holds the interest in the real property. To complete the transfer of reporting responsibility, the recipient of the appropriation must:

(1) inform the person to whom the responsibility is transferred of that person's reporting responsibility;

(2) inform the person to whom the responsibility is transferred of the property restrictions under section 116P.15; and

(3) provide written notice to the commission of the transfer of reporting responsibility, including contact information for the person to whom the responsibility is transferred.

(b) After the transfer, the person who holds the interest in the real property is responsible for reporting requirements under this section.

Public Access

The LCCMR recommends that the Legislature consider a requirement for appropriate public access to capital improvements constructed using ENRTF dollars, but it is not proposing any specific statutory language for adoption by the Legislature. The LCCMR believes the public should have access to capital improvements constructed in whole or in part with public dollars. However, the ENRTF has funded a wide variety of projects that support the protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, other natural resources, and outdoor recreation. The LCCMR can envision scenarios where capital construction projects funded by the ENRTF may have public benefit but public access may not be appropriate, whether due to incompatibility (e.g., small building constructed to support research or a demonstration project for a new renewable energy system), public safety concerns (e.g., a water control structure), or another reason. Restrictions on all public access or allowing public access to be limited by time of day, number of people, fees, or other means may be appropriate under different circumstances.

References to Existing Requirements

The LCCMR recommends adding references to existing statutory requirements related to predesign, historic and archaeological review, accommodations for hard-of-hearing, energy conservation standards, energy use, geothermal and solar heating and cooling systems, competitive bids, targeted group purchasing, responsible contractors, and prevailing wage into Chapter 116P. The LCCMR's intent is not to create new requirements for projects with this recommendation but to provide greater clarity for LCCMR staff and ENRTF applicants that certain existing statutory requirements apply to ENRTF-funded projects. Many of these requirements are currently outlined in ENRTF appropriation rider language or grant agreements for pass-through ENRTF appropriations.

The following amendatory language is offered to implement this recommendation:

116P.XX [ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS]

The following statutes apply to recipients of appropriations from the trust fund:

MS 16B.32; MS 16B.326; MS 16B.335, subd. 3 and subd. 4; MS 16C.16, MS 16C.28 and MS 471.345; MS 16C.054; MS 16C.285; MS 138.40, 138.665, and 138.666; and MS 177.41 to 177.44.

Applicability

The LCCMR recommends that capital construction projects of less than \$10,000 be excluded from any new ENRTF-specific statutory requirements for capital construction, but that land acquisition associated with construction be considered part of the capital construction project.

The following amendatory language is offered to implement this recommendation:

116P.XX [APPLICABILITY]

(a) Sections/Subdivisions X [match], Y [full funding], Z [sustainable building guidelines], XX [sale and alteration of use], and YY [public access] do not apply to:

(1) a capital construction project with a total cost of less than \$10,000; or

(2) a land acquisition project.

(b) If land is acquired with environment and natural resources trust fund money for the purpose of capital construction, the land acquisition is not exempted under this subdivision/section paragraph (a)(2).

Effective Date

The LCCMR recommends that any enacted statutory changes take effect July 1, 2023, and apply to proposals for capital construction projects received after that date to ensure applicants have sufficient notice and time to account for any new requirements.

Appendix A. Compiled Proposed Statutory Changes to Chapter 116P

116P.08 TRUST FUND EXPENDITURES.

...

Subd. 8. A recipient of money appropriated from the trust fund for a capital construction project must provide a cash or in-kind match from non-trust fund sources of at least 50 percent of the total eligible project costs.

116P.XX [FULL FUNDING REQUIRED]

(a) If an appropriation from the trust fund for a capital construction project or project phase is not sufficient, by itself, to complete the project or project phase, and thus requires a commitment from sources other than the trust fund:

(1) the commitment must be in an amount that, when added to the appropriation, is sufficient to complete the project or project phase; and

(2) the agency administering the appropriation shall not distribute the funds until the commitment is determined to be sufficient. In determining the sufficiency of a commitment under this paragraph, the agency shall apply the standards and principles applied by the commissioner of management and budget under section 16A.502.

116P.XX [SUSTAINABLE BUILDING GUIDELINES]

The sustainable building guidelines established under sections 16B.325 and 216B.241, subdivision 9, apply to new buildings and major renovations receiving funding from the environment and natural resources trust fund. A recipient of money appropriated from the trust fund for a new building or major renovation must ensure that the project complies with the guidelines.

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116P.15 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION; RESTRICTIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** A recipient of an appropriation from the trust fund ~~or the Minnesota future resources fund~~ who uses any portion of the appropriation for a capital construction project must comply with subdivision 3 of this section. A recipient of an appropriation from the trust fund or the Minnesota future resources fund who acquires any other interest in real property with the appropriation must comply with subdivision 2 of this section. ~~For the purposes of this section, "interest in real property" includes, but is not limited to, an easement or fee title to property.~~

Subd. 2. ~~Restrictions; modification procedure~~ **Land acquisitions.** (a) An easement, fee title, or other interest in real property acquired with an appropriation from the trust fund or the Minnesota future resources fund must be used in perpetuity or for the specific term of an easement interest for the purpose for which the appropriation was made. The ownership of the interest in real property transfers to the state if:

(1) the holder of the interest in real property fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement or work plan; or

(2) restrictions are placed on the land that preclude its use for the intended purpose as specified in the appropriation.

(b) A recipient of funding who acquires an interest in real property subject to this section may not alter the intended use of the interest in real property or convey any interest in the real property acquired with the appropriation without the prior review and approval of the commission or its successor. The commission shall notify the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the trust fund or Minnesota future resources fund at least 15 business days before approval under this paragraph. The commission shall establish procedures to review requests from recipients to alter the use of or convey an interest in real property. These procedures shall allow for the replacement of the interest in real property with another interest in real property meeting the following criteria:

(1) the interest must be at least equal in fair market value, as certified by the commissioner of natural resources, to the interest being replaced; and

(2) the interest must be in a reasonably equivalent location, and have a reasonably equivalent useful conservation purpose compared to the interest being replaced, taking into consideration all effects from fragmentation of the whole habitat.

(c) A recipient of funding who acquires an interest in real property under paragraph (a) must separately record a notice of funding restrictions in the appropriate local government office where the conveyance of the interest in real property is filed. The notice of funding agreement must contain:

(1) a legal description of the interest in real property covered by the funding agreement;

(2) a reference to the underlying funding agreement;

(3) a reference to this section; and

(4) the following statement:

"This interest in real property shall be administered in accordance with the terms, conditions, and purposes of the grant agreement controlling the acquisition of the property. The interest in real property, or any portion of the interest in real property, shall not be sold, transferred, pledged, or otherwise disposed of or further encumbered without obtaining the prior written approval of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources or its successor. The ownership of the interest in real property transfers to the state if: (1) the holder of the interest in real property fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement or work plan; or (2) restrictions are placed on the land that preclude its use for the intended purpose as specified in the appropriation.

Subd. 3. Capital Construction. (a) A recipient of an appropriation from the trust fund who uses the appropriation to wholly or partially construct a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset may not alter the intended use of the capital asset or convey any interest in the capital asset for 25

years from the date of project completion without the prior review and approval of the commission or its successor. The commission shall notify the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the trust fund at least 15 business days before approval under this paragraph. The commission shall establish procedures to review requests from recipients to alter the use of or convey an interest in a capital asset under this paragraph. These procedures must require that:

(1) the sale price must be at least fair market value; and

(2) the trust fund must be repaid a proportion of the sale price equal to the percentage of the total funding provided by the fund for constructing the capital asset.

(b) Requirements under clause (1) and (2) above may be waived by the commission or its successor through recommendation to the legislature if the transfer allows for a continued use of the asset in a manner consistent with the original appropriation purpose or with the purposes of the trust fund.

(c) If both a capital asset and the real property on which it sits were wholly or partially purchased with an appropriation from the trust fund and the commission approves a request to alter the use of or convey an interest in the real property under subdivision 2, a separate approval under this subdivision to alter the use of the capital asset is not required.

(d) A recipient of an appropriation from the trust fund who uses the appropriation to wholly or partially construct a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset must separately record a notice of funding restrictions in the appropriate local government office. The notice of funding restrictions must contain:

(1) a legal description of the interest in real property covered by the funding agreement;

(2) a reference to the underlying funding agreement;

(3) a reference to this subdivision; and

(4) the following statement:

"This interest in real property shall be administered in accordance with the terms, conditions, and purposes of the grant agreement controlling the improvement of the property. The interest in real property, or any portion of the interest in real property, shall not be altered from its intended use or be sold, transferred, pledged, or otherwise disposed of or further encumbered without obtaining the prior written approval of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources or its successor."

116P.16 REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS; REPORT.

(a) By December 1 each year, a recipient of an appropriation from the trust fund, that is used for the acquisition of an interest in real property, including, but not limited to, an easement or fee title, or for the construction of a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset must submit annual reports on the status of the real property to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources or its successor in a form determined by the commission. The responsibility for reporting under this section may be transferred by the recipient of the appropriation to another person who holds the interest in the real property. To complete the transfer of reporting responsibility, the recipient of the appropriation must:

(1) inform the person to whom the responsibility is transferred of that person's reporting responsibility;

(2) inform the person to whom the responsibility is transferred of the property restrictions under section 116P.15; and

(3) provide written notice to the commission of the transfer of reporting responsibility, including contact information for the person to whom the responsibility is transferred.

(b) After the transfer, the person who holds the interest in the real property is responsible for reporting requirements under this section.

116P.XX [APPLICABILITY]

(a) Sections/Subdivisions X [match], Y [full funding], Z [sustainable building guidelines], XX [sale and alteration of use], and YY [public access] do not apply to:

(1) a capital construction project with a total cost of less than \$10,000; or

(2) a land acquisition project.

(b) If land is acquired with environment and natural resources trust fund money for the purpose of capital construction, the land acquisition is not exempted under this section paragraph (a)(2).

Appendix B

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

MEMO Agenda Item 4d

DATE: December 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Requirements for Bond and Other State-Funded Capital Projects

Executive Summary

In response to a request from Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) members, staff researched state bond-funding requirements of capital projects. Given the number of variables we discovered, staff narrowed its focus for purposes of this memo to a certain type of capital project: large construction projects for buildings over a certain cost threshold. We provide a summary of these state-funded project requirements below and attached. Some of these requirements are already incorporated in 116P or in the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) standard bill rider language. Others are not but may still apply to ENRTF as the laws may refer to any state-funded capital project. Communications to ENRTF recipients by LCCMR about these requirements, as well as systems to facilitate the requirements being followed, are not currently consistent across requirements. These are noted as such in the “current ENRTF conditions” column on the attached table.

Background

Capital projects encompass a wide range of activities to acquire or better land or buildings in whole or in part. Minnesota statutes pertaining to capital projects (notably, those statutes found in [Ch. 16A](#) and [Ch. 16B](#)) address projects funded by general obligation (GO) bonds, which are the most common funding source for state-funded capital projects, as well as other sources of state funds. The statutes apply different requirements to a project depending on the type of project, the type of entity receiving the funding, and the funding source. For example, different requirements may apply to local projects versus projects conducted by state agencies. Some requirements only apply if the project is over a certain dollar threshold. Some requirements may apply to capital projects funded by GO bonds; others appear to apply for any state source of funding - even ENRTF.

Given the complexity in the variables described above and given this request from members for information appears to have been prompted by several recent requests from non-state entities to use ENRTF monies to construct buildings, LCCMR staff is providing a list and overview of requirements that most likely apply to **large-scale projects involving the design, construction, renovation, or repair of buildings**. Several of these requirements only apply if a project is over a certain threshold, for example at least \$1.5 million for local government projects or \$750,000 for state government or state university and college projects.

While we can provide information for other types of capital projects and expand the discussion, the requirements provided in this memo **do not necessarily apply (or apply uniformly) to** the following types of capital projects (unless they are part of a larger project meeting the criteria above):

- Acquisition of land for protection, restoration, or enhancement of air, land, water, fish, and wildlife
- Campgrounds
- Trails & paths
- Parking lots
- Boat ramps & docks
- Dams
- Design, construction, renovation, or repair of buildings by private entities

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Existing LCCMR Requirements for Capital Projects

The constitution, MS 116P, LCCMR's strategic plan, and the annual request for proposals all touch on various types of capital projects that may or may not be eligible for ENRTF funding and that may or may not be prioritized for ENRTF funding. This memo does not address these authorizations, restrictions, or emphases.

There are some standard conditions on ENRTF funding, however, that are consistent with some of the requirements for GO bond and other state-funded capital projects. For example, for more than a decade, the following conditions have been included in LCCMR's standard appropriation rider language and would apply to the type of capital project addressed in this memo:

- Applicable energy conservation and sustainable building guidelines
- Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines¹

In addition, pass-through grant agreements to recipients of ENRTF money require compliance with the following conditions related to contracting, purchasing, and wages, and therefore, these conditions would apply to the type of capital project addressed in this memo:

- Competitive Bidding
- Responsible Contractor
- Targeted Group Purchasing
- Prevailing Wage

In the attached list of likely requirements for GO bond and other state funded **large-scale projects involving the design, construction, renovation, or repair of buildings**, we have noted which may already apply to ENRTF-funded projects as well as the status of LCCMR operationalizing the requirement.

Bonding and Other State-Funded Capital Project Requirements

The attached table provides a list of GO bond and other state funding requirements for large-scale building construction projects. We also provide a brief description and link to the relevant statutory citation. Below is additional discussion of some of these requirements, the general process of vetting bond-funded requests, and acknowledgement that systems of oversight exist for most of these requirements.

Eligibility

Unlike ENRTF-funded projects, GO bond-funded capital projects must be publicly owned (a long-term lease may qualify) and used to operate a governmental program or activity. Private use is restricted, although a private entity may be contracted to operate the governmental program.

Requirements

Numerous additional requirements apply to both the review and the implementation of state-funded capital projects. For example, funding recipients may need to:

- Demonstrate fiscal capacity both to complete a project and fund ongoing operations of its state-funded purpose.
- Provide 50% match for local projects.
- Incorporate or consider incorporating certain elements into their project design, such as geothermal and solar thermal heating and cooling systems or accommodations for the hard-of-hearing.
- Have their project design and budget reviewed for compliance with various requirements and approved by different state agencies or legislative committees.
- Comply with certain contracting, purchasing, and labor requirements.
- Commit to restrictions on property use and sale that ensure the improved property continues to be used for the state-funded purpose.
- Provide assurances, in some cases through a construction bond, that the project will be completed as approved.

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Process

GO bond funding requests, and most other requests for state funding of capital projects, are submitted in odd-numbered years to Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) through the online Capital Budget System. The MMB reviews and ranks the projects based on need, eligibility, availability of alternative funding sources, capacity, and other criteria. The Department of Administration also reviews projects that require a state pre-design review prior to design or construction. The Governor recommends projects and incorporates them into a capital budget that is submitted for consideration by the Legislature in January of even-numbered years.

The requirements discussed here and provided on the attached table apply whether a project is funded through the standard process or added by the Legislature.

Once funded, systems exist within the various state agencies for review and monitoring of projects to ensure consistency with the funding requirements.

Attachments

- Requirements and Conditions Associated with State-Funded Capital Projects (table) dated 12/14/21

Action

This information is being provided for purposes of future discussion. No action is needed at this time.

¹ See [M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chapter 6](#), Article 6, Subdivision 16 and 17

Requirements and Conditions Associated with State-Funded Capital Projects

This table provides an overview of various conditions and requirements that may apply to state-funded capital projects, such as building construction over a certain dollar threshold. The table also provides notes if any conditions are current conditions of Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) funding. This information was gathered from various documents related to general obligation bond funding from the Minnesota Management & Budget (MMB). It is not meant to be a comprehensive review of every possible requirement that might apply to a state-funded capital project.

		Description	Citation	Current ENRTF Condition
Eligibility				
1	Government Program	The capital improvement will be used to operate a governmental program or activity.	M.S. 16A.695, subd. 8	No
2	Public Ownership	Ownership by state agency or political subdivision of the capital asset being acquired or improved. ¹	M.S. 16A.695	No
3	Coordinated Facility Planning	Coordinated planning for consolidation or construction by the MDH, MDA, DNR, MPCA, and BWSR of facilities located outside of the metropolitan area.	M.S. 16B.241	No
Assurances				
4	Full Funding	Committed or legally binding demonstration that all funds to complete project are secured before project starts.	M.S. 16A.502 ; M.S. 16B.31, subd. 2	No ²
5	Match	Commitment of money to match state contribution.	M.S. 16A.86, subd. 4 ; M.S. 16A.695, subd. 6 ;	No
6	Resolution	Resolution in support of the project from the governing body if the applicant is part of a local unit of government.	M.S. 16A.86, subd. 3a	Yes
7	Grant Agreement	Agreement between state and non-state entity receiving funding.	M.S. 16A.695, subd. 9	Yes
8	Construction Assurances	Assurances in place that construction will be completed as designed.		No
9	Confirmation of Satisfactory Completion	Final reimbursement contingent on demonstrated work completion based on inspection, certificate of occupancy, or other methods.		No
10	Insurance	Appropriate insurance in place for improved property, such as builders risk insurance and fire and extended coverage.		No
Consultation and Review				
11	Predesign	Review and recommendation of predesign plan defining the purpose, scope, cost, and schedule of the project by the Department of Administration. ³	M.S. 16B.335	No ²

¹ Fee simple or long-term lease or easement qualifies as ownership.

² The LCCMR has not fully operationalized this requirement.

³ Exemptions for local government projects with total construction costs less than \$1.5 million, state government or state university/college projects less than \$750,000, campgrounds, trails, parking lots, pathways, dams, park buildings owned by a local government unit in the metropolitan area, and others.

Requirements and Conditions Associated with State-Funded Capital Projects

		Description	Citation	Current ENRTF Condition
12	Legislative Design Review and Notification	Presentation of program plan and cost estimates and advisory recommendation by Senate Finance and House Ways and Means committees prior to preparing final plans and specifications and notice to House and Senate capital investment committees. ⁴	M.S. 16B.335	No
13	Historic and Archaeological	Consult with State Historic Preservation Office and the Office of the State Archaeologist.	M.S. 138.40, subd. 3; M.S. 138.665, subd. 2; M.S. 138.666	No ⁵
14	Information Technology	Review and approve the information technology portion of construction and major remodeling program plan. ⁶	M.S. 16B.335, subd. 5 and 6	No
15	Asset Preservation	Report of projects funded through asset preservation appropriation to various executive and legislative entities.	M.S. 16B.307; M.S. 16A.632; M.S. 84.946	No
Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Guidelines				
16	Sustainable Building Guidelines	Apply sustainable building guidelines.	M.S. 16B.325; M.S. 216B.241	Yes ⁵
17	Energy Conservation Standards	Comply with applicable energy conservation standards contained in law.	M.S. 16B.335, subd. 4 ; M.S. 216C.19; M.S. 216C.20	Yes ⁵
18	Geothermal and Solar Heating and Cooling System	Consider providing Geothermal & Solar Energy Heating & Cooling Systems on new or replacement HVAC systems.	M.S. 16B.326	No
19	Energy Use	Consider and plan for use of renewable energy sources and make energy efficiency improvements.	M.S. 16B.32	No
20	Solar Energy	Limit costs for solar energy systems to 5% of appropriation.	M.S. 16B.323	No
21	Recycling of Construction and Demolition Waste	Recycle certain percentage of nonhazardous construction and demolition waste.	M.S. 16B.327	Yes ⁵
Accessibility				
22	Accommodation for Hard-of-Hearing	Provide accommodations for hard-of-hearing when a public gathering space for gatherings of more than 15 people is constructed or improved.	M.S. 16C.054	No ⁵
Contracting, Purchasing, and Wages				
23	State Designer Selection Board	Selection or recommendation of a primary designer by the State Designer Selection Board. ⁷	M.S. 16B.33	No
24	Competitive Bid	Follow state requirements for competitively bidding contracts.	M.S. 16C.28; M.S. 471.345	Yes

⁴ Exemptions for local government projects with total construction costs less than \$1.5 million; state government or state university/college projects with total construction costs less than \$750,000; and campgrounds, trails, parking lots, pathways, dams, and other types of projects.

⁵ The LCCMR has not fully operationalized this requirement.

⁶ Limited to state agency projects.

⁷ Limited to state agencies and state universities and colleges. Only applies to projects for more than \$2 million or planning projects with fees more than \$200,000.

Requirements and Conditions Associated with State-Funded Capital Projects

		Description	Citation	Current ENRTF Condition
25	Responsible Contractor	Award competitively bid contracts of more than \$50,000 to contractors meeting minimum criteria as a responsible contractor.	M.S. 16C.285	Yes
26	MINNCOR Products	Consider the use of MINNCOR products.	M.S. 16B.335, subd. 3(c)	No ⁸
27	Prevailing Wage	Prevailing wage for laborers and workers for construction work of \$25,000 or more.	M.S. 177.42 to 177.44	Yes
28	Targeted Group Purchasing	Promote the use of targeted group businesses in purchasing. ⁹	M.S. 16C.16, subd. 13	Yes
29	Workforce Certificate of Compliance	Contract with businesses holding a workforce certificate of compliance, confirming an affirmative action plan, from the Department of Human Rights. ¹⁰	M.S. 363A.36	No
30	Equal Pay Certificate of Compliance	Contract with businesses holding an equal pay certificate of compliance from the Department of Human Rights. ¹⁰	M.S. 363A.44	No
Expenditures				
31	Art	Allocate up to 1% of total appropriation for artwork in public areas if appropriation for \$500,000 or more.	M.S. 16B.35	No
Ongoing Operations and Maintenance				
32	Operational Funding	Ability and plan to fund the program intended for the facility.	M.S. 16A.695, subd. 5;	No
33	State Operating Budget Impact	Identification of additional state funds for operations that upon completion, will be needed or requested related to the project.	M.S. 16A.695, subd. 5; M.S. 16A.86, subd. 3a	No
34	Ongoing Public Program Operation	Ongoing oversight by the state granting agency to ensure that the intended public program contained in the facility or operated on the property exists.	M.S. 16A.695, subd. 9	No
35	Recording Property Restriction	Recorded use restriction against property that is purchased or improved.		No ¹¹
36	Maintenance and Upkeep	Duty to maintain and upkeep improved property and avoid actions that decrease value.		No
37	Sale	Sale of property subject to certain conditions and state approval.	M.S. 16A.695	No ¹²

⁸ The LCCMR has not fully operationalized this requirement.

⁹ Targeted group businesses include businesses majority owned and operated by women, persons with a substantial physical disability, or minorities.

¹⁰ Applies to contracts above a certain threshold and businesses of a certain size.

¹¹ ENRTF projects are subject to use restrictions on land acquired using ENRTF funds ([M.S. 116P.15](#)), but those restrictions do not apply to construction or improvements independent of acquisition.

¹² ENRTF projects are subject to limitations on the sale of land acquired using ENRTF funds ([M.S. 116P.15](#)), but those limitations do not apply to projects that construct or improve facilities on land acquired using other funds.

Appendix C

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

MEMO

DATE: March 14, 2022

SUBJECT: ENRTF-Funded Activities to Acquire or Improve Land or Buildings (Capital Projects)

In response to a request from Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) members, staff compiled a list of Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)-funded capital projects since 2013. Projects were added to the list of capital projects if they fit the broad definition of capital, i.e., projects that included some activity to acquire or improve land or buildings. Projects were grouped into 11 more narrow categories (as defined below) based on the dominant capital activity planned. The approximate amount of the project budget allocated to capital activities is also shown on the list.

We also examined trends in the number and funding level of capital projects from 2013 to 2021, and the results of this analysis are presented in the attached figure and tables. For the purpose of this analysis, we only counted a project once according to its dominant capital activity. However, projects may have included spending for capital activities in more than one category, such as land acquisition and development of recreational facilities. In these cases, the dollar amounts were split into the appropriate categories.

In all the above calculations, we used the amounts shown in the initial approved work plan budget, and non-capital costs of the projects were, to the best of our ability, not included. In some cases, this means funds may have ultimately been spent differently than shown in this analysis.

Highlights

- There are different kinds of capital projects; we have identified at least 11 categories.
- 163 ENRTF-funded projects from 2013 to 2021 included activities to acquire or improve land or buildings, with approximately \$169.5 million allocated toward these activities.
- The amount of ENRTF dollars directed towards capital projects has increased from 22% of ENRTF funding to 48% of ENRTF funding from 2013 to 2021.
- The increase has primarily been driven by increased funding for projects to construct recreational facilities and trails.
- The ENRTF has been used to fund two large-scale (>\$1.5 million for a local project) building projects since 2013. These projects were funded in the last 3 years.

Capital Project Categories

Building Design and/or Construction – The design and construction of large buildings and facilities. Examples: visitor centers, learning centers

Conservation Easements – Acquisition of easements on private land for conservation.

Educational Exhibits – The design and installation of educational exhibits. Examples: kiosks, displays

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Land Acquisition – Fee title acquisition of land for recreation, conservation, or other purposes related to natural resources and the environment. Examples: scientific and natural areas, parks

Recreational Facilities – The design and construction of recreational facilities and supporting infrastructure. Examples: campgrounds, restrooms, shower facilities, offices, docks, canoe landings, picnic areas, boat wash stations, parking lots, access roads

Renewable Energy – The design and construction of renewable energy systems. Examples: solar gardens, biomass boiler systems

Research and Demonstration – The design and construction of research facilities, installation of long-term monitoring equipment, and evaluation and demonstration of innovative technologies. Examples: AIS deterrents, wastewater treatment, renewable energy systems

Restoration (Large-Scale) – Restoration involving large-scale earth-moving and placement of materials. Examples: shoreline stabilization, grading, stream restoration. Traditional land restoration (plantings, prescribed burns, etc.) was not included.

Stormwater – The design and construction of stormwater infrastructure to improve water quality or habitat. Examples: retention basins, rain gardens

Trails – The engineering, design, and construction of trails.

Other – Projects that don't fall under any other category. Examples: green schoolyards, bison holding facilities

Attachments

- Table 1. Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021
- Tables 2 to 4 and Figure 1. Summary Tables and Figure.
- LCCMR Memo: Requirements for Bond and Other State-Funded Capital Projects, From December 15, 2021 LCCMR Meeting

Table 1. Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021

Year	Subdivision	Project Title	Approximate Capital Allocation	Appropriation Language	Entity	Notes
Building Design and/or Construction						
2021	9n	Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Visitor Center - Continuation	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Crane Lake to design and construct an approximate 4,500 to 7,000 square-foot visitor center building to serve as an access point to Voyageurs National Park. A fiscal agent or fiscal management plan must be approved in the work plan before any trust fund money is spent. A copy of a resolution or other documentation of the city's commitment to fund operations of the visitor center must be included in the work plan submitted to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.	Local Unit of Government	
2020 (ML 2021)	9u	Sportsmen's Training and Development Learning Center	\$85,000	\$85,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Minnesota Forest Zone Trappers Association to complete a site evaluation and master plan for the Sportsmen's Training and Developmental Learning Center near Hibbing...	Private	
2019	9e	National Loon Center	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the National Loon Center Foundation, in partnership with a fiscal agent to be approved by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, to construct an approximately 15,000-square-foot National Loon Center in Cross Lake dedicated to loon survival, loon habitat protection and research, and recreation. Of this amount, up to \$1,449,000 is for planning, design, and construction of approximately six outdoor demonstration learning kiosks, interpretive trails, boardwalks and boat docks, a fishing dock, and native landscaping along approximately 3,100 feet of shoreline. Any remaining funds are for planning, engineering, and constructing the building and indoor exhibits. A land lease commitment of at least 25 years and fiscal sponsorship must be secured before any trust fund money is spent. This project requires a match of at least \$6,000,000. At least \$2,000,000 of this match must come from nonstate sources. If naming rights will be conveyed, the National Loon Center Foundation must include a plan for this in the work plan. All matching funds must be legally committed before any trust fund money may be spent on planning activities for construction of the building and indoor exhibits. Net income generated from admissions, naming rights, and memberships to the National Loon Center as a result of trust fund contributions may be reinvested in the center's long-term loon conservation efforts as described in the work plan approved by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources according to Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.10.	Private	
Conservation Easements						
2021	9h	Native Prairie Stewardship and Prairie Bank Easement Acquisition	\$476,406	\$1,341,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to provide technical stewardship assistance to private landowners, restore and enhance native prairie protected by easements in the native prairie bank, and acquire easements for the native prairie bank in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, including preparing initial baseline property assessments...	State	
2020 (ML 2021)	9b	Private Native Prairie Conservation through Native Prairie Bank	\$642,935	\$2,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to provide technical stewardship assistance to private landowners, restore and enhance native prairie protected by easements in the native prairie bank, and acquire easements for the native prairie bank in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, including preparing initial baseline property assessments...	State	
2019	9j	Preserving the Avon Hills with Reverse-Bidding Easements	\$1,192,000	\$1,600,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Saint John's University in cooperation with Minnesota Land Trust to restore and enhance protected lands, provide public outreach, and prepare management plans for and use a reverse-bid ranking system to secure permanent conservation easements on high-quality natural habitat in the Avon Hills area of Stearns County...	College or University	
2018	9h	Protecting North-Central Minnesota Lakes	\$635,500	\$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...	Local Unit of Government	
2018	9i	Easement Program for Native Prairie Bank	\$1,070,702	\$2,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to provide technical stewardship assistance to private landowners, restore and enhance about 270 acres of native prairie protected by easements in the native prairie bank, and acquire easements for the native prairie bank in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, on about 275 acres, including preparing initial baseline property assessments...	State	
2017	8l	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	\$9,086,500	\$2,729,000 in fiscal year 2017 and \$5,771,000 the first year and \$5,000,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore land under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515. This work may be done in cooperation with the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program...	State	

Table 1. Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021

Year	Subdivision	Project Title	Approximate Capital Allocation	Appropriation Language	Entity	Notes
2017	9e	Native Prairie Stewardship and Prairie Bank Easement Acquisition	\$1,852,160	\$2,675,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire native prairie bank easements in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, on approximately 335 acres, prepare baseline property assessments, restore and enhance at least 570 acres of native prairie sites, and provide technical assistance to landowners...	State	
2016	9c	Conservation Easements in the Avon Hills - Phase III	\$1,272,000	\$1,300,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Saint John's University in cooperation with Minnesota Land Trust to secure permanent conservation easements on approximately 500 acres of high-quality habitat in Stearns County, prepare conservation management plans, and provide public outreach...	College or University	
2015	9d	Native Prairie Stewardship and Prairie Bank Easement Acquisition	\$2,560,761	\$3,325,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire native prairie bank easements on at least 675 acres, prepare baseline property assessments, restore and enhance at least 1,000 acres of native prairie sites, and provide technical assistance to landowners...	State	
2015	9e	Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII - Coordination and Mapping and Conservation Easements	\$485,000	\$515,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Minnesota Land Trust for Phase VIII of the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership to provide coordination and mapping for the partnership and to acquire permanent conservation easements on at least 120 acres of strategic ecological landscapes to protect priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties...	Private	
2015	9j	Multi-Benefit Watershed Scale Conservation on North Central Lakes	\$950,000	\$950,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to secure permanent conservation easements on at least 480 acres of high-quality habitat in Crow Wing and Cass Counties...	State	
2013	4c	Native Prairie Stewardship and Prairie Bank Easement Acquisition	\$529,570	\$750,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire native prairie bank easements, prepare baseline property assessments, restore and enhance native prairie sites, and provide technical assistance to landowners...	State	
2013	4j	Preserving the Avon Hills Landscape - Phase II	\$743,500	\$772,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Saint John's University in cooperation with the Minnesota Land Trust to secure permanent conservation easements on high quality habitat in Stearns County, prepare conservation management plans, and provide public outreach...	College or University	
Educational Exhibits						
2018	5g	Morris Prairie Pollinator Demonstration Area and Education	\$105,000	\$550,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota for the West Central Research and Outreach Center at Morris to restore 17 acres of native prairie for pollinators and to construct wayside shelters and kiosks along an existing trail to provide information to visitors on the importance of pollinators and native prairie ecosystems...	College or University	
2018	5i	Update International Wolf Center Exhibits	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the International Wolf Center to design, construct, and install new interactive educational exhibits to help Minnesotans understand coexistence with the state's wolf populations and ongoing wolf- management efforts.	Private	
2017	8d	State Park Pollinator Habitat Restoration	\$155,254	\$672,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to restore at least 520 acres of monarch butterfly and other native pollinator habitats in at least seven state parks in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan core areas and establish pollinator plantings and interpretive exhibits in at least ten state parks...	State	
2014	9f	Pollinator Education Center at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum	\$615,000	\$615,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to develop exhibits for an educational center that will offer hands-on learning experience about the role of pollinators and importance of pollinator habitat...	College or University	
Land Acquisition						
2021	9e	Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition - Phase VII	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Metropolitan Council for grants to acquire land within the approved park boundaries of the metropolitan regional park system...	Local Unit of Government	
2021	9j	SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Citizen-Science and Outreach	\$1,418,911	\$3,336,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the scientific and natural areas (SNA) program to restore, improve, and enhance wildlife habitat on SNAs; increase public involvement and outreach; and strategically acquire lands that meet criteria for SNAs under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, from willing sellers.	State	Also funded recreational facilities
2021	9q	Above the Falls Regional Park Acquisition	\$950,000	\$950,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board to develop a restoration plan and acquire approximately 3.25 acres of industrial land for public access and habitat connectivity along the Mississippi River as part of Above the Falls Regional Park.	Local Unit of Government	
2021	9u	State Parks and State Trails Inholdings	\$2,560,000	\$2,560,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire high-priority inholdings from willing sellers within the legislatively authorized boundaries of state parks, recreation areas, and trails to protect Minnesota's natural heritage, enhance outdoor recreation, and improve the efficiency of public land management.	State	

Table 1. Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021

Year	Subdivision	Project Title	Approximate Capital Allocation	Appropriation Language	Entity	Notes
2020 (ML 2021)	9a	DNR Scientific and Natural Areas	\$1,750,629	\$3,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the scientific and natural area (SNA) program to restore, improve, and enhance wildlife habitat on SNAs; increase public involvement and outreach; and strategically acquire high-quality lands that meet criteria for SNAs under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, from willing sellers.	State	Also funded recreational facilities
2020 (ML 2021)	9c	Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Inholdings	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire high-priority inholdings from willing sellers within the legislatively authorized boundaries of state parks, recreation areas, and trails to protect Minnesota's natural heritage, enhance outdoor recreation, and promote tourism.	State	
2020 (ML 2021)	9g	Turning Back to Rivers: Environmental and Recreational Protection	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with The Trust for Public Land to help local communities acquire priority land along the Mississippi, St. Croix, and Minnesota Rivers and their tributaries to protect natural resources, provide buffers for flooding, and improve access for recreation.	Private	
2020 (ML 2021)	9h	Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Metropolitan Council for grants to acquire land within the approved park boundaries of the metropolitan regional park system...	Local Unit of Government	
2020 (ML 2021)	9m	Whiskey Creek and Mississippi River Water Quality, Habitat, and Recreation	\$500,000	\$500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Mississippi Headwaters Board to acquire and transfer approximately 13 acres of land to the city of Baxter for future construction of water quality, habitat, and recreational improvements to protect the Mississippi River.	Local Unit of Government	
2020 (ML 2021)	9o	Crow Wing County Community Natural Area Acquisition	\$400,000	\$400,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Crow Wing County to acquire approximately 65 acres of land adjacent to the historic fire tower property to allow for diverse recreational opportunities while protecting wildlife habitat and preventing forest fragmentation...	Local Unit of Government	
2020 (ML 2021)	9t	Chippewa County Acquisition, Recreation, and Education	\$160,000	\$160,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Chippewa County to acquire wetland and floodplain forest and abandoned gravel pits along the Minnesota River to provide water filtration, education, and recreational opportunities.	Local Unit of Government	
2019	9a	Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas	\$1,970,821	\$3,500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the scientific and natural areas (SNA) program to restore and enhance wildlife habitat on SNAs, increase public involvement and outreach, and strategically acquire high-quality lands that meet criteria for SNAs under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, from willing sellers...	State	Also funded recreational facilities
2019	9c	Minnesota Parks and State Trails In-Holdings	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire high-priority in-holdings from willing sellers within the legislatively authorized boundaries of state parks and trails to protect Minnesota's natural heritage, enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, and improve the efficiency of public land management...	State	
2018	9c	Harmony State Trail Extension	\$235,000	\$235,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Harmony to acquire fee title of about 16 parcels to allow for the approximate six-mile extension of the legislatively authorized state trail from Harmony south to the Iowa state border with a spur to Niagara Cave...	Local Unit of Government	
2018	9g	Protecting Mississippi River Headwaters Lands through Local, State, and Federal Partnership	\$700,000	\$700,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Baxter, in cooperation with Brainerd Public Schools and the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Program, to acquire about 200 acres of forested land on the upper Mississippi River adjacent to Mississippi River Overlook Park for multiple public benefits, including being an outdoor classroom for local schools...	Local Unit of Government	
2018	9k	Minnesota State Parks and State Trails	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire about 163 acres of high-priority in holdings from willing sellers within the legislatively authorized boundaries of state parks and trails in order to protect Minnesota's natural heritage, enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, and improve the efficiency of public land management...	State	
2018	9l	Scientific and Natural Areas Program	\$1,313,500	\$3,250,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the scientific and natural areas program. Of this amount, \$1,500,000 is for habitat restoration activities, \$500,000 is for scientific and natural areas public engagement and outreach, and \$1,250,000 is to acquire strategic high-quality lands that meet criteria for scientific and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, from willing sellers...	State	
2017	9a	Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Metropolitan Council for grants to acquire approximately 197 acres of land within the approved park boundaries of the metropolitan regional park system...	Local Unit of Government	
2017	9b	Scientific and Natural Areas Acquisition, Restoration, Citizen Science and Engagement	\$1,095,780	\$2,500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire at least 250 acres of land with high-quality native plant communities and rare features to be established as scientific and natural areas as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 5, restore and improve at least 1,000 acres of scientific and natural areas, and provide technical assistance and outreach, including site steward events...	State	Also funded recreational facilities

Table 1. Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021

Year	Subdivision	Project Title	Approximate Capital Allocation	Appropriation Language	Entity	Notes
2017	9c	Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisition	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire approximately 373 acres from willing sellers for authorized state trails and critical parcels within the statutory boundaries of state parks...	State	
2017	9f	Leech Lake Acquisition	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe to acquire approximately 45 acres, including 0.67 miles of shoreline of high-quality aquatic and wildlife habitat at the historic meeting place between Henry Schoolcraft and the Anishinabe people...	Tribal	
2017	9i	Land Acquisition for Voyageurs National Park Crane Lake Visitors Center	\$950,000	\$950,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the town of Crane Lake, in partnership with Voyageurs National Park and the Department of Natural Resources, to acquire approximately 30 acres to be used for a visitor center and campground...	Local Unit of Government	
2016	9b	Minnesota Point Pine Forest Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition	\$500,000	\$500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources in cooperation with the Duluth Airport Authority to acquire approximately ten acres as an addition to the designated Minnesota Point Pine Forest Scientific and Natural Area located along the shores of Lake Superior in Duluth.	State	
2016	9d	Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water System Acquisition for Wellhead Protection	\$1,426,000	\$1,500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water to acquire and restore lands designated under an approved wellhead protection plan...	Private	
2016	9g	Otter Tail River Recreational Trail Acquisition	\$600,000	\$600,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Fergus Falls to acquire approximately 16 acres along the Otter Tail River for a recreational trail and park...	Local Unit of Government	
2015	9a	State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire at least 335 acres for authorized state trails and critical parcels within the statutory boundaries of state parks...	State	
2015	9b	Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition Phase 4	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Metropolitan Council for grants to acquire at least 133 acres of lands within the approved park unit boundaries of the metropolitan regional park system...	Local Unit of Government	
2015	9c	SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Enhancement and Public Engagement	\$2,533,068	\$4,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire at least 350 acres of lands with high-quality native plant communities and rare features to be established as scientific and natural areas as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 5, restore and improve at least 550 acres of scientific and natural areas, and provide technical assistance and outreach...	State	Also funded recreational facilities
2015	9f	Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Phase VIII - Strategic Lands Protection	\$750,000	\$750,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with The Trust for Public Land for Phase VIII of the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership to acquire in fee at least 35 acres of high-quality priority state and local natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties...	Private	
2015	9g	Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII - Priority Expansion of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	\$500,000	\$500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. for Phase VIII of the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership to acquire in fee at least 100 acres of priority habitat for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties...	Private	
2015	9h	Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII - Wildlife Management Area Acquisition	\$400,000	\$400,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for Phase VIII of the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership to acquire in fee at least 82 acres along the lower reaches of the Vermillion River in Dakota County within the Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area...	State	
2014	7a	Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition, Restoration, Improvement and Citizen Engagement	\$1,424,140	\$2,540,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire lands with high-quality native plant communities and rare features to be established as scientific and natural areas as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 5, restore and improve parts of scientific and natural areas, and provide technical assistance and outreach...	State	Also funded recreational facilities
2014	7b	Metropolitan Regional Park System Acquisition	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Metropolitan Council for grants for the acquisition of lands within the approved park unit boundaries of the metropolitan regional park system...	Local Unit of Government	
2014	7d	Shoreland Acquisition on St. Croix River	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Washington County to purchase 15 acres, encompassing 3,500 feet of St. Croix shoreland paralleling Brown's Creek State Trail in the city of Stillwater...	Local Unit of Government	

Table 1. Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021

Year	Subdivision	Project Title	Approximate Capital Allocation	Appropriation Language	Entity	Notes
2014	7e	Martin County Park and Natural Area Acquisition	\$430,000	\$435,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. and Martin County to acquire approximately 40 acres in Martin County, including a ten-acre prairie remnant to be owned and managed by Martin County as part of its park system...	Private	Also funded recreational facilities
2013	4a	State Parks and State Trails Land Acquisitions	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire authorized state trails and critical parcels within the statutory boundaries of state parks...	State	
2013	4d	Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Phase VII	\$1,284,550	\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$10,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$1,990,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: \$304,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$368,000 with Dakota County; \$208,000 with Great River Greening; \$310,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$400,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$400,000 with the Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition...	Private	
2013	4e	Landscape Arboretum Acquisition Lake Tamarack	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to acquire land surrounding Lake Tamarack in Carver County as part of the acquisition of approximately 80 acres...	College or University	
2013	4k	Frogtown Farm and Park Acquisition	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Trust for Public Land to acquire a portion of 12 acres for Frogtown Farm and Park to be established as a St. Paul city park.	Private	
Recreational Facilities						
2021	6g	Stop Starry Invasion with Community Invasive Species Containment	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates to work with civic leaders to purchase, install, and operate waterless cleaning stations for watercraft; conduct aquatic invasive species education; and implement education upgrades at public accesses to prevent invasive starry stonewort spread beyond the 16 lakes already infested...	Private	
2021	8o	Shoreline Stabilization, Fishing, and ADA Improvements at Silverwood Park	\$200,000	\$200,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Three Rivers Park District to provide water quality improvements through shoreline stabilization, shoreline fishing improvements, and shoreline ADA access on the island in Silver Lake within Silverwood Park.	Local Unit of Government	
2021	9d	Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Grant Programs	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to solicit and rank applications for and fund competitive matching grants for local parks, trail connections, and natural and scenic areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 85.019...	State	Also funded trails and land acquisition
2021	9f	Sauk Rapids Lions Park Riverfront Improvements	\$463,000	\$463,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Sauk Rapids to design and construct a second phase of upgrades to Lions and Southside Parks including trails, lighting, riverbank restoration, and a canoe and kayak launch to enhance access to the Mississippi River.	Local Unit of Government	
2021	9g	City of Brainerd - Mississippi Landing Trailhead	\$2,850,000	\$2,850,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Brainerd to design and construct Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park to help connect residents and visitors to the Mississippi River through recreation, education, and restoration.	Local Unit of Government	
2021	9m	Veterans on the Lake	\$553,000	\$553,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Lake County for Veterans on the Lake to conduct accessibility upgrades to Veterans on the Lake's existing trails, roadway, and buildings to improve access to the wilderness and outdoor recreation for disabled American veterans.	Local Unit of Government	
2021	9o	Brookston Campground, Boat Launch, and Outdoor Recreation Facility Planning	\$425,000	\$425,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Brookston to design a campground, boat launch, and outdoor recreation area on the banks of the St. Louis River in northeastern Minnesota...	Local Unit of Government	
2021	9v	Accessible Fishing Piers and Shore Fishing Areas	\$340,000	\$340,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to provide accessible fishing piers and develop shore fishing sites to serve new angling communities, underserved populations, and anglers with disabilities.	State	
2020 (ML 2021)	9d	Grants for Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas	\$2,400,000	\$2,400,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to solicit, rank, and fund competitive matching grants for local parks, trail connections, and natural and scenic areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 85.019. This appropriation is for local nature-based recreation, connections to regional and state natural areas, and recreation facilities and may not be used for athletic facilities such as sport fields, courts, and playgrounds.	State	Also funded trails and land acquisition

Table 1. Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021

Year	Subdivision	Project Title	Approximate Capital Allocation	Appropriation Language	Entity	Notes
2020 (ML 2021)	9l	Upper St. Anthony Falls Enhancements	\$2,700,000	\$2,800,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Friends of the Lock and Dam in partnership with the city of Minneapolis to design and install green infrastructure, public access, and habitat restorations on riverfront land at Upper St. Anthony Falls for water protection, recreation, and environmental education purposes...	Local Unit of Government	
2020 (ML 2021)	9r	Ranier Safe Harbor and Transient Dock on Rainy Lake	\$762,000	\$762,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Ranier to construct a dock that accommodates boats 26 feet or longer with the goal of increasing public access for boat recreation on Rainy Lake...	Local Unit of Government	
2020 (ML 2021)	9s	Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Campground and Visitor Center	\$3,100,000	\$3,100,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the town of Crane Lake to design and construct a new campground and to plan and preliminarily prepare a site for constructing a new Voyageurs National Park visitor center on land acquired for these purposes in Crane Lake...	Local Unit of Government	
2020 (ML 2021)	9v	Birch Lake Recreation Area	\$350,000	\$350,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to the city of Babbitt to expand the Birch Lake Recreation Area by adding a new campground to include new campsites, restrooms, and other facilities...	Local Unit of Government	
2019	9b	Grants for Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to solicit, rank, and fund competitive matching grants for local parks, trail connections, and natural and scenic areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 85.019. The appropriation is for local nature-based recreation, connections to regional and state natural areas, and recreation facilities and not for athletic facilities such as sport fields, courts, and playgrounds.	State	Also funded trails and land acquisition
2019	9f	Accessible Fishing Piers	\$320,000	\$320,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to provide accessible fishing piers in locations that have a high potential to serve new angling communities, underserved populations, and anglers with physical disabilities...	State	
2019	9h	Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground	\$350,000	\$350,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Babbitt to expand Birch Lake Recreation Area by adding a new campground for recreational vehicles and tent campers...	Local Unit of Government	
2019	9k	Bailey Lake Trail and Fishing Pier	\$550,000	\$550,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Virginia to reconstruct the existing Bailey Lake Trail and construct a new fishing pier on Bailey Lake that is accessible from the trail.	Local Unit of Government	
2019	9p	Rainy Lake Recreational Access and Boat Wash Station	\$200,000	\$200,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Ranier to enhance and increase public access to Rainy Lake by constructing an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant recreational parking lot, an ADA-compliant public restroom, and an aquatic invasive species boat wash station.	Local Unit of Government	
2019	9q	Historic Bruce Mine Park and Mesabi Trailhead	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority to engineer, design, renovate, and construct the Historic Bruce Mine Park and Mesabi Trailhead and access in the city of Chisholm...	Local Unit of Government	
2018	9a	Grants for Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to solicit, rank, and fund competitive matching grants for local parks, trail connections, and natural and scenic areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 85.019. The appropriation is for local nature-based recreation and connections to regional and state natural areas and recreation facilities and does not include athletic facilities such as sport fields, courts, and playgrounds...	State	Also funded trails and land acquisition
2017	9h	Tower Trailhead Boat Landing and Habitat Improvement - Phase II	\$600,000	\$600,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Tower to construct a trailhead and boat landing and restore vegetative habitat on city-owned property...	Local Unit of Government	Also funded restoration (large-scale)
2016	9a	Scientific and Natural Area Restoration	\$63,300	\$1,386,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to restore and improve approximately 750 acres of scientific and natural areas...	State	
2015	5c	Zumbro River Watershed Recreational Learning Stewardship Sites	\$300,000	\$300,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Zumbro Watershed Partnership to develop at least six recreational and educational sites on the Zumbro River with water quality demonstration elements and interpretative signage designed to encourage adoption of water protection practices...	Private	
2015	5a	Trap Shooting Sports Facility Grants	\$132,000	\$132,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for trap shooting sports facility grants under Minnesota Statutes, section 87A.10.	State	
2014	7f	Minnesota River Water Trailhead and Landing in Morton	\$198,000	\$198,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Morton to transform a municipal parcel from a compost site into a Minnesota River water trailhead and landing and to design and build interpretative trails around the landing complex...	Local Unit of Government	

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Year	Subdivision	Project Title	Approximate Capital Allocation	Appropriation Language	Entity	Notes
2013	4b	Scientific and Natural Areas Restoration, Enhancement and Citizen Engagement	\$242,440	\$1,500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to conserve sites of biodiversity significance by restoring and enhancing lands established as scientific and natural areas as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 5, and providing volunteer engagement and outreach...	State	
Renewable Energy						
2019	7b	White Earth Nation Community Solar for Economic Resilience	\$500,000	\$500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Rural Renewable Energy Alliance to install a 200-kW White Earth community-owned solar garden to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase economic development through environmental education and solar workforce training, and improve energy resilience.	Private	
2017	7d	District Heating with Renewable Biomass at Camp Ripley Training Center	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of military affairs to install a 5,000,000-BTU centralized biomass boiler system utilizing the forestry management at Camp Ripley...	State	
2016	7a	Community Solar Garden Installation	\$479,000	\$490,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Rural Renewable Energy Alliance to install a 200-kilowatt community solar garden to provide for electrical distribution in Cass, Beltrami, Hubbard, and Itasca Counties, to assist households in the Minnesota low-income housing energy assistance program in meeting electrical energy needs and serve as a model for low-income energy assistance elsewhere in the state...	Private	
2014	8h	Solar Photovoltaic Installation at Residential Environmental Learning Centers	\$150,000	\$150,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements with Deep Portage Learning Center to coordinate with Audubon Center of the North Woods; Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center; Laurentian Environmental Learning Center; Long Lake Conservation Center; and Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center the installation of at least five kilowatt institutional solar arrays at each of the six residential environmental learning centers as a teaching tool...	Private	
2014	8i	Itasca Community College Woody Biomass Utilization Project Design	\$112,000	\$112,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Itasca Community College to develop a final design for installation of a boiler heating system using woody biomass...	College or University	
Research and Demonstration						
2021	4b	Novel Nutrient Recovery Process from Wastewater Treatment Plants	\$98,695	\$200,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to conduct lab- and pilot-scale tests of a new process to promote nutrient removal and recovery at rural municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants for water protection and renewable energy production.	College or University	
2021	7b	Storing Renewable Energy in Flow Battery for Grid Use	\$2,198,000	\$2,408,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, Morris, to implement a rural, community-scale project that demonstrates how a large flow battery connected to solar and wind generation improves grid stability and enhances use of renewable energy.	College or University	
2021	7c	Agrivoltaics to Improve the Environment and Farm Resiliency	\$391,000	\$646,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, West Central Research and Outreach Center, Morris, to model and evaluate alternative solar energy system designs to maximize energy production while providing other benefits to cattle and farmers.	College or University	
2020 (ML 2021)	10	Wastewater Renewable Energy Demonsration Grants	\$1,095,000	\$1,095,000 the second year is from the trust fund to an emerging issues account authorized in Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.08, subdivision 4, paragraph (d). Money appropriated under this subdivision must be used for grants in consultation with the Public Facilities Authority for renewable energy demonstration projects at wastewater treatment facilities.	State	
2020 (ML 2021)	3d	Foundational Hydrology Data for Wetland Protection and Restoration	\$350,000	\$400,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to improve wetland protection, management, and restoration in Minnesota by completing the partially established long-term Wetland Hydrology Monitoring Network that will provide critical knowledge of wetland hydrology dynamics...	State	
2020 (ML 2021)	3f	Expanding Restoration and Promoting Awareness of Native Mussels	\$29,680	\$489,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Minnesota Zoological Garden to promote mussel conservation by rearing juvenile mussels for reintroduction, researching methods to improve growth and survival in captivity, and encouraging public action to benefit water quality...	Private	
2020 (ML 2021)	4f	Innovative Solution for Protecting Minnesota from PFAS Contamination	\$250,000	\$250,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Dem-Con Companies to demonstrate a new technology for protecting the state's drinking water and natural resources by eliminating per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from point source discharges...	Private	
2019	4r	Spring Biological Nitrate Removal to Protect Drinking Water	\$141,000	\$175,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Fairmont to build and demonstrate the effectiveness of an experimental passive biological treatment system to reduce nitrates that enter the city's springtime water supply source.	Local Unit of Government	

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Year	Subdivision	Project Title	Approximate Capital Allocation	Appropriation Language	Entity	Notes
2019	7a	Development of Clean Energy Storage Systems for Farms	\$244,494	\$650,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota for the West Central Research and Outreach Center at Morris to develop and test novel clean energy storage systems for farms using wind-generated ammonia to displace fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions...	College or University	
2018	3h	Mapping Avian Movement in Minnesota	\$33,500	\$200,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota for the Natural Resources Research Institute in Duluth to pilot the establishment of a network of automated radio-telemetry stations to monitor bird migration and local movements and to develop strategic plans for using the infrastructure long term to monitor animal movement for conservation...	College or University	
2018	6e	Install and Evaluate an Invasive Carp Deterrent for Mississippi River Locks and Dams	\$889,750	\$998,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota in cooperation with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to install, evaluate, and optimize a system in Mississippi River locks and dams to deter passage of invasive carp without negatively impacting native fish and to evaluate the ability of predator fish in the pools above the locks and dams to consume young carp...	College or University	
2018	7b	Demonstration for Community Scale Storage System for Renewable Energy	\$414,350	\$550,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to install, demonstrate, and evaluate three community-scale storage systems for renewable energy and develop a guidebook on storing renewable energy for statewide use...	College or University	
2017	4c	Rearing Native Mussels for Reintroduction and Expanding Water Quality Awareness	\$183,000	\$591,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Minnesota Zoological Garden in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources to accelerate the reintroduction of native mussels into Minnesota rivers and streams through expanded mussel rearing, research, and statewide educational activities promoting mussel conservation and water quality...	Private	
2017	4d	Water Quality Monitoring in Southeastern Minnesota Trout Streams	\$361,750	\$500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Winona State University, to develop a system of biological monitoring for water quality protection of trout streams in southeastern Minnesota...	College or University	
2017	7c	Generation, Storage, and Utilization of Solar Energy	\$160,000	\$500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, West Central Research and Outreach Center, Morris, to develop and demonstrate an integrated facility to generate electricity, shade dairy cattle, and provide energy storage and utilization from solar technologies at the West Central Research and Outreach Center, Morris...	College or University	
2017	8c	Evaluating the Use of Bison to Restore and Preserve Savanna Habitat	\$135,000	\$388,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, to research combined bison grazing and fire management strategies to restore Minnesota's oak savanna ecosystems...	College or University	
2016	4t	Surface Water Bacterial Treatment System Pilot Project	\$422,900	\$500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization to reduce bacteria and nutrient loads to Vadnais Lake, a drinking water supply reservoir, through implementation and evaluation of a subsurface constructed wetland as a best management practice for potential statewide use. The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization must consider contracting with the University of Minnesota Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geo-Engineering to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot treatment system so that it maximizes benefits and can be replicated elsewhere...	Local Unit of Government	
2016	7e	Solar Energy Utilization for Minnesota Swine Farms - Phase II	\$412,294	\$475,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota for the West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris to continue to develop and evaluate the utilization of solar photovoltaic systems at swine facilities to improve energy and economic performance, reduce fossil fuel usage and emissions, and optimize water usage...	College or University	
2015	4b	A Novel Biofilm Technology for Water Nutrient Removal	\$100,703	\$281,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to develop a simulated lichen biofilm system that can be used to remove pollutants and recycle nutrients from storm water runoff and polluted lakes, ponds, and lagoons...	College or University	
2015	4g	Using Hydroacoustics to Monitor Sediment in Minnesota Rivers	\$50,190	\$455,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the United States Geological Survey to install hydroacoustic equipment on the lower Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers to improve measurement and monitoring accuracy for suspended sediment and enhance ongoing sediment reduction efforts by state, federal, and local agencies...	Federal	
2015	7b	Reducing Emissions from Open Burning through Biomass Gasification	\$45,620	\$268,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources to characterize and promote distributed biomass gasification of wood waste as a means for producing renewable and sustainable energy in rural areas through a demonstration at the Department of Natural Resources regional office facility in New Ulm.	College or University	

Table 1. Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021

Year	Subdivision	Project Title	Approximate Capital Allocation	Appropriation Language	Entity	Notes
2014	3l	Rainwater and Reuse and Valuation Investigation	\$100,000	\$300,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to design, install, and monitor a rainwater reuse system for use in evaporative chiller systems and identify other potential applications for rainwater reuse systems.	College or University	
2014	4a	Blocking Bighead, Silver, and Other Invasive Carp by Optimizing Lock and Dams	\$42,950	\$854,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to collaborate with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to develop ways, including new technologies, to modify the operations of Lock and Dam Numbers 2 to 8 to optimize their ability to impede invasive carp movement into the Minnesota, St. Croix, and Mississippi Rivers...	College or University	
2014	8d	Transitioning Minnesota Farms to Local Energy	\$175,145	\$500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota for the West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris to develop clean energy strategies for Minnesota farms in order to reduce fossil fuel energy use and increase local energy production. Any installation of infrastructure or improvements must be at the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center...	College or University	
Restoration (Large-Scale)						
2021	8r	Elm Creek Habitat Restoration Final Phase	\$521,000	\$521,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Champlin to conduct habitat and stream restoration in Elm Creek upstream of Mill Ponds.	Local Unit of Government	
2021	9k	Precision Acquisition for Restoration, Groundwater Recharge, and Habitat	\$467,000	\$467,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Shell Rock River Watershed District to acquire and restore to wetland a key parcel of land to reduce downstream flooding while providing water storage, groundwater recharge, nutrient reduction, and pollinator and wildlife habitat.	Local Unit of Government	Also funded land acquisition
2020 (ML 2021)	9e	Mississippi River Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Mussel Reintroduction	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000 the second year is from the trust fund. Of this amount, \$1,549,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and \$251,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources to restore lost habitat and reintroduce mussels in the Mississippi River above St. Anthony Falls. This work includes creating habitat and species restoration plans, implementing the restoration plans, and monitoring effectiveness of the restoration for multiple years after implementation...	Local Unit of Government	
2020 (ML 2021)	9j	Elm Creek Restoration - Phase IV	\$500,000	\$500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Champlin to conduct habitat and stream restoration of approximately 0.7 miles of Elm Creek shoreline above Mill Pond Lake and through the Elm Creek Protection Area.	Local Unit of Government	
2019	8c	Sauk River Dam Removal and Rock Rapids Replacement	\$2,768,000	\$2,768,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Melrose to remove an existing fixed-elevation dam, construct a rock arch rapids, and conduct in-stream and shoreline habitat restoration to improve water quality and native fish passage in the Sauk River...	Local Unit of Government	
2016	8i	Champlin Mill Pond Shoreland Restoration	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Champlin to restore the Champlin Mill Pond shoreline and adjacent habitat...	Local Unit of Government	
2015	8i	Flood Recovery on Sargent Creek Duluth Habitat Restoration	\$300,000	\$300,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Duluth to re-establish stable and natural streambanks with riparian and aquatic habitat restoration on at least 5,400 linear feet of Sargent Creek in Duluth destroyed during the flood of 2012.	Local Unit of Government	
2014	6d	Northeast Minnesota White Cedar Restoration - Phase 2	\$185,000	\$335,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to continue an assessment of the decline of northern white cedar plant communities in northeast Minnesota, demonstrate restoration techniques, and provide cedar restoration training to local units of government...	State	
Stormwater						
2021	9t	Highbanks Ravine Bat Hibernaculum Project	\$825,000	\$825,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of St. Cloud to reroute and upgrade an existing stormwater system in the Highbanks Ravine area to improve an existing bat hibernaculum, reduce erosion, and create additional green space for wildlife habitat.	Local Unit of Government	
2013	5c	Heron Lake Sediment and Phosphorus Reduction Implementation Projects	\$93,000	\$122,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for an agreement with the Heron Lake Watershed District for public outreach and installation and monitoring of water quality improvement projects...	State	
2013	5d	Southern Minnesota Lakes Restoration	\$463,000	\$463,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for an agreement with Le Sueur County to install shoreland and agricultural best management practices to improve water quality for up to 14 lakes in a tri-county area in southern Minnesota...	State	
Trails						
2021	8h	Plumbing the Muddy Depths of Superior Hiking Trail	\$187,000	\$187,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Superior Hiking Trail Association to install and implement water management practices to prevent erosion and improve access to the Superior Hiking Trail.	Private	

Table 1. Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021

Year	Subdivision	Project Title	Approximate Capital Allocation	Appropriation Language	Entity	Notes
2021	8k	Woodcrest Trail Expansion	\$16,000	\$16,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Foundation for Health Care Continuum, doing business as Country Manor Campus, LLC, to construct a trail for public recreational use on land owned by the senior living facility in central Minnesota.	Private	
2021	9a	Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail (McDonald Segment)	\$2,245,000	\$2,245,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Otter Tail County to construct the McDonald Segment of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail to connect the cities of Perham and Pelican Rapids to Maplewood State Park.	Local Unit of Government	
2021	9b	Mesabi Trail CSAH 88 to Ely	\$1,650,000	\$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 toward Ely.	Local Unit of Government	Also funded land acquisition
2021	9c	Southwest Minnesota Single-Track Trail	\$190,000	\$190,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Jackson County to create a single-track mountain bike trail and expand an associated parking lot in Belmont County Park to address a lack of opportunity for this kind of outdoor recreation in southwest Minnesota.	Local Unit of Government	Also funded recreational facilities
2021	9i	Moose Lake - Trunk Highway 73 Trail	\$330,000	\$330,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Moose Lake to design and construct a nonmotorized recreational trail in an off-street pedestrian corridor along Highway 73 to connect to several existing regional trails in the Moose Lake area.	Local Unit of Government	
2021	9l	Lake Brophy Single-Track Trail Expansion	\$100,000	\$100,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Douglas County in partnership with the Big Ole Bike Club to design and build new expert single-track segments and an asphalt pump track for the existing trail system at Lake Brophy Park to improve outdoor recreation experiences in west-central Minnesota.	Local Unit of Government	
2021	9p	Moose and Seven Beaver Multiuse Trails Upgrade	\$900,000	\$900,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Hoyt Lakes, in partnership with the Ranger Snowmobile and ATV Club, to design and construct upgrades and extensions to the Moose and Seven Beaver multiuse trails to enhance access for recreation use and connect to regional trails.	Local Unit of Government	
2021	9r	Silver Lake Trail Improvement Project	\$1,071,000	\$1,071,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Virginia to reconstruct and renovate the walking trail around Silver Lake to allow safe multimodal transportation between schools, parks, community recreation facilities, and other community activity centers in downtown Virginia.	Local Unit of Government	
2021	9s	Minnesota State Trails Development	\$4,266,000	\$4,266,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to expand recreational opportunities on Minnesota state trails by rehabilitating and enhancing existing state trails and replacing or repairing existing state trail bridges...	State	
2020 (ML 2021)	9f	Minnesota Hunter Walking Trails: Public Land Recreational Access	\$260,000	\$300,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Ruffed Grouse Society to improve Minnesota's hunter walking trail system by restoring or upgrading trailheads and trails, developing new walking trails, and compiling enhanced maps for use by managers and the public.	Private	
2020 (ML 2021)	9i	Minnesota State Trails Development	\$994,000	\$994,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to expand high-priority recreational opportunities on Minnesota's state trails by rehabilitating, improving, and enhancing existing state trails...	State	
2020 (ML 2021)	9k	Superior Hiking Trail as Environmental Showcase	\$450,000	\$450,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Superior Hiking Trail Association to rebuild damaged and dangerous segments and create a new trail segment of the Superior Hiking Trail to minimize environmental impacts, make the trail safer for users, and make the trail more resilient for future use and conditions.	Private	
2020 (ML 2021)	9n	Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail (West Segment)	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Otter Tail County to construct the west segment of the 32-mile Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail that will connect the city of Pelican Rapids to Maplewood State Park.	Local Unit of Government	
2020 (ML 2021)	9p	Rocori Trail - Phase III	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Rocori Trail Construction Board to design and construct Phase III of the Rocori Trail along the old Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail corridor between the cities of Cold Spring and Rockville.	Local Unit of Government	
2020 (ML 2021)	9q	Mesabi Trail: New Trail and Additional Funding	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 the second 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 for constructing the Mesabi Trail beginning at the intersection of County Road 20 and Minnesota State Highway 135 and terminating at 1st Avenue North and 1st Street North in the city of Biwabik in St. Louis County...	Local Unit of Government	
2019	9d	Minnesota State Trails Development	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to expand high-priority recreational opportunities on Minnesota's state trails by developing new trail segments and rehabilitating, improving, and enhancing existing state trails...	State	

Table 1. Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021

Year	Subdivision	Project Title	Approximate Capital Allocation	Appropriation Language	Entity	Notes
2019	9g	Mesabi Trail Extension	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000 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 for environmental assessment, permitting, right-of-way easements or other acquisition as needed, and engineering for and construction of four trail segments beginning and ending at the following approximate locations: Darwin Meyers Wildlife Management Area to County Road 21, Embarrass to Kugler, County Road 128 to the Eagles Nest Town Hall, and Wolf Creek to the Highway 169 underpass.	Local Unit of Government	
2019	9i	Britton Peak to Lutsen Mountain Bike Trail	\$350,000	\$350,000 the first year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Superior Cycling Association to create a sustainably designed single-track mountain bike trail connecting trail clusters and trailheads between Britton Peak in Tofte and Lutsen Mountains as part of northeast Minnesota's effort to become a national recreation destination...	Private	
2019	9l	Vergas Long Lake Trail	\$290,000	\$290,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Vergas to construct a bicycle and pedestrian bridge, trail, and floating boardwalk along Long Lake including shoreline restoration and stabilization with native plants..	Local Unit of Government	
2019	9m	Glacial Edge Trail and Downtown Pedestrian Bridge	\$600,000	\$600,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Fergus Falls to acquire easements for and construct a trail along the Otter Tail River in downtown Fergus Falls and a bicycle and pedestrian bridge crossing the river...	Local Unit of Government	Also funded conservation easements
2019	9n	Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls Trail	\$400,000	\$400,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with St. Louis County in cooperation with Voyageur Country ATV Club to designate and improve a wooded trail from Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls to accommodate all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile users...	Local Unit of Government	
2019	9o	Restoring Five Sections of the Superior Hiking Trail	\$191,000	\$191,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Superior Hiking Trail Association to restore and repair the most damaged parts of five sections of the Superior Hiking Trail and restore an abandoned route to a natural footpath for hikers.	Private	
2018	9b	Develop Mesabi Trail Segment from County Road 88 to Ely	\$600,000	\$600,000 the second 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 for environmental assessment, permitting, right-of-way easements or other acquisition as needed, engineering, and construction of an approximately three-mile-long bituminous surface section of the Mesabi Trail between Ely and the intersection of Highway 169 and County Road 88...	Local Unit of Government	Also funded land acquisition
2018	9d	Mississippi Blufflands State Trail - Red Wing Barn Bluff to Colvill Park Segment	\$550,000	\$550,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Red Wing to be used with other funds to construct an approximate three-quarter-mile-long hard-surfaced segment of the Mississippi Blufflands State Trail along Red Wing's Mississippi River riverfront from Barn Bluff Regional Park to Colvill Park...	Local Unit of Government	
2018	9e	Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail Segment with Interstate State Park	\$2,254,000	\$2,254,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Chisago County Environmental Services to construct an approximate one-half-mile regional county trail segment within Interstate State Park from the end point of the existing trail at the park boundary to city hall including a trail bridge over the ravine and parking and trailhead improvements and to conduct a natural and cultural review to determine the feasibility and route of a future section of the trail through the park...	Local Unit of Government	
2018	9f	Enhancement Plan for Superior Hiking Trail	\$100,000	\$100,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Superior Hiking Trail Association to evaluate improvements to the 310-mile-long Superior Hiking Trail including routing, safety, water management, maintenance, and other environmental, recreational, and design issues and to develop an interactive trail-management system to capture efficiencies and best management practices.	Private	
2018	9j	Minnesota State Trails Development	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to expand high-priority recreational opportunities on Minnesota's state trails by developing new trail segments and rehabilitating, improving, and enhancing existing state trails...	State	
2017	9d	Minnesota State Trails Acquisition, Development and Enhancement	\$1,038,000	\$999,000 in fiscal year 2017 and \$39,000 the first year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for state trail acquisition, development, and enhancement in southern Minnesota...	State	
2017	9g	Mesabi Trail Development	\$2,269,000	\$2,269,000 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 for engineering and constructing segments of the Mesabi Trail...	Local Unit of Government	
2016	9e	Mesabi Trail Segment from Highway 135 to Town of Embarrass	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000 the second 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 for engineering and construction of segments of the Mesabi Trail, totaling approximately six miles between Highway 135 and the town of Embarrass...	Local Unit of Government	Also funded land acquisition
2016	9f	Tower Historic Harbor Trail Connections	\$679,000	\$679,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Tower to construct recreational trails along the harbor in Tower and to connect to the Mesabi Trail...	Local Unit of Government	

Table 1. Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021

Year	Subdivision	Project Title	Approximate Capital Allocation	Appropriation Language	Entity	Notes
2015	9i	Mesabi Trail Development Soudan to Ely - Phase II	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 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 for the right-of-way acquisition, design, and construction of segments of the Mesabi Trail, totaling approximately seven miles between Soudan and Ely...	Local Unit of Government	Also funded land acquisition
2014	7c	Mesabi Trail Development - Soudan to Ely Segment	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Rail Authority for the right-of-way acquisition, design, and construction of segments of the Mesabi Trail totaling approximately 11 miles east of Soudan towards Ely...	Local Unit of Government	
Other						
2021	8g	Minnesota Green Schoolyards	\$221,000	\$250,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with The Trust for Public Land to assess, promote, and demonstrate how schoolyards can be adapted to improve water, air, and habitat quality and to foster next-generation environmental stewards while improving health, education, and community outcomes.	Private	
2021	8q	Reintroducing Bison to Spring Lake Park Reserve	\$560,000	\$560,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Dakota County, in partnership with the Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd, to establish the holding facilities and infrastructure needed to reintroduce American plains bison (Bison bison) to improve the resiliency and biodiversity of the prairie at Spring Lake Park Reserve.	Local Unit of Government	
2015	3h	Reintroduction and Interpretation of Bison in Minnesota State Parks	\$417,311	\$600,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to preserve American bison by reintroducing bison to Minneopa State Park and provide interpretive learning opportunities at Blue Mounds and Minneopa State Parks...	State	
2013	4i	Conservation Grazing to Improve Wildlife Habitat on Wildlife Management Areas	\$523,628	\$600,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to develop grazing plans and provide infrastructure to support conservation grazing on approximately 10,000 acres of targeted wildlife management areas in partnership with local livestock producers...	State	

Tables 2 to 4 and Figure 1. Summary Tables and Figure.

Table 2. Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021, by Year

Year	Number of Projects			Dollar Amount		
	Capital Projects	All ENRTF Funded Projects	Capital Percentage	Capital Projects	All ENRTF Funded Projects	Capital Percentage
2013	10	41	24%	\$8,379,688	\$38,360,000	22%
2014	13	72	18%	\$7,182,235	\$30,430,000	24%
2015	17	65	26%	\$13,024,653	\$46,383,000	28%
2016	11	79	14%	\$9,054,494	\$37,909,000	24%
2017	16	65	25%	\$23,386,444	\$64,250,000	36%
2018	17	67	25%	\$16,901,302	\$45,828,000	37%
2019	21	82	26%	\$28,067,315	\$64,476,000	44%
2020	26	85	31%	\$28,879,244	\$65,319,000	44%
2021	32	89	36%	\$34,673,012	\$71,721,000	48%
Total	163	645		\$169,548,387	\$464,676,000	

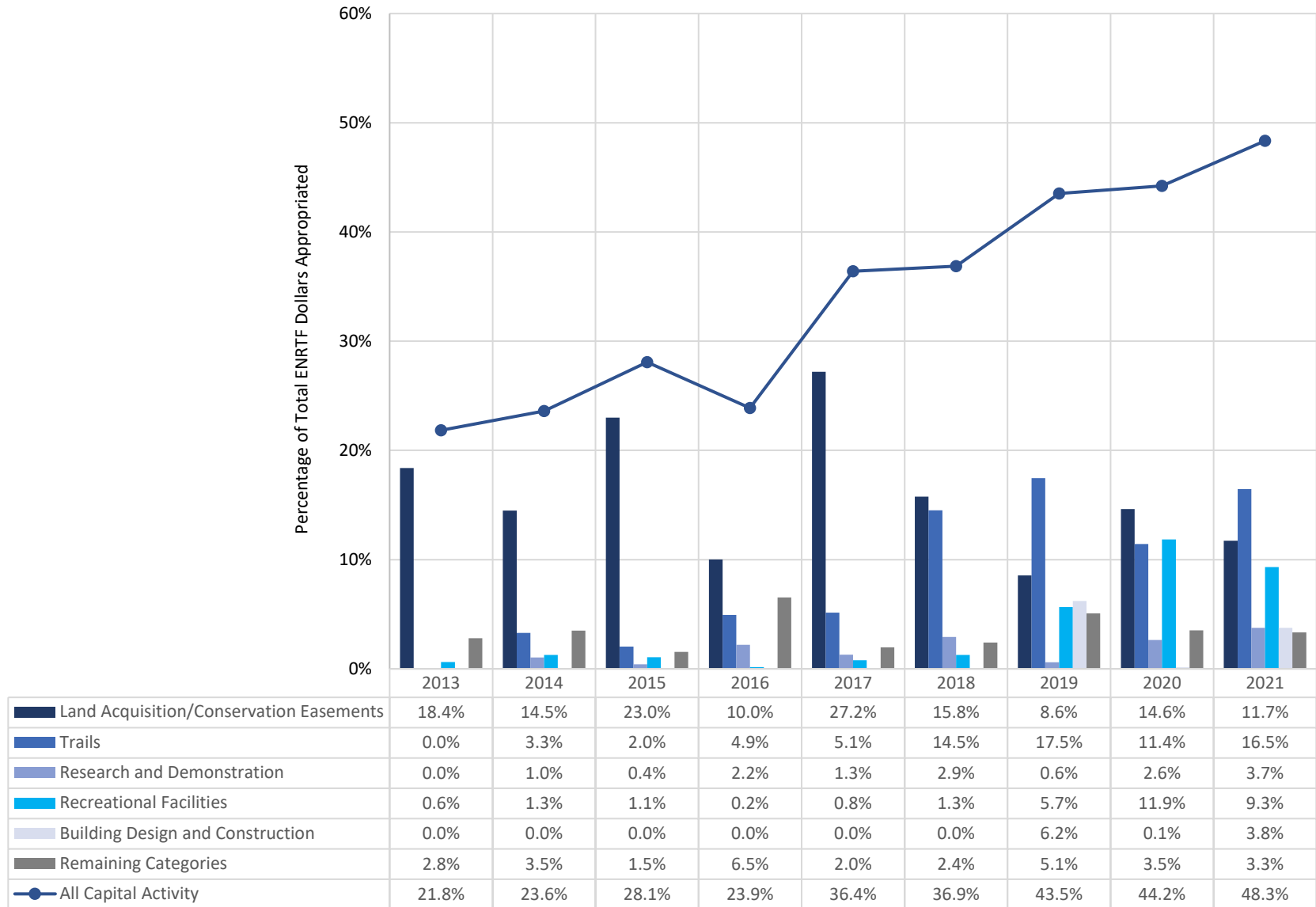
Table 3. Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021, by Category

Category	Capital Projects		Dollars		
	Number	Percentage	Amount	Percentage	Average
Building Design and/or Construction	3	1.8%	\$6,785,000	4.0%	\$2,261,667
Conservation Easement	13	8.0%	\$21,517,884	12.7%	\$1,655,222
Educational Exhibit	4	2.5%	\$1,875,254	1.1%	\$468,814
Land Acquisition	39	23.9%	\$52,604,007	31.0%	\$1,348,821
Recreational Facilities	26	16.0%	\$20,347,107	12.0%	\$782,581
Renewable Energy	5	3.1%	\$2,241,000	1.3%	\$448,200
Research and Demonstration	24	14.7%	\$8,325,021	4.9%	\$346,876
Restoration (Large-Scale)	8	4.9%	\$8,441,800	5.0%	\$1,055,225
Stormwater	3	1.8%	\$1,381,000	0.8%	\$460,333
Trail	34	20.9%	\$44,308,375	26.1%	\$1,303,188
Other	4	2.5%	\$1,721,939	1.0%	\$430,485
Total	163	100%	\$169,548,387	100%	-

Table 4. Number of Projects Appropriated ENRTF Funds for Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings (Capital Projects), 2013 to 2021

Year	Building Design and/or Construction	Conservation Easements	Educational Exhibits	Land Acquisition	Recreational Facilities	Renewable Energy	Research and Demonstration	Restoration (Large-Scale)	Stormwater	Trails	Other
2013	0	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	2	0	1
2014	0	0	1	4	1	2	3	1	0	1	0
2015	0	3	0	6	2	0	3	1	0	1	1
2016	0	1	0	3	1	1	2	1	0	2	0
2017	0	2	1	5	1	1	4	0	0	2	0
2018	0	2	2	4	1	0	3	0	0	5	0
2019	1	1	0	2	6	1	2	1	0	7	0
2020	1	1	0	7	5	0	4	2	0	6	0
2021	1	1	0	4	8	0	3	2	1	10	2

Figure 1. ENRTF Dollars Allocated to Capital Activities to Acquire or Better Land or Buildings, 2013 to 2021



Appendix D. About the LCCMR and ENRTF

About the LCCMR

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) is a commission of legislators and citizens whose primary function is to make funding recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature for special environmental and natural resources protection and enhancement projects, primarily from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). Additionally, the LCCMR tracks all projects funded through its proposal process to ensure outcome achievement. Since 1963, approximately \$1.0 billion from multiple funding sources has been awarded to more than 2,400 projects recommended to the legislature by the commission.

The LCCMR is composed of 17 members: five senators, five representatives, five citizens appointed by the governor, one citizen appointed by the Senate, and one citizen appointed by the House. Legislative members are appointed by legislative leadership and must include representation from both majority and minority parties. The citizen members appointed to the LCCMR must have experience or expertise in the science, policy, or practice of the protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's environment and natural resources.

LCCMR developed from a program initiated in 1963 to preserve, develop, and maintain the natural resources of Minnesota. The name and funding sources have changed over the years, with the most recent change in 2006, when the commission was restructured into its current form, the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, with the addition of non-legislative citizen members in order to include citizen input more directly in the decision-making process.

About the ENRTF

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) is a permanent fund in the Minnesota state treasury dedicated to funding activities that protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. The ENRTF was created in 1988 when 77% of Minnesota voters approved an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution (Art. XI, Sec.14). The ENRTF provides a long-term, consistent, and stable source of funding for Minnesota's environment and natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Money in the ENRTF originates from a combination of contributions and investment income. Forty percent of the net proceeds from the Minnesota State Lottery, or approximately seven cents of every dollar spent on playing the lottery, goes into the ENRTF, which is then managed and invested for continued growth by the State Board of Investment. Up to 5.5% of the market value of the ENRTF is available to spend on projects each year. The LCCMR makes annual project funding recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature based on a competitive, multi-step proposal and selection process.

Appendix E. Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources Members



Rep. Patty Acomb
593 State Office Bldg. (651) 296-9934
St. Paul, MN 55155
Minnetonka, MN
rep.patty.acomb@house.mn



Shona Langseth – House Appt.
500 Preston St. NW (507) 458-0319
Preston, MN 55965
Term ends – 12/31/2025
Appointed by the House on 12/22/2021
shonagi17@gmail.com



Rita Albrecht – Gov. Appt.
1911 Norton Ave NW (218) 760-8715
Bemidji, MN 56601
Term ends – 12/31/2024
Appointed by Governor on 04/05/2021
rita.c.albrecht@gmail.com



Rep. Dale Lueck
371 State Office Bldg. (651) 296-2365
St. Paul, MN 55155
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rep.dale.lueck@house.mn



Sen. Gary Dahms
*2111 Minnesota Senate Bldg. (651) 296-8138
St. Paul, MN 55155
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Redwood Falls, MN 56283
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Seth Moore – Gov. Appt.
27 Store Rd (218) 370-9310
Grand Portage, MN 55605
Term ends – 12/31/2025
Appointed by Governor on 03/07/2022
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Sen. Kari Dzedzic
*2203 Minnesota Senate Bldg. (651) 296-7809
St. Paul, MN 55155
514 3rd Avenue NE (612) 623-7758
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Rep. Kelly Morrison
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St. Paul, MN 55155
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****William Faber– Co-Vice Chair - Gov. Appt.**
7427 Cottonwood Road (218) 575-2328 (h)
Cushing, MN 56443 (218) 855-8082 (w)
Term ends – 12/31/2025
Appointed by Governor on 03/07/2022
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Appendix F. LCCMR Subcommittee on Capital Projects Members

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Rep. Dale Lueck

Michael Reese

Sen. Torrey Westrom