2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

As of March 19, 2025, the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) received 400 proposals requesting a total of $358,772,000. The amount available for appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) is approximately $103 million. This RFP process is for FY 2027 funds that become available beginning July 1, 2026.

LCCMR reviews and evaluates all proposals against their adopted evaluation criteria. On June 11, members will select high-ranking proposals to invite for presentation before the LCCMR on June 24-27, June 30, and July 1 in order to receive further consideration. On July 18, the LCCMR will meet to make final selection and funding allocation decisions. In late 2025, the commission will meet to approve appropriation bill language for these projects that will be presented to the 2026 Minnesota Legislature as the official LCCMR recommendations for spending from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
A. Resiliency (RECEIVED: 37 Proposals / Subtotal - $37,362,000)						
2026-037	Michele	Guala	Nature-Based Solutions Controlling Sedimentation and Erosion along Streambanks	We will study, envision, test, and deploy nature-based solutions to reduce erosion and preserve fish habitat at the side banks of Minnesota rivers.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$513,000
2026-050	Sara	Reagan	Increasing Resiliency in Permanently Protected Private Grasslands	Increase resiliency on approximately 1,500 acres of permanently protected private lands enrolled in the RIM Reserve Program. Resiliency will be increased through improved vegetative biodiversity on restored grasslands.	Board of Water and Soil Resources	$1,800,000
2026-072	Candace	Leong	Improving Superior National Forest's Landscape and Community Resiliency	PROPS will improve 2,630 acres on Superior National Forest to reduce high-wildfire risk. These strategic treatments will increase WUI landscape and community resilience benefitting 643,000 mixed ownership acres.	Patriot Restoration OPS (PROPS)	$4,608,000
2026-085	Sharon	Delcambre	Community Resiliency through AmeriCorps	Over three years, we will deploy 150 AmeriCorps members statewide to build community capacity and conduct projects that align with LCCMR and ENRTF's Resiliency goals.	ServeMinnesota	$4,500,000
2026-101	Anna	Cates	Visible Resilience: Soil Health for Land and Water	We will provide land managers with visual evidence of resilient agricultural management by evaluating soil response and water movement after intense rain across a gradient of agricultural management.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$574,000

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2026-105	Jessica	Kozarek	Resilient Shorelines and Resilient Habitat for Minnesota Lakes	Interactions between wind and boat waves, water levels, vegetation, and shoreline erosion will be measured in a novel lakeshore laboratory to evaluate protection and restoration approaches for resilient Minnesota lakeshores.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$760,000
2026-121	Emilie	Snell-Rood	Biochar-Based Materials and Pollution Mitigation along Roadsides	This research will produce recommendations for how to use biochar-based materials along roadsides to mitigate pollution and sequester carbon, facilitating the use of timber and agricultural waste in ecological restoration.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$823,000
2026-155	Kristin	Mroz Risse	Preparing Resilient Communities with Model Land Use Ordinances	Develop and improve Minnesota-specific model ordinances for economic, environmental, and social resilience. Facilitate cohorts and provide examples so planners can tailor the templates to their community's unique needs and priorities.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	$480,000
2026-176	Andrea	Harrell	Southbridge Community Park Revitalization Project	This project will remove diseased oak trees at Southbridge Community Park that have been infected with oak wilt. Removed trees will be replaced by planting diverse native tree species.	City of Shakopee	$358,000
2026-195	Andrew	Wickert	Forecasting Floodplain and River-Channel Change	Altered streamflow caused by climate and land-use change erode and deposit sediments, modifying river channels and floodplains. We combine data and models to predict future river form and flood potential.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$482,000
2026-205	Alicia	Coleman	Impacts of Tree Removals and Replanting for Residents	This project evaluates the impact of large-scale tree removals on residents in Minnesota cities, assessing changes in nature's benefits and supporting workshops to improve urban reforestation.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$467,000
2026-207	Dan	Shaw	Resilient and Biodiverse Community Spaces	The project focuses on resiliency and biodiversity planning for community spaces statewide and addressing several Minnesota Climate Action Framework initiatives.	Board of Water and Soil Resources	$675,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
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Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-213	Brandon	Miller	Assessing Black Walnut for Climate Resilience in Minnesota	This project will evaluate cold and drought tolerance mechanisms in black walnut to guide climate-adaptive planting and share findings through outreach and stakeholder engagement to support resilience in Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$333,000
2026-218	Joshua	Bergstad	Northwoods and Waters Community Resilience Collaborative	The Collaborative will create a Regional Resilience Plan uniting NE and Central MN counties, Tribal Nations, and agencies to address climate adaptation with sustainable land, water, infrastructure, and energy solutions.	Arrowhead Regional Development Commission	$1,516,000
2026-226	Brett	Barney	Microbial Systems to Improve Soil Resilience to Drought	We will study the resiliency of soils collected from across Minnesota to capture water from precipitation, and determine which natural soil microbes can extend this resiliency through biological geoengineering.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$561,000
2026-229	Jan	Joannides	Perennials for Climate Resiliency on Minnesota Private Lands	Private landowners will gain knowledge of the benefits of perennials and increase perennial plantings on their land through technical, financial and labor assistance and peer networks	Renewing the Countryside	$672,000
2026-265	Eric	Schenck	Enhancing Forest Resilience through Collaborative Partnerships	This proposal addresses forest resiliency challenges due to climate and land-use changes in Minnesota's forests through strategic research, regional planning, and experiential professional training in collaboration with MFRC stakeholder communities.	Minnesota Forest Resources Council	$980,000
2026-273	Marcella	Windmuller-Campione	Increasing Ecological and Economic Resiliency in Aspen Forests	Aspen is Minnesota's most abundant forest community. Most aspen forests are monocultures and have limited ecological and economic resiliency. Can we harvest and plant to increase diversity and resiliency?	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$485,000
2026-282	Valerie	McClannahan	Protect Community Forests for Community Resiliency	Project will reduce impacts of EAB through community management (inventory, planting assessment, management plan, removal, non-neonicotinoid treatment) and improve community forests by involving residents and planting a diversity of trees.	MN DNR, Forestry Division	$3,500,000

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Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-295	Mingzi	Xu	Impact of Temperature and Microhabitat on Insect Reproduction	This project investigates the effect of winter temperature on insect mating behaviors and test hypothesis of microhabitat choice as a potential behavioral adaptation to temperature variation.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$450,000
2026-298	Charles	Lippert	Identifying Flooding Hazards on Mille Lacs Tribal Lands	Hydrologic and hydraulic models will be developed for the Big Sandy Lake and upper Rice River watersheds to map flood-prone areas and identify restrictive infrastructure that may contribute to flooding.	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	$900,000
2026-303	Veluchamy	Chitraichamy	Greenhouse Gas Mitigation in Minnesota Livestock Farming	This project focuses on monitoring and mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from poultry farm and processors across Minnesota by integrating satellite imagery with ML models to track methane and carbon-dioxide.	U of MN, West Central Research and Outreach Center	$406,000
2026-322	Haley	Smith	Developing Wetland Resilience in Voyageurs National Park	Increase resilience and ecosystem services wetlands provide by assessing and improving biometric indicators, creating a network of climate appropriate rice seed sources, and growing resilient native plants.	National Park Service, Voyageurs National Park	$774,000
2026-334	Rachel	Gregg	Scandia Cemetery Shoreline Restoration Project	Shoreline restoration project within Scandia Cemetery property consisting of a concrete retaining wall and nature-based stabilization methods to prevent continual grave exposure and combat Lake Superior extreme weather events.	St. Louis County	$2,550,000
2026-368	Vivian	Ferry	Improving Extreme Weather Resilience with Thermally Adaptive Materials	Development of large-area, thermally adaptive architectural materials that improve resilience to extreme and variable weather by reducing energy demands of buildings.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$781,000
2026-392	Emily	Fairfax	Minnesota Beaver Dams as Natural Infrastructure	Develop a complete and generalizable hydrologic model for Minnesota beaver dams as a form of natural infrastructure, measuring and modeling their influence on hydrologic processes and associated environmental impacts	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$791,000

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Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-414	Heidi	Roop	Accelerating Climate Adaptation Across Minnesota's Nature-Based Tourism Economy	In collaboration with businesses and communities, we will develop highly-localized insights about the costs, benefits, and tradeoffs associated with future extreme weather and resiliency investments across Minnesota's nature-based tourism economy.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$400,000
2026-421	Roger	Ruan	Electrified Nitrogen Fixation for Localized, On-Demand Fertilization	This project develops a novel non-thermal plasma technology to replace the Haber-Bosch process with renewable electricity and nitrogen dissociation for greener production of liquid nitrogen fertilizers.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$850,000
2026-438	Ce	Yang	Wildfire Early Detection and Prescribed-Burn Management Using Drones	We propose to develop an autonomous drone swarm system equipped with advanced sensors to enhance wildfire detection and monitor prescribed burns to improve air quality management and wildfire response strategies.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$749,000
2026-464	Natasha	Wright	Advancing Dehydration Technologies for Resilient Minnesota Food Systems	We will enable resilient food systems by defining opportunities and developing technology for solar drying and curing in Minnesota with three distinct farmer groups.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$368,000
2026-481	Isaac	Haagen	Resilient Dairy Calf Systems to Support Minnesota's Communities	This project will support more resilient dairy farm systems in the face of increased extreme weather events in MN. In turn, this will support strong rural communities.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$406,000
2026-508	Sabine	Engel	Climate-Smart Counties and Communities: Collaborative Resiliency Solutions	This project proposes a novel way to help rural and small communities and counties across Minnesota develop and implement locally-driven resiliency plans that tap world-class expertise in Minnesota and Germany.	U of MN, Institute on the Environment	$975,000
2026-511	Axel	Garcia y Garcia	Optimizing Oilseed Production for Sustainable Aviation Fuel	This proposal aims to establish best production and environmental practices for incorporating winter camelina into the corn-soybean rotation in Minnesota. This work will benefit Minnesota farmers and residents of Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$507,000

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2026-515	Jannell	Bazurto	Plant-Growth Promoting Microbes for Prairie Resilience and Restoration	We will use stress-protective microbes from native Minnesotan plants to stimulate growth and improve the resilience of prominent prairie plants to support and enhance restoration efforts.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$356,000
2026-544	Wenqing	Zhang	Sustainable Food Security, Ecosystem Restoration, and Indigenous Empowerment	SFSEIIC combats Indigenous food insecurity through community-driven agriculture, ecosystem restoration, and improved local supply chains, empowering communities with culturally-tailored foods, capacity building, and a comprehensive directory of traditional food resources.	U of MN, Duluth	$620,000
2026-579	Lucas	Sjostrom	Farmer-Led Delivery of Natural Resource Outcomes	Implement a transformative approach to enhancing natural resource restoration outcomes through farmer-led initiatives. It will also promote collaboration with the private sector and conservation organizations to accelerate environmental improvements.	Minnesota Milk Producers Association	$922,000
2026-585	Karl	Anderson	AI Powered Greenhouses: Strengthening Rural Food Security	This project demonstrates AI-driven greenhouse technology to optimize food production, sustainability, and resource efficiency in rural Minnesota, integrating real-time monitoring, adaptive management, and student training for scalable agricultural innovation.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Northwest Technical College	$470,000
					Subtotal	**$37,362,000**
A. Resiliency **G. Small Projects (RECEIVED: 17 Proposals / Subtotal - $3,303,000)**						
2026-082	Andrej	Pilipovic	Pioneer Tree Species Assisted Migration for Resilient Forests	We will identify populations of native poplar species across Minnesota, identify superior parent trees, and create collections of most promising material adapted to climate scenarios for assisted migration.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	$171,000
2026-157	Brandon	Miller	Evaluating Climate-Ready Native Shrubs for Resilient Managed Landscapes	This project will assess underutilized native shrubs from Minnesota to determine their suitability for use in challenging settings to improve overall landscape resiliency in the face of a changing climate.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$239,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
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Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-194	Jacob	Jungers	Spatially Targeting Perennial Grains for Maximum Environmental Value	Kernza is a deep-rooted perennial crop that yields nutritious grains under drought conditions. We'll create tools to identify ideal locations for Kernza production in Minnesota under various climate change scenarios.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$299,000
2026-249	Christina	VanDeventer	Artesian Well	Restoration of Artesian Well	Hometown Resilience Foundation	$40,000
2026-325	Seth	Wannemuehler	Resiliency through Sustainable Management of Viburnum Leaf Beetle	This project assesses Viburnum plant susceptibility to Viburnum Leaf Beetle, examining temperature and light effects on feeding, development, and survival to provide statewide stakeholders with effective management recommendations.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$269,000
2026-381	Monica	Haynes	Building Resilient Communities: Data-Driven Insights for Local Action	Supporting community resilience by helping communities in northeastern Minnesota address natural and socio-economic challenges through data-driven insights, stakeholder engagement, and the community capitals framework.	U of MN, Duluth	$74,000
2026-383	Julie	Etterson	Impacts of Drought and Biodiversity on Prairie Plants	The project will measure the next-generation impacts of biodiversity and drought on prairie plants through gene expression, disease exposure, and metabolism measurements.	U of MN, Duluth	$94,000
2026-419	Juer	Liu	Waste Textiles Chemical Recycling via Catalytic Microwave-Assisted Depolymerization	This project develops a catalytic microwave-assisted depolymerization process to efficiently convert waste textiles into reusable monomers, promoting sustainable, low-energy textile recycling and supporting circular economy principles.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
2026-440	Mikael	Elias	Biotechnologies for Sustainable Mining of Critical Metals	This project pioneers protein-based biotechnology to create an eco-friendly "mining-of-the future" in Minnesota, developing engineered proteins to selectively extract critical metals, reducing chemical–based clean-up and minimizing environmental impact.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$280,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
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Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-451	Todd	Rexine	Implementing Biochar in Natural System Management	The project will advance scaling biochar for Natural Resource Management of wood waste, leading biochar demonstrations, and documenting the effects on soil nutrient levels in buckthorn-infested landscapes.	Great River Greening	$300,000
2026-477	Paul	Chen	Catalytic Microwave-Assisted Pyrolysis of Waste Printed Circuit Boards	This project explores catalytic microwave-assisted pyrolysis for efficient metal recovery and non-metallic fraction decomposition from waste printed circuit boards (WPCBs), while developing multi-functional catalysts for bromine recovery from WPCBs.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
2026-512	Heather	Arends	Updating the Twin Cities Aggregate Resources Inventory	The DNR will update the seven-county metro aggregate resource inventory to address a projected shortage by 2029, ensuring sustainable land-use planning and infrastructure	MN DNR, Lands and Minerals Division	$300,000
2026-528	Taylor	Guenther	Mahnomen EAB Preparation Project	The City of Mahnomen seeks funds to remove and replace ash trees that currently make up 67.5% of the community's urban canopy, while also addressing food insecurity.	City of Mahnomen	$62,000
2026-538	Lian	Shen	Wind Resource Assessment for Minnesota Energy Resiliency	To enhance Minnesota's energy resiliency, we will develop a high-resolution wind resource forecasting tool validated by in-situ measurements, specifically targeting improved predictions during extreme winter weather and turbine icing events.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$289,000
2026-545	Dan	MacSwain	Increasing Forest Resiliency, Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park	Increase Forest Resiliency in Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park by implementing forest management practices to reverse Mesophication.	Washington County	$175,000
2026-587	Grayson	Smith	Terra Nova Schoolyard Prairie Project	Schoolyard prairie restoration project at Terra Nova School, restoring 2 acres of turf grass to native prairie & enhancing 0.5 acres of previously restored prairie, affording student participation & education.	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Midwest Region	$11,000
2026-589	Mark	Valdez	Bringing Upstream's Environmental Education to Minnesota	With funding, Mixed Blood (MB) will adapt and tour Upstream, an interactive play that educates audiences to make sustainable choices for themselves and their community as they navigate environmental challenges.	Mixed Blood Theatre	$100,000

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					Subtotal	**$3,303,000**
B. Water (RECEIVED: 53 Proposals / Subtotal - $51,312,000)						
2026-055	Hua	Zhao	Eliminating Phenolic Compounds from Water Using Enzyme Filter	This project will study the biodegradation of phenolic compounds in water by an enzyme (laccase), and design an enzyme membrane filter to capture and destroy phenolic compounds in Minnesota waters.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$390,000
2026-063	Judy	Yang	Floating Wetlands for Microplastic and Pathogen Removal	This project will design and optimize floating treatment wetlands to cost-effectively remove microplastics and pathogens like E. coli, enhancing water quality after the treatment of Minnesota's storm water ponds.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$522,000
2026-070	Jim	Hauth	Vadnais Lake: Nature-Based Recreation and Drinking Water Protection	Project will combine creation of critical water quality improvement ponds with educational and recreational elements, connecting underserved community members with natural resources, protecting drinking water, and promoting water stewardship.	City of Vadnais Heights	$3,616,000
2026-088	Kari	Kennedy	Twin Cities PBS Almanac Environment and Natural Resources Desk	TPT's Almanac proposes a new, statewide Environment & Natural Resources Desk, amplifying stories of Minnesota's water, environment, and other natural resources, and the issues, policies, solutions, and people that intersect.	Twin Cities Public Television	$673,000
2026-106	Jessica	Kozarek	Minnesota Ice: River Ice Dynamics and Resiliency	Advance knowledge of Minnesota's river and stream ice dynamics by developing affordable GPS ice trackers, deploying cameras, and combining field data with novel experiments, informing riverbank and community resiliency planning.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$431,000
2026-116	Colleen	O'Connor Toberman	Studying Dam Removal Feasibility for the Mississippi Gorge	Assessing the feasibility, environmental benefits, river restoration potential, and costs of dam removal for two locks and dams in the Mississippi River gorge.	Friends of the Mississippi River	$1,099,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
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2026-124	William	Arnold	Protecting Minnesota's Waters from Plastic- and Rubber-Derived Chemicals	Strategies to protect surface and groundwater from pollutants leached from polymers, coatings, plastics, and tire rubbers using stormwater treatment will be developed by assessing pollutant sources, presence, and reactivity.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$600,000
2026-128	Alison	Ling	Best Practices for PFAS Phase-Outs in Minnesota	This project seeks to protect Minnesota's natural resources from ongoing PFAS pollution by providing guidance and resources to help companies identify, phase-out, and limit PFAS in products.	University of St. Thomas	$385,000
2026-137	Dale	Reed	Polar Lakes Park Water Reuse for Irrigation	Polar Lakes Park Water Reuse Project will offset groundwater use by using surface water to irrigate 18 acres of athletic fields at Polar Lakes Park in White Bear Township.	White Bear Township	$1,044,000
2026-164	Chan Lan	Chun	Public Toolbox to Forecast Toxic Cyanobacteria Blooms	This project will develop a field-deployable toolbox, "Cyanodetector", for detecting harmful algal blooms and forecasting cyanobacterial toxins to protect public health and manage recreational water advisories.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	$550,000
2026-168	Veluchamy	Chitraichamy	Integrating Biological-Carbon Capture and Microalgae for Sustainable Biofuel Production	This study will investigate the potential use of swine wastewater as a growth medium for the microalgae, with a focus on biological carbon capture and sustainable biofuel production	U of MN, West Central Research and Outreach Center	$641,000
2026-169	Alexander	Frie	PFAS in Precipitation: Assessing a Critical Statewide Threat	PFAS contaminates Minnesota's natural resources through rainfall and snowfall. This project will support statewide, multi-year, measurements of PFAS in rain and snow and investigate associated sources.	U of MN, Duluth - Sea Grant	$1,095,000
2026-179	Andrew	Wickert	Enabling Widespread Real-Time River-Flow and Habitat Monitoring	Advance and augment Minnesota's stream-gauging network by developing and deploying low-cost and open-source devices that combine cameras and laser rangefinders to monitor water depth, water velocity, and streambed changes.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$688,000

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2026-187	Tyler	Dale	Wood Based Biochar for Water or Soil Improvements	This project expands Washington County's wood waste utilization program for biochar production for local surface water quality and soil health projects and analyzes beneficial biochar uses and life cycle.	Washington County	$2,083,000
2026-203	Benjamin	Maas	Assessment of Microplastic Pollution in Karst Aquifers	We will determine the nature and extent of microplastic pollution in shallow karst aquifers, identify potential sources, and assess human and ecosystem health implications to inform mitigation and prevention strategies.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Metropolitan State University	$472,000
2026-206	Traian	Dumitrica	Graphene Oxide Nanofiltration Membranes for Water Remediation	Graphene-based membranes for removing inorganic and organic contaminants, including PFAS, from water will be developed through nanofiltration molecular-level modeling and experimental advancements in membrane processing and testing.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$838,000
2026-209	Jeff	Havig	Assessing Salt Impact on Minnesota Lake Health	The proposed work will characterize the chemistry, microbiology, and primary productivity of healthy lakes and compare them to 'at risk' and 'impacted' lakes to evaluate how salt effects lake health.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$651,000
2026-210	Nicholas	Leonard	Ash Recovery and Recycling Center	Water resources in Otter Tail County are priceless. Minnesota has spent hundreds of millions on landfill cleanup. This proposal will protect water by reversing the landfilling process and recycling instead.	Otter Tail County	$1,270,000
2026-230	Rita	Weaver	Storage: A Real Solution within Production and Conservation	Acting almost like rural stormwater management, adding storage basins within drainage systems provide both agricultural drainage and water quality benefits, and are supported by both environmental groups and agricultural producers.	Board of Water and Soil Resources	$8,000,000
2026-248	David	Duffey	PFAS and Microplastics: Potential Impacts of Environmental Co-Occurrence	Analyze water, sediment, and fish for PFAS and microplastics to determine whether co-occurrence has an impact on bioaccumulation.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	$765,000

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2026-280	Satoshi	Ishii	Uncovering Drivers of Fecal Contamination in Minnesota's Waters	This project will identify the sources and influencing factors of fecal contamination in Minnesota's surface waters and provide a decision support tool for water managers.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$500,000
2026-286	Chuck	Kendall	Community Led Water Quality Initiative, Twin Lakes Chain	To replicate the remarkable water quality improvement on Middle and Lower Twin Lakes that was achieved on Upper Twin Lake, during a two-year demonstration project utilizing a unique, innovative technology.	Twin Lake Association	$449,000
2026-297	James	Cotner	Increasing Fish Habitat and Water Quality in Lakes	Many lakes and ponds in Minnesota are increasingly lacking dissolved oxygen which leads to water quality and fish habitat problems. We will examine the effectiveness of a commercial mitigation system.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$616,000
2026-312	Kun	Zhang	Optimal Sampling Design for Tracking Impairments in Streams	Because agencies have limited resources and capacity to monitor streams at adequate resolution to assess stream health, we will use advanced computational approaches to develop and evaluate optimal sampling designs.	U of MN, Duluth	$329,000
2026-331	Mitch	Robinson	Brookdale Park Shingle Creek Restoration and Access Improvements	This small-scale project will stabilize and enhance Shingle Creek at Brookdale Park to improve habitat and water quality. Complementary efforts will renovate the adjacent recreational trail to increase public access.	City of Brooklyn Park	$410,000
2026-333	Devanshi	Khokhani	Mitigating Diseases in Oilseed Crops for Clean Water	We aim to mitigate diseases in soil and water-friendly oilseed crops, such as pennycress and camelina, by characterizing pathogens, assessing resistance, and improving management.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$403,000
2026-342	Beatriz	Baselga Cervera	Algal Blooms in Minnesota Lakes from Wildfires	Minnesotans live the lake life, taking pride in protecting their lakes. We will explore connections between wildfires and harmful algal blooms, to help guarantee our lakes' permanent health and value.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$682,000

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2026-349	Beth	Fisher	Restoring Floodplains for Nitrate Removal and Habitat Expansion	Watershed management organizations along the Minnesota River aim to reduce nutrient loads and hydrologic impacts. This project prioritizes floodplain restoration sites to decrease nutrient pollution and enhance ecosystem function.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Minnesota State University Mankato	$533,000
2026-366	Tyler	Nelson	Drone-Based Multispectral Forecasting of Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms	This project uses drone-based multispectral imaging and AI to monitor and predict cyanobacteria harmful algal blooms and toxin risks in Minnesota lakes, providing early warnings to protect lake health/communities.	Real Vision Drones	$750,000
2026-374	Shaobo	Deng	Plasma System for PFAS Remediation: Integration and Validation	Develop and validate a commercially viable 60 gph plasma system and pre-post treatment that can be scaled upward to eradicate PFAS from common water sources, resulting in CaF_2 and H_2O.	U of MN, Southern Research and Outreach Center	$862,000
2026-382	Qizhi	He	Determining Fracture Characteristics for Karst Groundwater Flow Modeling	We use new software to identify and investigate geometric and hydraulic properties of fractured aquifers needed for accurately modeling flow and pollutant transport. This development involves artificial intelligence/machine learning.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$581,000
2026-398	Mikael	Elias	Removing Microplastics from Minnesota Waters	Microplastics contaminate water, soils, and humans in Minnesota and beyond. This project leverages the characterization and AI-guided enzyme engineering to optimize microplastic degradation for scalable implementation to clean drinking water.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$598,000
2026-412	Christine	Dolph	Dam Failure: Understanding Consequences for Nutrients and Sediments	Evaluate how dam failure impacts river corridor change and the storage and transport of sediment and nutrients in the Blue Earth River Basin, with implications for aging dams statewide.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$1,892,000
2026-415	Todd	Matvick	Immersion Cooling AI Computing in a Microgrid Environment	This proposal seeks funding to implement an innovative immersion cooling system for artificial intelligence (AI) computing within a microgrid environment. By eliminating the need for traditional water-based cooling HVAC systems.	Ascentek Inc	$500,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
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2026-424	Dave	Holt	Restoring Wild Rice Waters: Sulfate and Mercury Treatment	This project tests a Biological Sulfate Reduction System (BSRS) to treat sulfate and sequester mercury, improving the health of wild rice waters and protecting aquatic ecosystems in northern Minnesota.	White Iron Chain of Lakes Association	$785,000
2026-425	John	Nieber	Drainage Tools for Minimizing Downstream Impacts	This project will help understand how agricultural drainage changes downstream hydrology and create tools that will help improve drainage design to minimize the impacts of high flow, sediment, and pollutants.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$421,000
2026-437	Timothy	LaPara	Preventing Legionnaires' Disease via Improved Drinking Water Management	This project will investigate drinking water supplies for their ability to grow bacteria that cause Legionnaires' disease and development treatment strategies to mitigate the rise posed by these organisms.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$925,000
2026-442	Junaed	Sattar	Technology and Education to Address Water Quality Monitoring Challenges	This project creates a robotic sensor system, with multiple pods retrieved by an autonomous underwater vehicle, to assess water quality among Minnesota's watersheds.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$729,000
2026-447	Tianhong	Cui	Cheap Portable Sensor to Detect PFAS in Water	We propose to develop a cheap, accurate, and easy-to-use sensor for detection of PFAS in water. It can be used for natural water monitoring and drinking water detection of PFAS.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$369,000
2026-454	Jiwei	Zhang	Fungal-Amended Biofiltration System for Enhanced Remediation of Water	This project aims to discover a resilient, high-performing fungal species that can amend a versatile nature-based biofiltration system to boost the efficacy of pollutant treatment in Minnesota waters.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$414,000
2026-465	Kerry	Holmberg	Managing Climate using Inverse Modeling: Central Sands Aquifer	Past climate can be estimated using lake-bed coring. SWAT and MODFLOW Models have been developed with ENRTF. Engage tribes, industry, and local government using inverse modeling to seek win-win solutions.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$884,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-473	Barbara	Lusardi	Geologic Atlases for Water Resource Management	Geologic atlases provide maps/databases essential for improved management of ground and surface water. This proposal will complete current projects and start new projects to equal about 4 complete atlases.	U of MN, MN Geological Survey	$1,455,000
2026-478	Stephen	Kells	Mating Confusion to Protect Wild Rice Habitats	Developing a system that reduces damage to wild rice through the natural interruption of pest mating behavior, promoting natural and cultivated crop production that is more environmentally and economically sustainable.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$608,000
2026-503	David	Mulla	Protecting Drinking Water from Nitrates in Southeast Minnesota	This project engages stakeholders in adopting alternative Continuous Living Cover (CLC) to protect groundwater from nitrate pollution. We will quantify the impact of CLC crops through environmental and economic modeling.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$515,000
2026-505	John	Downing	Protecting 1000 Northern Lakes from Septic System Effluent	We will hire a knowledgeable septic system extension educator to train peer advisors to work together with neighbors to reduce the anxiety and cost surrounding septic improvement.	Itasca Waters	$467,000
2026-507	John	Sartori	Innovative Pollutant Sensors for Surface Water Monitoring	Minnesota's waters face pollution threats missed by current monitoring. Our team develops low-cost, AI-powered sensor networks for real-time water quality insights, aiding agencies, businesses, and communities in proactive environmental protection.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$496,000
2026-514	Otto	Strack	Subsurface Irrigation Design	We develop tools for designing subsurface irrigation systems in Minnesota's agricultural system, helping to conserve our valuable water resources.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$363,000
2026-539	Lian	Shen	Ice on the Lake	This project develops precise predictive models for the ice dynamics and water waves to enhance safety, protect critical infrastructure, and support sustainable economic activities in Minnesota's lakes, particularly Lake Superior.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$529,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-542	Ben	Nelson	Anoka Rum River Dam Reconstruction and Modification Project	Project includes pre-design/design for reconstruction and improvements to the Anoka Rum River Dam; restoring fish passage, recreation, pedestrian bridge, and safety near the confluence with the Mississippi River.	City of Anoka	$4,575,000
2026-552	Courtney	Kowalczak	Lake Superior River Watch	Revitalize the River Watch program in the Lake Superior watershed, by engaging students, secondary to undergraduate, in water quality monitoring and analysis to support Minnesota's stewardship efforts.	Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College	$420,000
2026-563	Mindy	Phillips	Red Lake Nation Long-Term Continuous Monitoring Buoys	Red Lake Nation will install three long-term buoys on Upper and Lower Red Lakes and Lake of the Woods to continuously monitor real-time publicly available water quality data.	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	$1,033,000
2026-573	Morgan	Schafer	CWF Green Infrastructure Proposal	This project integrates solar energy and stormwater management on government-owned properties, providing affordable clean energy, reducing runoff, improving water quality, and engaging communities in sustainable practices.	Clean Water Fund	$720,000
2026-575	Aaron	Hirsch	Airborne Geophysical Reconnaissance of Groundwater Resources, Northwestern Minnesota	Conduct reconnaissance airborne electromagnetic (AEM) surveys to determine how to improve mapping of the limited known aquifers in northwest Minnesota, which are experiencing increased groundwater use.	U of MN, MN Geological Survey	$686,000
					Subtotal	**$51,312,000**
B. Water **G. Small Projects (RECEIVED: 22 Proposals / Subtotal - $5,276,000)**						
2026-026	Natalie	Warren	Investigating Policy Implementation: Minnesota's One Watershed One Plan	We will investigate the implementation of Minnesota's One Watershed, One Plan in the Mississippi River Basin, focusing on stakeholder experiences, challenges, and successes to improve watershed management and inform policy.	U of MN, Humphrey School of Public Affairs	$203,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-034	Dalma	Martinovic-Weigelt	Statewide Risk Estimates for Contaminants of Emerging Concern	Compile and analyze Minnesota's Contaminant of Emerging Concern occurrence data for lakes and rivers collected over two decades to generate ecological risk estimates for freshwater conservation and restoration purposes.	University of St. Thomas	$175,000
2026-054	Andrew	Wickert	Why are Minnesota's Floods Larger and More Frequent?	(1) Assess statewide extent of intensified flooding. (2) Attribute flooding to changes in rainfall and snowfall patterns, land cover, and/or agricultural drainage. (3) Support flood-mitigation strategies.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$299,000
2026-084	Matthew	Petersen	Enhancing the Integrity of Minnesota's Waterway Bioassessment	Water quality bioassessment using aquatic insects can be improved using DNA-based methods. This approach increases taxonomic resolution and will better detect temporal and spatial variation of Minnesota’s water quality.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$299,000
2026-126	Matt	Drewitz	Nutrient Reduction Tracking in Minnesota	The MPCA proposes to build an easy-to-use, interactive web-based dashboard to provide context for water quality data and show progress from nutrient-reducing work across the state.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	$300,000
2026-136	David	Mitchell	What the Microorganisms in Our Water Tell Us	This proposal involves isolating and counting microorganisms in local waterways to look for changes or patterns related to water flow, mixing, and evolutionary pressures while training students for environmental careers.	College of Saint Benedict	$151,000
2026-139	Lindsay	Pease	Nitrogen Management Benefits of Three Conservation Drainage Practices	This project quantifies the nitrogen management tradeoffs of three conservation drainage practices by measuring water quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and soil nutrient availability for crops.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$265,000
2026-156	Larry	Vollmar	Invasive Weed Control on Cedar Lake, Scott County	Our organization is seeking to purchase a Mechanical Weed Harvester to supplement our herbicide treatment of the invasive Curly leaf Pondweed currently threatening Cedar Lake, Scott County.	Cedar Lake Improvement District	$102,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-294	Samantha	Wells	Regenerative Agriculture: Sustaining Rural Livelihoods and Protecting Water	This project advances Regenerative Agriculture by integrating wide-row corn with forage crops to improve farm profitability and water quality, reducing nitrate leaching while supporting rural economies through sustainable livestock grazing.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
2026-323	Melissa	Green	Streambank Scour Effects of Reed Canary Grass	Flume and field-scale experimental stream measurements will quantify effects of reed canary grass and other streambank vegetation on streamflow patterns and bank erosion to inform Minnesota stream and floodplain restoration.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$298,000
2026-341	John	Chapman	Road Salt Phytoremediation by Invasive Cattail Harvest	This project investigates the effectiveness of invasive cattails in removing salt from stormwater ponds, aiming to develop sustainable management practices and enhance ecological health through cattail harvesting and community engagement.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
2026-343	Mary	Schneider	Loretto Water Treatment Pilot Study	This pilot study was recommended by city engineers to prepare for preliminary design of a water treatment facility that would account for elevated levels of iron, ammonia, and manganese.	City of Loretto	$68,000
2026-401	Jeff	Forester	Organizing Aquatic Invasive Species Efforts to Bridge Silos	MLR P&E aims to expand civic organizing efforts to bridge gaps between stakeholders in AIS management, leveraging successful pilots to increase efficiency, improve cross-county collaboration, and reduce AIS spread.	Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Protection and Education	$190,000
2026-445	Robyn	Dwight	Keep it Clean Winterized Sani-Dump Stations	Infrastructure for the safe collection and removal of raw sewage/waste from ice shelter holding tanks throughout the winter fishing season.	Upper Red Lake Area Association	$275,000
2026-470	Craig	Hill	Continuously Monitored Mesotrophic Lakes: Healthy Waters, Thriving Fisheries	Continuous long-term temperature and water quality monitoring in adjacent mesotrophic lakes under similar environmental forcing helps understand response to climate and human impacts and the implications on fisheries and recreation.	U of MN, Duluth	$299,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-486	Peter	Bruggeman	Mitigating Short-Chain Forever Chemicals for a PFAS-Free Minnesota	The project addresses the remediation of short-chain PFAS that are irreversibly accumulating in water streams and are largely inadequately removed by currently implemented PFAS mitigation processes.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$299,000
2026-488	Andy	Erickson	Achieving Water Quality Goals by Educating Watershed Practitioners	The project will create a curriculum that will enhance the technical capacity of water quality practitioners responsible for making watershed planning and project implementation decisions to maximize public benefit.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$85,000
2026-491	Christian	Lenhart	Improving Wetland Restoration Outcomes through a University-Led Center	Analysis and planning would be done to improve wetland restoration strategies in Minnesota. Short classes will be developed and long-term monitoring sites supported to inform restoration outcomes, focusing on peatlands.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$272,000
2026-493	Jason	Amundsen	Atmospheric Water Collection Project for Farmers	Requested funding is to help prototype and test mobile 48-volt atmospheric water generators to produce water for agriculture. These devices are powered by batteries and solar electricity.	Amundsen Farms, Inc.	$291,000
2026-495	Jeffrey	Strock	Taking Action to Quantify Tradeoffs of Intermediate Wheatgrass	This project will measure plant, soil, and drainage components to anticipate adjustments to soil fertility requirements and water quality improvements or impairments associated with transition from IWG to row crops.	U of MN, Southwest Research and Outreach Center	$300,000
2026-496	Kui	Hu	It's-Not Funny! Minnesota's Trout Streams are at Risk	Didymo, a nuisance alga in our pristine North Shore streams, is now a risk to invade other trout streams. Statewide surveys and community science lead to stream risk assessment.	Science Museum of Minnesota	$300,000
2026-534	Jeff	Forester	Expand Lake Steward to Protect/Restore Minnesota Shorelines	Scale up Lake Steward Program to reach the tipping point for social change adoption (15% adoption) and protect/restore Minnesota's natural shorelines and improve water quality and aquatic habitat.	Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Protection and Education	$205,000
					Subtotal	**$5,276,000**
C. Education and Outdoor Recreation (RECEIVED: 69 Proposals / Subtotal - $108,183,000)						

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-010	David	Remucal	Cultivate, Connect, and Train Minnesota's Young Conservation Scientists	Produce 2,000 young environmental scientists from diverse classrooms across MN. Create lasting appreciation for Minnesota's natural heritage through immersive leading-edge research by working with professional conservation researchers.	U of MN, Landscape Arboretum	$567,000
2026-027	Beth	Becker	Inspiring and Connecting the Next Generations with Nature	Engage 30,000 Minnesota youth in outdoor experiences that create a love for the environment.	YMCA of the North	$5,163,000
2026-045	Matt	Kumka	Cullen Nature Preserve	To complete restoration of the Cullen Nature Preserve (including rare oak savanna habitat) and provide public access highlighting ecological restoration and an opportunity to connect with this unique ecosystem.	City of Minnetonka	$688,000
2026-069	Seth	Thompson	Fostering Local Leaders for Water Stewardship in Minnesota	We will implement a statewide environmental leadership development program that educates and equips people with requisite knowledge, resources, and skills to lead community action for water health.	Freshwater Society	$880,000
2026-076	Jared	Smith	Tree Trust Career Pathways Green Industry Workforce Development	Tree Trust will equip 45 young adults with technical and transferable skills and employer connections for green industry careers. Participants will receive paid, hands-on training while stewarding community green spaces.	Tree Trust	$730,000
2026-080	Elaine	Evans	Increasing Pollinator Conservation Action Through Education and Engagement	A comprehensive pollinator education program for volunteers, veterans, and beekeepers will increase pollinator conservation awareness and adoption of action steps. Volunteers will collect data to inform pollinator conservation recommendations.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$518,000
2026-086	Robert	Blair	Flyway Fellows: Engaging Teachers in Bird Migration Education	Deliver professional development to 60 teachers across three Minnesota regions in bird monitoring practices, empowering them to engage 7,000 students in scientific research and support Mississippi Flyway conservation efforts.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$535,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-093	Anna	Callahan	Minnesota Community Schoolyards	Minnesota Community Schoolyards will create at least 4 nature-focused habitat improvement projects at schoolyards across the state; engage students and the community in environmental stewardship; and encourage outdoor learning.	The Trust for Public Land	$1,997,000
2026-110	Jennifer	Vieth	Trail Restoration at Carpenter Nature Center	Carpenter Nature Center is seeking funding to re-pave 1.9 miles of walking trails.	Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center	$761,000
2026-114	Philip	Wacholz	Freeborn County Regional Trail	This project is to construct a 6.4-mile-long paved trail in Freeborn County between the cities of Albert Lea and Manchester.	Freeborn County	$2,500,000
2026-135	Kellee	Omlid	North Creek Greenway Trails and Trailhead Construction Project	Constructing trailhead facilities and nearly 13,000 linear feet of bituminous multi-use trail in Rambling River Park to serve the North Creek Regional Greenway.	City of Farmington	$2,384,000
2026-141	Andrea	Rehm	Hardwood Creek Regional Trail Extension	Develop final design and construct the final mile of Washington County's Hardwood Creek Regional Trail, opening up 40+ continuous miles of regional trail network across three counties.	Washington County	$1,477,000
2026-145	Owen	Connell	Building a Natural Connection CAIRO and Outdoor U	Build collaboration between Saint John's Outdoor U and CAIRO to improve environmental field trips, empower new East African environmental educators, and develop culturally relevant outdoor recreation opportunities for African immigrants.	Saint Johns Arboretum and University	$617,000
2026-146	Kristen	Poppleton	Watersheds, Careers, and Conservation: Students Doing Outdoor Science	This program fosters a conservation ethic and interest in environmental and natural resource careers through a nationally recognized curriculum, outdoor learning, and exposure to natural resource students and professionals.	Minnesota Trout Unlimited	$582,000
2026-151	Rebecca	Swenson	Bugs Below Zero: Connecting Communities with Winter Science	Bugs Below Zero engages classrooms and communities in winter science, raises awareness about stream food webs through interactive events, and inspires future scientific researchers and environmental stewards.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$428,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-154	Paul	Brinkman	Resurrect and Revitalize the Laurentian Environmental Center Ecosystem	Through partner engagement, project development, and environmental stewardship, NESC will revitalize the Laurentian Environmental Center, renewing and sustaining its 80-year legacy of outdoor learning and resource conservation for all Minnesotans.	Northeast Service Cooperative	$1,042,000
2026-182	Dan	Nemes	A State Trail System for 21st-Century Minnesota	BikeMN and statewide collaborators will promote the development and use of Minnesota's existing and planned state trail system through community and business engagement and active adult education programming.	Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota	$716,000
2026-221	Maggie	Heurung	Mississippi River Water Trail Access in Dayton	Mississippi River water trail access development, including a non-motorized boat launch and staging area, paved trail connection, parking, and natural resource restoration, on Three Rivers Park District's property in Dayton.	Three Rivers Park District	$500,000
2026-232	Trish	Crego	Hermantown Community Connector Trail- 2026 Segments	The proposed project is for 2.83 miles of trail which are part of an overall 9 mile trail system throughout the City of Hermantown.	City of Hermantown	$2,352,000
2026-243	Caleb	Peterson	St. Louis River Multi-Use Bridge	This project consists of upgrading the Historic D&NE St. Louis River Multi-use Bridge to allow safe use of the bridge by entities that enjoy outdoor recreation.	City of Cloquet	$1,485,000
2026-251	Bo	Hu	Integrating Sustainability into High School Science Curriculum	We propose a two-week summer camp for Minnesota high school teachers, focusing on sustainability, bioresources, and environmental restoration, to inspire students to pursue careers in science, engineering, and natural resources.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$360,000
2026-254	Joy	Hobbs	Sharing Minnesota's Greatest Environmental Investment Phase II	This project will continue the Science Museum of Minnesota’s work to communicate the stories of LCCMR/ENRTF-funded work to a public audience through an online story map and video content.	Science Museum of Minnesota	$709,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-255	Kim	Melton	Red River Basin Soil Health Initiative	This initiative will enable multiple conservation districts to expand their outreach efforts to educate landowners on the importance of implementing soil health practices.	Red River Basin Commission	$362,000
2026-258	Kristopher	Lencowski	Diversifying Nature Education Access	Diversifying nature education through outreach support, affinity group nature center events, Indigenous-led nature programming, and nature interpretive signage designed by Indigenous artists and educators.	Ramsey County Parks and Recreation	$450,000
2026-260	Alison	Nyenhuis	Cultivating Conservation Leaders through Education and Wilderness Experiences	Fostering the next generation of conservation leaders and increasing access to the Boundary Waters through environmental education and immersive wilderness experiences for 12,000 students throughout Minnesota.	Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness	$1,375,000
2026-261	Niki	Geisler	Thompson County Park Inclusive Outdoor Recreation Enhancements	Improvements seek to enhance the educational and recreational value of land situated in an urban area through thoughtful accessibility improvements, strategic interpretive signage, and diverse play opportunities.	Dakota County	$4,000,000
2026-262	Niki	Geisler	Lake Byllesby Regional Park Accessibility and Resiliency Improvements	Lake Byllesby Campground improvements will include construction of a new bathhouse and severe weather shelter building to improve accessibility, erosion concerns, climate resiliency, and services.	Dakota County	$3,100,000
2026-264	Tony	Wotzka	River to River Greenway - BMPs, Underpass, Reconstruction	Regional trail improvements that will include ADA alignment revisions, new stormwater Best Management Practices, local trail connections, vegetation restoration, smaller plazas, and a grade separated tunnel under Highway 149.	Dakota County	$1,400,000
2026-266	Nick	Arola	Carey Lake Campground Construction Phase II	The Carey Lake Campground Construction Phase II completes site development for the City's new, sole campground located within the regional park.	City of Hibbing	$1,499,000
2026-267	Tony	Wotzka	LHRP Natural Resources Restoration and Sustainable Trails Improvements	Lebanon Hills Regional Park Natural Resources Restoration and Sustainable Trails Improvements	Dakota County	$2,435,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-268	Tony	Wotzka	Veterans Memorial Greenway Main Memorial Trailhead	Trailhead improvements will include expanded parking, a new shelter with restrooms, Purple Heart Plaza, smaller plazas, loop trail connections, interpretive signage to honor veterans, and pond shoreline restoration.	Dakota County	$3,000,000
2026-270	Sara	Lemke	Empowering Future Leaders Through Outdoor Access	This initiative will engage 5,121 young people through year-round family events, leadership development planning, and expanded scholarships, ensuring equitable access to outdoor experiences and fostering future environmental stewards.	Camp Fire Minnesota	$875,000
2026-278	Terry	Gips	Akepa Youth and School Program	Our innovative Akepa Youth & School Program seeks to develop youth environmental leadership, promote healthy lifestyles, build community, save money, protect our environment, and help young people overcome hopelessness and eco-anxiety.	Alliance for Sustainability	$896,000
2026-287	Kent	Skaar	Minnesota State Trails Development	This project proposes to expand recreational opportunities on Minnesota State Trails through the development of select new State Trail Segments.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	$6,500,000
2026-288	Kent	Skaar	Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge Replacement	This project proposes the replacement of the Tettegouche State Park / Baptism River Bridge, a steel truss bridge originally constructed in 1923.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	$8,625,000
2026-293	Jill	Leary	Expanding Adaptive Outdoor Recreation Opportunities Around the BWCA	Our project includes lasting adaptive equipment investments, improvements to trail accessibility, and three years of robust programming to promote access to the Boundary Waters region for Minnesotans with physical disabilities.	Adaptive Wilderness Within Reach	$1,164,000
2026-304	Katie	Bloome	Expanding and Enhancing Environmental Education through Partnerships	Belwin will expand environmental education by partnering with east metro schools and Native-led organizations to provide students with hands-on, standards-aligned, science and cultural learning at our new education center.	Belwin Conservancy	$619,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-305	Britt	See-Benes	Southside Trail Connection and Silver Lake Park Upgrade	The City of Virginia is seeking funding to expand its multi-modal transportation network, improve access to recreation, and promote safer, more sustainable transportation and recreational options for all.	City of Virginia	$1,341,000
2026-306	Courtney	Phillips	Greater Fountain Lake Aquatic and Trail Accessibility Enhancements	This proposal requests funding the installation of features to safely improve pedestrian access to fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and public park space located along the Shell Rock River Channel.	Shell Rock River Watershed District	$1,280,000
2026-313	Jenni	Bubke	Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Grant Programs	Provide approximately 18 matching grants for local parks, trails, and acquisition of natural areas and trails to connect people safely to desirable community locations and regional or state facilities.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	$5,000,000
2026-321	Michael	Stifter	Otter and Campbell Lakes Accessible Recreational Opportunities Project	Hutchinson is requesting ENRTF funding to construct five ADA-compliant fishing piers around Otter and Campbell Lakes and construct a parking lot at the southern end of Otter Lake.	City of Hutchinson	$615,000
2026-348	Joe	Masiarchin	Lake Marion Greenway – Ritter Farm to Dodd Blvd	Construction of the Lake Marion Greenway between Ritter Farm Park and Dodd Blvd in the City of Lakeville, including new trails, improvements to existing trails, trailhead facilities, and interpretive elements.	City of Lakeville	$2,843,000
2026-355	Kjersti	Monson	Restored Bluff and Trail at Owámniyómni	Acquire, preserve, and improve land on the Central Riverfront in Minneapolis abutting the Upper Lock (but not the Lock structure itself) for conservation, natural restoration, education, and recreation.	Owámniyomni Okhódayapi	$2,500,000
2026-377	Michael	Torres	Minnesota Bike Parks	Minneapolis Bike Parks	Minneapolis Bike Parks	$1,000,000
2026-385	Lawrence	Kirch	Root River State Trail Extension to the Mississippi	Complete pre-design process including public/agency engagement; environmental review; B/C and merit analysis; 15% engineering design of the final 18 miles of the Root River Trail.	City of La Crescent	$990,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-388	Erika	Bailey-Johnson	Mishko Wisitoon Wilderness Academy	The Mishko Wisitoon Wilderness Academy aims to increase the opportunity for all Minnesotans to connect to the lands and waters of northern Minnesota through the lens of the Ojibwe worldview.	Sacred Bundle	$934,000
2026-408	Karen	Zumach	Learning with Trees™ – Greening School Grounds	Learning with Trees brings interactive environmental education to students and plants trees on school grounds. This project will bring Learning with Trees to 18 schools throughout Minnesota.	Tree Trust	$315,000
2026-453	Karma	Choeyang	Norbu-Lingka	Our project plan includes growing traditional barley using seeds from the University of Minnesota or Tibet and developing a yak farm for educational purposes.	The Tehor Tibetan Organization of Minnesota	$650,000
2026-455	Jeff	Jacobson	City of Biwabik Recreation Area Phase 2	Phase 2 proposed improvements include installing new water mains, buried power, sanitary sewer lift station upgrades, and an ATV trail reroute at Embarrass Lake campground.	City of Biwabik	$2,250,000
2026-456	Brian	Dingmann	Immersive Education: VR-Driven Wetland STEM Engagement	This project uses VR to enhance wetland research education, training future scientists in microbial sampling and antibiotic discovery while increasing public engagement, conservation efforts, and STEM accessibility through immersive learning.	U of MN, Crookston	$697,000
2026-467	Daniel	Stifter	Outdoor Learning Center and Trails	The project will provide access to the outdoor environment, with spaces for exploration and education through accessible trails, features, shelter, and seating for the ISD1 students and Aitkin County residents.	Aitkin Public Schools	$340,000
2026-474	Jackie	Monahan-Junek	City of Eveleth - Park and Trail System	The City of Eveleth intends to construct a new park and trail system connecting to the City's 2.5 mile loop trail system and the Mesabi Regional Trail.	City of Eveleth	$334,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-480	Melissa	DeVetter	Restoration Park Environmental Classroom	Construction of a “net-zero energy” park building/environmental classroom which promotes green energy and demonstrates the beneficial reuse of materials by utilizing, where feasible, reclaimed and recycled materials.	Dodge County Environmental Services	$750,000
2026-504	Josh	Pennington	Enhancing Nature-Based Learning Opportunities in Central Minnesota	The Department of Military Affairs will increase access to environmental and culturally relevant education to underserved populations in central Minnesota by providing innovative programs and services that foster environmental stewardship.	Department of Military Affairs	$434,000
2026-510	Anne	Gardner	Mississippi River Learning Center - Peninsula Restoration	Peninsula Restoration for environmental cleanup, regrading, habitat creation, native plant communities, and introduction of outdoor learning elements such as the Cottonwood classroom, wetland overlook and cultural ceremony landing	City of St. Paul	$7,500,000
2026-519	Kelsey	Boeff	Classrooms to Careers: Expanding Environmental STEM Pathways	“Classrooms to Careers” will strengthen STEM career pathways across Minnesota. This will be accomplished through both hands-on experiences for high school youth and professional development for high school teachers.	Science Museum of Minnesota	$864,000
2026-520	Peter	Smerud	Outdoor Learning Professional Development for Educators and Administrators	Wolf Ridge will provide professional development for educators and administrators throughout Minnesota, enabling them to implement innovative, locally focused outdoor learning at their school.	Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center	$325,000
2026-533	Ronald	Gregg	Preserving Recreational and Trail Connnections: Historic Forestville Bridge	The project will improve regional trail connections between Forestville State Park and Historic Forestville State Historic Site by rehabilitating the failing Historic Forestville Bridge, owned by Fillmore County.	Fillmore County	$1,494,000
2026-537	Jane	Stock	Sharing PWLC Environmental Programs with Partner School Students	The ENRTF grant will provide two full-time Naturalist Educators that will extend programming at the Prairie Wetlands LC beyond what the FPWLC have currently alloted through June of 2028.	Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center	$320,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-543	Jessica	Rich	City of Proctor 3rd Street Park	Redeveloping the 3rd Street Park into a vibrant community gathering space serving residents of Proctor. A new basketball court, pavilion, and green gathering spaces will be constructed.	City of Proctor	$674,000
2026-553	Nikolaos	Papanikolopoulos	Enhancing Visits and Environmental Management; Effective, Adaptive AI	This project will leverage state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence methods to improve visitor experiences and protect the environment. Real-time data will inform park management actions that enhance visitor experience and environmental conditions.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$456,000
2026-558	Ray	Sogard	Sportsmen and Sportswomen Training Center - Phase 2	The Minnesota Forest Zone Trappers Association (MFZTA) is requesting a $1,050,000 grant for Phase 2 of the Sportsmen's & Sportswomen's Outdoor Training and Development Center.	Minnesota Forest Zone Trappers Association	$1,050,000
2026-559	Neal	Feeken	Emerging Conservation Leaders - Expanding the Network	Project will annually introduce up to 10,000 metro area youth to the outdoors and the conservation profession through the convening and facilitation of a unique network of partner organizations.	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust Inc	$850,000
2026-562	Holly	Hoy	Littlefork Public RV Campground	The proposed project will transform an abandoned gravel quarry into a campground with RV and tent campsites, ponds, a swimming beach, utilities, a playground, and amenities to enhance visitor experience.	City of Littlefork	$2,500,000
2026-564	Tim	Amundsen	Excelsior Commons Park Restoration	Excelsior Commons Park is heavily utilized by the public with degrading lakeshore in addition to consistent programming and aging facilities has impacted our natural resources and visitor experiences.	City of Excelsior	$1,151,000
2026-577	Jodi	Knaus	Scenic Acres Trail and Boardwalk	The Town of White will construct a 10-foot-wide, shared use trail segment along Scenic Acres Road and Highway 135 that will connect to the Mesabi Trail.	Town of White	$2,800,000

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-578	Carolina	Ortiz	Explore Minnesota With COPAL	COPAL will provide outdoor programming and leadership opportunities for 600+ BIPOC families and youth, and produce a report recommending improvements to enhance natural outdoor spaces that are inclusive and accessible.	Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Accion Latina	$400,000
2026-586	Anna	Gruber	Mill District Riverwalk Project	The project will include the restoration of a riparian area to foster and restore habitat, multi-use trail, utility extension, and river access with dock system.	City of Sartell	$1,500,000
2026-588	Pat	Chapman	Field Township Northwoods Nature Pedestrian Trail	The Northwoods Nature Trail project in Field Township, Minnesota, aims to create an accessible, immersive, and educational outdoor space with ADA-compliant trails, pedestrian bridges, boardwalks, parking, restrooms, and educational kiosks.	Field Township	$735,000
					Subtotal	**$108,183,000**
C. Education and Outdoor Recreation **G. Small Projects (RECEIVED: 43 Proposals / Subtotal - $9,019,000)**						
2026-002	Crystal	Olson	CMSM 2026 Proposal	The Coalition will work collaboratively to share, expand upon, and standardize existing curriculum of nature-based programming to engage children birth-10, fostering environmental stewardship, awareness of natural resources, and sustainability.	Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota	$300,000
2026-013	Lee	Furuseth	Native Fish Exhibits Transforming Aquatic Education in Minnesota	This project creates interactive, year-round exhibits featuring native fish species, educating Minnesotans about aquatic ecosystems. Hands-on programs emphasize conservation, empowering underserved communities and tourists to protect Minnesota's vital lake resources.	Headwaters Science Center	$299,000
2026-024	Joey	Schugel	New Ulm Pollinator Park Expansion	The New Ulm Pollinator Park Expansion project goal is to both protect the natural resources, restore native vegetation, and further connect people to nature through recreation and educational opportunities.	City of New Ulm	$246,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-039	Brad	Bourn	River Bend Nature Center's Inclusive Interpretive Plan Implementation	River Bend's Outdoor Diversity Initiative will incorporate multi-lingual/cultural, interactive interpretive and educational exhibits providing culturally relevant and accessible nature connections with Faribault's Somali, Latinx, and Blind & Deaf communities.	River Bend Nature Center	$293,000
2026-065	Lori	Forshee-Donnay	Fostering Environmental Stewardship through Art	Project will enhance environmental education to underserved youth in Northern Minnesota through art related experiences with regional artists, culture bearers, and Headwaters Science Center, delivering culturally relevant hands-on learning experiences.	Watermark Art Center	$298,000
2026-077	Alisha	Paplow	Mobile Nature Center Serving Southwest Minnesota	The Prairie Ecology Bus Center will bring evidence-based, hands-on outdoor environmental education to schools, campgrounds, and county fairs throughout Southwest Minnesota, building on our strong history.	Prairie Ecology Bus Center	$291,000
2026-092	Nikolas	Winter-Simat	School/Community Regenerative Food Forest Model	Drawing on agro-ecology and permaculture, this research-driven initiative seeks to restore neglected school land into a biodiverse food forest, creating ongoing educational opportunities and developing collaboration with key community organizations.	Hand In Hand Christian Montessori	$256,000
2026-099	Bryan	Wood	Bringing Environmental Education and Outdoor Recreation to K-12 Schools	Osprey Wilds will educate over 7,500 K-12 students through outreach programs to K-12 schools that address LCCMR's funding priorities of resiliency, water, education and outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife, energy.	Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center	$192,000
2026-100	Nick	Bancks	Outdoors for All: A Mentored Hunting and Angling Program	Trust for Public Land (TPL) will lead an inclusive, community-driven mentored hunting and angling program that supports and fosters equitable outdoor spaces on Minnesota's public lands and waters.	The Trust for Public Land	$188,000
2026-102	Bryan	Wood	Improving Trail Accessibility for Minnesotans at Osprey Wilds	Osprey Wilds seeks to improve our network of 13 miles of hiking and cross country ski trails for all Minnesotans to enjoy by adding trail and interpretive signage, and Class-Five Crushed ...	Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center	$25,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-104	Timothy	Gossman	Lost Creek Hiking Trail Facilities Development	To build infrastructure to support the Lost Creek Trail, specifically installation of one composting toilet within a small weathertight structure.	Bluff Country Hiking Club	$9,000
2026-115	Ansel	Schimpff	Duluth Traverse Accessibility and Sustainability Improvements	Enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and preserve water quality of Knowlton Creek, a designated trout stream, by rehabilitating 6,500 feet of the Duluth Traverse to improve accessibility and address erosion.	Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores	$85,000
2026-147	Colleen	Foehrenbacher	Land Perspectives: Experiential History at Eagle Bluff ELC	Land Perspectives provides approximately 120 schools attending Eagle Bluff's Outdoor School to explore Dakota and Settler Colonist land use in the 1800s through hands-on activities and using historically accurate dwellings.	Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center	$210,000
2026-148	Thomas	Crawford	Water Science Field Days Minneapolis/St. Paul Schools	Expand the access of Minneapolis/St. Paul public school students to natural spaces and hands-on scientific opportunities through River Watch's free award winning water focused field day events.	Friends of the Minnesota Valley	$82,000
2026-152	Matt	Carter	Historical Interpretive Loop	Work with our qualified consultant to complete the design, fabrication, and installation of a Heritage Interpretive Loop through northern Dakota County.	Dakota County Historical Society	$300,000
2026-165	Kimberly	Musser	College-School Collaboration to Restore Campuses and Activate Stewardship	This collaboration among natural resource professionals, college, and K-12 partners activates regional restoration projects, exposes youth to outdoor experiences and environmental issues, promotes natural resource careers, and engages community.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Minnesota State University Mankato	$199,000
2026-177	Daniel	Schmidt	Urban Farming Education to Increase Urban Environmental Stewardship	EPNI requests funding for hands-on, environmentally-focused urban farming education to reconnect residents of a diverse, environmental justice neighborhood to the land and water, and to foster interest in environmental careers.	East Phillips Neighborhood Institute	$300,000
2026-183	Shawna	Weaver	Early Childhood Learning Center Expansion	We will expand our learning center by relocating our early childhood program to a space specifically designed for experiential learning and nature play with direct access to our outdoor playscape.	Lake Superior Authority	$176,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-185	Laura	Hudson	Reel Hope: Breaking Outdoor Recreation Barriers for Youth	Fishing For Life is committed to providing at-risk youth access to fishing and other outdoor activities that invite connection with the lands and waters of Minnesota.	Fishing For Life	$149,000
2026-231	Kalley	Pratt	YES Connects Students to Outdoors for Youth-Led Sustainability	YES will engage and connect diverse students across Minnesota in hands-on environmental education and natural resource-based outdoor recreation to promote youth-led sustainability projects and partnerships in local schools and communities.	Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center	$199,000
2026-281	Anita	Hering	Oscar Mike: Nature Engagement for the Military Community	This project will broaden the reach and impact of Oscar Mike, an evidence-based walking program adapted specifically for the veteran/military community that integrates nature engagement, stewardship, and outdoor appreciation	U of MN, Extension Center for Family Development	$192,000
2026-291	Elizabeth	Sumida Huaman	Buen Vivir Minnesota: Latino and Indigenous Place-Based Education	Buen Vivir Minnesota is a STEM and place-based natural-resource outdoor education project that aims to develop a scalable model across the state's Latino and Latin American Indigenous-serving schools and families.	U of MN, College of Education and Human Development	$300,000
2026-302	David	Woods	Engaging Saint Paul Youth in Meaningful Restoration Work	Urban Roots will engage underserved youth, ages 14-18 in paid, job training internships centered around environmental education and natural resource conservation.	Urban Roots MN	$300,000
2026-314	Francie	Kennedy	Minnesota Bound Conservation Chronicle	Minnesota Bound will create 48 feature segments entitled "Conservation Chronicles" designed to educate and inspire Minnesotans to connect with the lands and waters of the great state of Minnesota.	Ron Schara Productions	$212,000
2026-359	Jennifer	Tonko	Building Belonging and Environmental Literacy Among Queer Youth	QUEERY is a free nature club for queer and questioning middle and high school youth that teaches outdoor skills, builds community, and explores how queerness manifests in the natural world.	Clean River Partners	$87,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-367	Omena	Giles	Minnesota Water Education for K-5	We are seeking funding to provide water educational programming to under-served schools in all 87 counties of Minnesota. Schools are looking for programming like this to enhance their student's learning.	Science Museum of Minnesota	$295,000
2026-400	Natalie	Kennedy	Nature for New Minnesotans	Expanding the Nature for New Minnesotans program to increase understanding and appreciation for Minnesota's natural environment among English language learners statewide.	U of MN, Bell Museum of Natural History	$300,000
2026-411	Scott	Mehus	Education and Stewardship: Our National Bird in Minnesota	The proposed project will foster environmental stewardship and conservation across Minnesota by significantly expanding hands-on, environmental education through mobile live eagle experiences and removing barriers to youth participation.	National Eagle Center	$276,000
2026-436	Chris	Lindholm	Outdoor Learning Center and Trails	The project will improve and expand access to the outdoor environment, provide spaces for exploration and education through accessible trails, features, shelter, and seating for students in Cook County Schools	Cook County Schools ISD 166	$250,000
2026-449	Veronica	Mangio	Outdoor Learning through the Art of Conservation	This project develops conservation curriculum and connects high school students to Minnesota's fish and songbird habitats through hands-on field trips and artistic reflection, expanding access to conservation education and stewardship.	Wildlife Forever	$68,000
2026-450	Eric	Mayranen	Facility Outdoor Improvements	We seek to connect disabled veterans and citizens with the outdoors and BWCA through the upgrading of our facilities with the construction and improvements to our facility.	Veterans on the Lake	$180,000
2026-458	Bill	Anderson-Horecka	Adventure Classroom	Adventure Classroom--Bringing outdoor education opportunities directly to schools and encouraging them to continue their exploration of the outdoors in Minnesota's state parks.	Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America	$244,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-463	Amanda	Fong	Expanding Outdoor Recreation Engagement with Underrepresented Communities	This project increases community engagement staff capacity to grow new partnerships towards connecting African American and Hmong communities with outdoor recreation spaces and activities within Three Rivers Park District.	Three Rivers Park District	$288,000
2026-475	Alexander	Keilty	Demystifying the Mississippi through Equitable Recreation Education	Help Minnesotans unfamiliar and unaccustomed to being on the water gain knowledge, experience, and comfort paddling on the Mississippi River, which can help open doors to outdoor recreation and employment.	Broken Paddle Guiding	$210,000
2026-490	Ellen	Reed	Expanding Paddling Access on the Mississippi River	This project expands access to kayaking along the Mississippi River in Dayton, Champlin, and Hastings, MN.	Mississippi Park Connection	$299,000
2026-535	Sara	Holger	Teach Outdoors - Southeast Minnesota	To support schools in southeast Minnesota with creating outdoor learning areas and empowering school staff to work with nature as a partner for learning and healing.	Project Get Outdoors Inc	$76,000
2026-536	Joanna	Klein	MN SMILES! Summer Mentored Internship Launching Environmental Scientists	MN SMILES! will establish an interdisciplinary research internship for high school and college students to study land and soil health in Minnesota.	University of St. Thomas	$286,000
2026-566	Ce	Yang	Enhancing Wildlife Education: AI-Powered Interactive Learning Experiences	This project develops AI-powered interactive wildlife learning tools and hands-on programs to engage students in studying wildlife and ecosystem health across diverse Minnesota biomes.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$295,000
2026-568	Jason	Sehon	Austin Trails Master Plan	The project will develop a citywide trails master plan and preliminary design of priority trail segments for the City of Austin.	City of Austin	$87,000
2026-571	Darren	Sheldon	Lakewood Elementary School Trail Renewal and Community Engagement 2	Rehabilitate an unsafe outdoor education trail to be resilient and accessible in all 4-seasons to serve students and community users for many years to come.	Duluth School District #709 - Lakewood Elementary	$288,000

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-584	Gretchen	Wilbrandt	Expanding Community Boat Building and Outdoor Experiences	Urban Boatbuilders will expand the Partnership Program to engage 1,000 youth in hands-on woodworking experiences to empower young people to develop technical, career-readiness, and leadership skills in nature.	Urban Boatbuilders	$100,000
2026-591	Patrick	Kindler	Norpine Association Trail System Upgrades and Maintenance	To protect the natural resource of the North Shore of MN, and to continue to expose more people to the sport cross country skiing, fat tire biking, and hiking	Norpine Trail Association	$10,000
2026-593	Anne	Conway	Towards a Better Future for Our Shared Mississippi	This three-year project embeds Indigenous ways of knowing into environmental education programming, cultivates the next generation of conservation leaders, and facilitates informed, stewardship-oriented public planning for the Upper Mississippi River.	Recreation Alliance of Winona	$279,000
					Subtotal	**$9,019,000**
D. Fish and Wildlife (RECEIVED: 36 Proposals / Subtotal - $40,717,000)						
2026-015	Michael	Joyce	Fisher Survival, Reproduction, and Health in Southern Minnesota	We will determine survival, reproduction, and disease exposure of fishers in southern Minnesota to evaluate population viability and vulnerability to changing conditions and provide critical data to guide fisher management.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	$788,000
2026-049	Kenneth	Zillig	Which Cisco are Strongest? Identifying Healthy Populations	Determine if Minnesota populations of cisco exhibit different tolerances to high temperatures and low oxygen conditions; assess habitat suitability for different cisco strains to protect and restore coldwater habitats.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$713,000
2026-074	Raining	White	Mapping Leech Lake Vegetation: A Closer Look	Survey Leech Lake's aquatic plant community to better understand changes happening across Leech Lake and create an updated data set for agencies to reference.	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	$488,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-089	Keith	Barker	Salvage Wildlife Phase 2: Roadkill to Scientific Records	We will expand and support the statewide Salvage Wildlife network, prepare dead wildlife as museum-quality specimens, and build biodiversity resources for research, education, and conservation of Minnesota's wildlife.	U of MN, Bell Museum of Natural History	$730,000
2026-113	Josh	Pommier	Partnership for Resilient Landscapes	Provide technical assistance to support landowners and farmers in wildlife habitat, water quality and management activities. Leverage federal CREP funding to enhance ecosystem resilience and habitat connectivity amid environmental changes.	Pheasants Forever Inc	$4,869,000
2026-125	Marc	White	St. Croix Community Conservation Project	The St. Croix Community Conservation Project is a staff-supported volunteer-based project to address declining water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in the St. Croix River and its Minnesota tributaries.	Wild Rivers Conservancy	$952,000
2026-131	Catherine	Early	Building a Superior Understanding of Minnesota's Small Mammals	This project will make data on the small mammals specimens from Superior National Forest in our collection publicly available through organization and digitization.	Science Museum of Minnesota	$428,000
2026-224	Natalia	Mossmann Koch	Using Lichens to Monitor Atmospheric Microplastics and Nitrogen	This project will use lichens and mosses as low-cost monitors of microplastics and nitrogen air pollution across Minnesota, in addition to expanding the previous monitoring program focused on heavy metals.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$500,000
2026-239	Sushma	Reddy	How Do Microplastics Impact Minnesota's Wild Birds?	Birds are often indicators of emergent environmental threats. We propose using salvaged wildlife from across the state to investigate the prevalence and impact of microplastics in wildlife and ecosystems.	U of MN, Bell Museum of Natural History	$508,000
2026-253	Robert	Blair	Collaborative Monitoring to Prevent Avian Building Fatalities	We will bring a bird-building collision monitoring program to Minnesota schools that will generate scientific data and create scalable research protocols to reduce avian fatalities.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$394,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-279	Jonathan	Schilling	Combined-Use, Publicly-Accessible Native Plant Restoration Science at Itasca	We propose testing native plant restoration options using a 35-plot grid study at Itasca Biological Station, inside Itasca State Park. The project would be multifunctional for research, education, and demonstration.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$577,000
2026-311	Steven	Woodley	Assessing Neonicotinoids in Pheasants and Their Grassland Habitats	We will evaluate the temporal and spatial prevalence of neonicotinoids in wild pheasants and their habitats in Minnesota by collecting samples during distinct periods of agricultural activity.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	$513,000
2026-318	Tiffany	Wolf	United in Responding to CWD in Minnesota	For our deer and the lives they sustain: integrating and deploying multidisciplinary tools against the expanding threat of chronic wasting disease to support informed and strategic responses.	U of MN, College of Veterinary Medicine	$5,096,000
2026-332	Tyler	Obermoller	Survival and Movement of Deer in Minnesota's Prairies	Monitoring GPS-collared deer and examining survival, causes of mortality, predator impacts, and disease movement in CWD positive zones is important to determine deer health and inform future management.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	$1,872,000
2026-357	George	Weiblen	Uniting Minnesota’s Insect Record	We aim to develop the first comprehensive list of Minnesota insect species, unite the state insect collection with the Bell Museum, and integrate specimen records of statewide natural history collections.	U of MN, Bell Museum of Natural History	$1,037,000
2026-373	Jay	Walker	Lake Sturgeon Restoration at Great Lakes Aquarium	Great Lakes Aquarium aims to restore lake sturgeon to the St. Louis River through a new exhibit and rearing program, encouraging community involvement in conservation activities.	Lake Superior Authority	$525,000
2026-378	Gillian	Tarr	Unrecognized Threats: Impact of Zoonotic Bacteria on Wildlife	This project seeks to understand the potential impacts on wildlife of common gastrointestinal diseases transmitted from animals to humans. We will examine effects on health and public perception of wildlife.	U of MN, School of Public Health	$472,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-379	Lynn	Waterhouse	Detecting Native Fishes and Mussels Using Molecular Tools	This project aims to develop a cost-effective, color-based method for detecting native fish and mussels, using genome sequencing to enhance biodiversity monitoring and support sustainable conservation of Minnesota's aquatic ecosystems.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$468,000
2026-391	Daniel	Dauwalter	Landscapes, Humans, Fish: Synergizing Brook Trout Habitat Restoration	This project will synergize Minnesota Brook Trout conservation by developing a Conservation Portfolio geospatial assessment, identify how restoration is designed for the species, and study habitat use in the field.	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	$515,000
2026-394	Emily	Fairfax	Monitoring, Modeling, and Managing Minnesota's Beavers	We will close key data gaps on Minnesota's beaver population distribution, management practices and outcomes, and conflict vs ecosystem service potential in support of evidence-based beaver management strategies.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$506,000
2026-403	Steve	Donovan	Developing an Innovative Technology to Control Carp	This project will develop and demonstrate an alternative, economical control technique for invasive carp using submersible ROV technology that was successfully developed to control invasive lionfish.	FarWide Conservation Trust, Inc.	$807,000
2026-405	Anthony	Pirkl	Phase II Investigation of Pine and Curry Island SNA	The Phase II investigation of Pine and Curry Island SNA erosion aims to develop restoration solutions that protect wildlife habitat, improve water quality, enhance recreation, and strengthen long-term coastal resilience.	Lake of the Woods County	$550,000
2026-422	Min	Addy	Innovative Air Treatment for Wildlife and Livestock Protection	The non-thermal plasma and microwave air treatment systems eliminate viruses, aerosol, harmful gases, and odors with zero emission, protecting wild bird populations and livestock from airborne pollutants and zoonotic disease.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$850,000
2026-444	Tianhong	Cui	Easy-To-Use Tiny Sensor to Detect Mercury in Fish	This project develops a low-cost, portable sensor to detect mercury in fish, helping anglers and communities make safe consumption choices while supporting public health and fisheries management with quick testing.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$517,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-462	Ellen	Titus	Managing Driftless Ecosystems After Invasive Shrub Removal	We will expand hypothesis-driven research of target and non-target effects of invasive shrub management into the Driftless and create a system to track projects and outcomes over time.	The Nature Conservancy	$514,000
2026-472	Josh	Pennington	Assessing Recruitment Threats for Imperiled Blanding's Turtles	We will help conserve Blanding's turtles by improving our understanding of hatchling survival rates and genetic variation, to inform conservation actions and bolster populations.	Department of Military Affairs	$415,000
2026-484	Tracy	Halstensgard	Roseau Lake Rehabilitation - Phase 4	This multi-purpose project will partially restore a drained lake and provide water level management capability to substantially improve wildlife habitat conditions and provide flood damage reduction benefits.	Roseau River Watershed District	$3,400,000
2026-498	Seth	Stapleton	Advancing Bison Recovery and Stewardship through Statewide Partnership	We will promote the conservation of bison in Minnesota to better fulfill integral ecological, cultural, and economic roles by implementing the Minnesota Bison Collaborative, evaluating reintroduction sites, and building awareness.	Minnesota Zoological Garden	$717,000
2026-499	Gretchen	Hansen	Identifying Climate-Resilient Fisheries to Guide Minnesota Lake Management	We will assess factors supporting multi-species resilience to climate change, identify "bright spots" where fisheries thrive despite changing habitats, and develop decision options within the Resist-Accept-Direct framework for fisheries management.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$671,000
2026-500	Lindsey	Shartell	Supporting Implementation of Large-Scale Moose Habitat Management	Provide the capacity needed to support and monitor the implementation phase of an effort undertaken to identify challenges, develop strategies, and conduct large-scale moose habitat management across diverse land ownerships.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	$1,220,000
2026-501	Gretchen	Hansen	Evaluating Forward-Facing Sonar Impacts on Minnesota Fish	Evaluating the impact of forward-facing sonar on angler catch rates and fish mortality across multiple species and lake types to inform sustainable management of Minnesota freshwater fish populations.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$702,000

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-509	James	Forester	Monitoring Changes in Urban Wildlife	Establish a long-term sampling network to monitor changes in wildlife occupancy across an urbanization gradient and use these data to visualize the spread of CWD in metro deer.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$455,000
2026-513	Elena	West	Species-Specific Assessment of Hibernation Phenology for Minnesota Bats	Acoustic monitoring of bat hibernation timing and environmental factors in Minnesota to improve conservation of endangered populations affected by white-nose syndrome.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$479,000
2026-531	Jake	Walsh	Integrating Lake Management through Information Synthesis and Engagement	Co-creation of scientific research and decision-support tools with state and local water quality, watershed, and fishery managers and MN citizens to advance integrated lake management in Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$518,000
2026-565	Andy	Erickson	Lake Impacts from Road Salt and Climate Change	This project will develop a tool to assess the risk of lake habitat loss due to climate change and road salt usage that can be extrapolated to Minnesota Lakes statewide.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$516,000
2026-590	Robert	Venette	Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center	The Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center (MITPPC) requests $6,435,000 for up to eighteen new research projects to protect wildlife and plants from high-priority invasive species.	U of MN, MITPPC	$6,435,000
					Subtotal	**$40,717,000**
D. Fish and Wildlife **G. Small Projects (RECEIVED: 24 Proposals / Subtotal - $5,295,000)**						
2026-036	Steven	Marking	Steven Marking, Riverlorian in Schools	I propose to bring my environmental education to 15,000 Students/citizens over a two year period.	Riverlorian Productions LLC	$123,000
2026-073	Jessica	Petersen	Conserving Rare Plants by Understanding Their Pollinators	Rare plants that require insect pollination are threatened by pollinator declines. This work will uncover what insects are pollinating rare plants and provide a foundation for future conservation actions.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	$299,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-075	Christine	Chase	Monarch Conservation Education for Minnesotans	Teacher workshops, school field trips, and public outreach events will support awareness and conservation for monarchs – Minnesota's state butterfly and a proposed species for listing under the Endangered Species Act.	Monarch Joint Venture	$261,000
2026-090	Jamie	Jensen	Honey Bee Proliferation, Research, and Education	We plan to study winter survival options for honey bees. We will build, locate, and populate 40 honey bee colonies in the Metro to test best practices.	Pollinator Partners	$205,000
2026-112	Yuzhu	Lu	Pollinator Education for Minnesota's Diverse Cultural Communities	We deliver interactive pollinator education at Minnesota fairs and festivals, engaging multicultural communities, raising awareness, addressing knowledge gaps, and promoting conservation actions to protect pollinators and biodiversity for future.	EcoAlpha	$54,000
2026-117	Alicia	Coleman	Pig's Eye Lake Monitoring	This project will evaluate a backwater island construction project in Saint Paul to assess the establishment of climate-adaptive vegetation, water quality, aquatic and terrestrial habitat, and future recreational benefits.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$137,000
2026-212	Allen	Mensinger	Sub Lethal Effects of Road Salt on Fish	To examine the effects of deicing road salts containing magnesium (instead of sodium) on fish sensory systems to determine the concentrations that impact behavior.	U of MN, Duluth	$189,000
2026-245	Kathryn	Holcomb	Lake Mollusk Surveys to Inform Climate Change Analysis	Mollusks are part of healthy aquatic ecosystems. Climate change is a perceived threat to mollusks, but impacts are poorly understood. Lake mollusk surveys will help inform understanding of this threat.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	$157,000
2026-246	Benjamin	Cull	Preparedness for Midge-Borne Disease Outbreaks in Minnesota Deer	This project will update knowledge on the distribution of biting midge species in Minnesota and test midges for viruses, to aid in the prevention of midge-borne disease outbreaks among deer.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$110,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-247	Robin	Thomson	Exploring Minnesota's Insect Pollinator Diversity: Beyond the Bees	We propose to expand the digital records of insect specimens housed in the University of Minnesota Insect Collection, focusing on non-bee pollinators to support future research on Minnesota pollinator biology.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$200,000
2026-271	Dana	Franzen-Klein	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza's Impacts on Minnesota Raptors	Continuing surveillance for current infection and past exposure to highly pathogenic avian influenza in Minnesota's wild raptors to understand population level impacts and aid the community during this ongoing outbreak.	U of MN, Raptor Center	$298,000
2026-337	Dakota	Rowsey	Building Super-Cool Cryostorage Capacity for Minnesota Biodiversity	We seek to install freezers and develop standard procedures to archive genetic samples from biodiversity specimens. These samples will be made available for internal and external research use.	Science Museum of Minnesota	$230,000
2026-358	Michael	Whitby	Improving Bat Conservation through Expanded Monitoring and Outreach	We will improve migratory bat conservation by expanding monitoring programs in southern Minnesota to inform management and by raising public awareness of bats to inspire backyard conservation actions.	Bat Conservation International	$299,000
2026-380	Nicole	Bernd	Crookston Tree and Pollinator Habitat Project	Create and implement a cost-effective community-based strategy to diversify Crookston's urban canopy, address the emerald ash borer threat, create pollinator habitat, and beautify public spaces in Crookston.	West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District	$157,000
2026-399	Tanya	Roerick	Wolf Monitoring on the Leech Lake Reservation	We will monitor and assess wolf population dynamics to update our wolf management plan, collaborate with other agencies, and ensure the long-term survival of wolves on the Leech Lake Reservation.	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	$295,000
2026-416	Kassandra	Ford	Minnesota Minnow Mania: Diversity Trends and Reproductive Strategies	Our project will examine environmental factors that influence the reproductive success and trends in important minnow and shiner species found in Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$299,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-452	Rebecca	Montgomery	Phenology Database Enhances Resource Management and Public Engagement	Phenology data supports resource management and engages Minnesotans with nature. We will update the Minnesota Phenology Network database, analyze trends, share data, and produce video profiles of inspiring data collectors.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$289,000
2026-457	Erik	Runquist	Building a Future for Minnesota's At-Risk Butterflies	We propose to develop and delineate conservation tools to benefit multiple imperiled Minnesota butterflies, leveraging the Pawnee skipper, a species of Special Concern, as a foundational case study.	Minnesota Zoological Garden	$294,000
2026-468	Garrett	Steede	Strengthening Urban Pollinator Habitats: Understanding and Leveraging Communication	This project examines communication and outreach strategies to equip Twin Cities pollinator garden owners with information and resources to effectively manage invasive species in their gardens.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$182,000
2026-506	Mark	Clark	Incidence of Avian Influenza in Minnesota Forest Birds	Avian influenza is a virus threatening poultry, livestock, wildlife, and humans. Prevalence in wild birds is unknown. Information on present and past infections or coinfections in wild birds is needed.	U of MN, Duluth	$234,000
2026-526	Cristian	Beza Beza	Search for State Jewels: Agrilus Beetles in Minnesota	A previous project used biosurveillance to canvass jewel beetles across Minnesota, some of which are important pests. This proposal targets beetles related to emerald ash borer, which remain largely unexplored.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$279,000
2026-532	Solomon	David	Regarding Native Fish: Outreach, Engagement, and Citizen Science	This study will directly address native fish knowledge gaps in combination with implementing native fish educational, outreach, and citizen scientist activities as prioritized by MNDNR and LCCMR.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$270,000
2026-560	Kenneth	Kozak	Conservation of the Mudpuppy, an Enigmatic Indicator Amphibian	Mudpuppy salamanders are important indicator species of aquatic ecosystem health. This research will assess the impact of historical drainage changes on the long-term persistence of this keystone aquatic species.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$221,000

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-570	Michael	Lynch	Forestry for Minnesota Birds	Connecting public and private forestland stewards with detailed, data-driven, forest management recommendations developed by a group of foresters and professional biologists to enhance Minnesota's forest bird habitat.	Forest Stewards Guild	$213,000
					Subtotal	**$5,295,000**
E. Energy (RECEIVED: 32 Proposals / Subtotal - $34,836,000)						
2026-057	Hua	Zhao	Converting Corn Stover to Sugars via Effective Pretreatment	This project will develop a cost-effective pretreatment method for corn stover in Minnesota, leading to efficient hydrolysis of cellulose and hemicellulose to cellulosic sugars, which are used to produce biofuels.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$398,000
2026-103	Jennifer	Theodore	Reducing Refrigerant Emissions at Small Food Processors and Producers	Grants will be awarded to small food processors and producers to replace existing refrigeration systems to use lower global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants, lowering their climate change impact.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	$670,000
2026-149	Veluchamy	Chitraichamy	Ambient Alkaline Hydrolysis, an Emergency Livestock Mortality Disposal	The Project team will evaluate the feasibility of ambient alkaline hydrolysis (AAH) as an emergency management mortality disposal method for livestock in Minnesota.	U of MN, West Central Research and Outreach Center	$706,000
2026-186	Will	Northrop	Resilient Farms Using Green Ammonia-Fueled Equipment	Advanced engine technology will be developed to cleanly consume green ammonia or propane with low emissions. A farm utility tractor will be converted and demonstrated to prove the technology.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$784,000
2026-215	Prasanth Kumar	Sasidharan Pillai	Advanced Pour Point Depressants from Waste Cooking Oil	This project transforms waste cooking oil into a novel pour point depressant that prevents Minnesota biodiesel from crystallizing at temperatures between -30°C and -40°C.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$500,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-225	Bo	Wang	Converting Agricultural Waste to Biodegradable Plastics and Biofuel	Corn stover, a major agricultural residue, will be pretreated and enzymatically digested to generate sugars, and then converted to biodegradable plastics and bio-gasoline through microbial fermentation and process engineering.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$794,000
2026-274	Bo	Hu	Tool for Food Waste Upcycling in Ethanol Biorefineries	This project develops a decision support tool to integrate food waste discard into corn ethanol biorefineries, enhancing ethanol production, improving feed quality, and promoting sustainable waste management in rural Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$494,000
2026-296	Richard	James	A Vertical Axis Wind Turbine for Greater Minnesota	State-of-the-art AI optimization methods are used to design a high efficiency vertical axis wind turbine that is deployed in urban, suburban, exurban, and rural Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$593,000
2026-309	Jason	Hill	Environmental Impacts of Minnesota Sustainable Aviation Fuels	This project will use state-of-the-science life cycle analysis methods to assess the potential for Minnesota-grown sustainable aviation fuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$377,000
2026-329	Eric	Buchanan	Making Solar Work for Minnesota Dairy Farmers	Solar array (~250 kW) using several options to optimize grazing with dairy cows will develop data for pasture forage, dairy cow management, and energy production allowing replication by other farmers.	U of MN, West Central Research and Outreach Center	$1,443,000
2026-330	Brett	Barney	Biocrude from Microbes to Extend Agricultural Sustainability	We will investigate methods to maximize the production of a sustainable crude oil alternative generated from agricultural residues and other waste streams using a novel soil microbial consortia.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$509,000
2026-338	Soon Li	Teh	Evaluating Agrivoltaics on Minnesota's Novel Cold-Hardy Table Grapes	This project assesses the integration of cold-hardy table grape cultivation with solar energy production (agrivoltaics) to optimize land use, improve resource efficiency, and develop guidelines for sustainable agriculture in Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$509,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-351	Chris	Leighton	Clean Energy and Water from Iron Range Materials	Minnesota Iron Range resources will be used to establish the synthesis of semiconductor-quality pyrite iron disulfide materials, unlocking multiple new clean energy and water applications for this vital state resource.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$987,000
2026-387	Melissa	Finnegan	Innovative Solution to Renewable Energy from Food Waste	A partnership supporting Minnesota's climate and renewable energy goals by diverting organic materials from landfills and producing renewable natural gas (RNG) through anaerobic digestion and sequestering carbon into biochar.	Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board	$10,000,000
2026-397	Julia	Nerbonne	Community Climate Resilience Network Youth Apprentice Program	MNIPL will provide technical assistance and train youth apprentices and community decision makers to plan and build out resilience networks and hubs in 20 community based organizations over two years.	Climate Justice Commons, Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light	$1,031,000
2026-402	Melissa	Birch	Empowering Small Business Energy Savings in Greater Minnesota	The project will scale up assistance to Greater Minnesota small businesses and nonprofits to help them identify and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, reducing their costs and emissions.	U of MN, Extension Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships	$1,900,000
2026-404	Dylan	Millet	AI, EVs, Crypto: Reducing Pollution from Electricity Demand	We will provide crucial data to reveal how rising electrical demand will affect Minnesota air quality, and compare the environmental costs and benefits of different approaches for meeting that demand.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$382,000
2026-407	Jamie	Stallman	Agrivoltaics at Scale	Demonstration of dual-use, utility-scale agricultural-solar photovoltaic (“agrivoltaics”) projects at 4 rural Minnesota sites for continued farming and clean energy production.	Great River Energy	$2,000,000
2026-410	Ardeshir	Ebtehaj	Future Availability of Solar Energy in Minnesota	Current solar energy potential estimates in Minnesota rely on historical data, overlooking climate change impacts on cloud cover. We aim to project future solar energy availability under various climate scenarios.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$339,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-413	Hessam	Mirgolbabaei	Accelerated Low-Dimensional Simulations of Fire Pools and Engine Ignition	This project develops a fast, low-dimensional combustion simulation framework integrating artificial intelligence to improve biofuel fire pool modeling, reducing computational costs while enhancing predictive accuracy for cleaner, safer energy applications.	U of MN, Duluth	$552,000
2026-426	Qi	Zhang	Minnesota Sustainable Aviation Fuels Supply Chain Transition Optimization	We will develop a computational supply chain transition optimization model to determine how sustainable aviation fuels can be manufactured in Minnesota to decarbonize the state's aviation fuel supply.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$448,000
2026-431	Latisha	Brengman	Geologic Hydrogen: Minnesota's Subsurface System and Resource Potential	Minnesota has significant potential for geologic hydrogen. This project aims to create a research framework to address critical knowledge gaps on natural hydrogen gas formation processes and environmental conditions.	U of MN, Duluth	$599,000
2026-476	Paul	Chen	Sustainable Aviation Fuels from Renewables through Microwave-Assisted Conversion	This project aims to develop and demonstrate a catalytic microwave-assisted low temperature pyrolysis system that converts renewable oils and fats into sustainable aviation fuels, thereby reducing reliance on fossil fuels.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$895,000
2026-483	Sally	Bauer	Talking Energy: Engagement to Impact	The proposed project will provide engagement, education, workforce development, and implementation support surrounding residential energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy to residents in Hennepin County.	Hennepin County	$2,529,000
2026-492	Vivian	Ferry	Agrivoltaics in Minnesota: Enhancing Agriculture and Energy Production	Research will be conducted on a utility-scale solar farm to establish the best practices in Minnesota for combining agricultural production with electricity generation on the same land.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$685,000
2026-494	Xiaojia	Wang	Energy 2-in-1: Hybrid Perovskites Harness Sunlight and Waste Heat	Developing an innovative 2-in-1 system that captures both sunlight and waste heat to generate electricity. Using advanced dual-function materials, this innovation boosts efficiency, reduces energy costs, and accelerates decarbonization.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$630,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-502	Samuel	Sharp	Regional Ground-Source Energy Project Screening Toolkit	Region Nine Development Commission and Geosyntec are developing an interactive planning tool to optimize ground source energy site selection in Minnesota, reducing inefficiencies and enhancing project viability through data-driven insights.	Region Nine Development Commission	$400,000
2026-522	Jun	Li	Data-Driven Design of Anti-Icing Coatings for Heat Pumps	I will use a data-driven approach to design the most effective and durable anti-icing coating, which could solve the frosting challenge for air-source heat pumps in cold climates like Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$466,000
2026-525	Sayan	Biswas	SkyWindFarm: Clean, Scalable High-Altitude Wind Energy for Minnesota	SkyWindFarm is an innovative airborne wind energy system delivering carbon-free, cost-effective power without land use conflicts, preserving wildlife, and ensuring reliable energy, supporting Minnesota's environmental goals and resource conservation.	TerraCare Energy LLC	$399,000
2026-540	Lian	Shen	Novel Piezoelectric Energy Converters for Minnesota Waters	This project will model and evaluate an innovative renewable energy approach—an underwater piezoelectric filament canopy—to sustainably harness the untapped wave energy resources of Lake Superior and similar regions.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$500,000
2026-551	Dawn	Pape	Preparing Students for Clean Energy/Economy Careers	This multi-sector partnership equips educators and students with climate solutions and 21st-century careers training, integrating hands-on, STEM-based curricula to prepare students to be part of a clean economy/energy workforce.	We All Need Food and Water	$664,000
2026-556	Keiko	Miller	Enabling Local Ownership of Community Solar	This project expands equitable renewable energy access, reduces energy burdens for low- and moderate-income households, increases adoption of energy efficiency, and supports local community solar ownership by Minneapolis neighborhood organizations.	Minneapolis Climate Action	$1,653,000
					Subtotal	**$34,836,000**
E. Energy **G. Small Projects (RECEIVED: 9 Proposals / Subtotal - $2,478,000)**						

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-017	Audrey	Pallmeyer	Cooperative Energy Futures: Home Energy Efficiency	Cooperative Energy Futures will implement a home energy efficiency program, targeting low-moderate income households, including home energy audits and upgrade proposals identifying the most cost-effective home upgrades for specific homes.	Cooperative Energy Futures	$259,000
2026-336	Cedar	Walters	West Central Minnesota Solar and Climate Action Support	West Central Initiative (WCI) will implement two solarize campaigns with Solar United Neighbors, conduct extensive outreach with stakeholders around climate impacts, and update the Minnesota Region 4 Climate Action Plan.	West Central Initiative	$291,000
2026-375	Walid	Sadok	Water Efficient Perennial Biofuel Grasses for Climate Resiliency	Biofuel crops can boost Minnesota energy independence while protecting natural resources. We will quantify the biofuel potential of four perennial grasses relative to their water, nitrogen requirements, and climate resiliency.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$298,000
2026-376	Sam	Toan	Novel Ethanol Production for Ethanol Fuel Cell	To mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and promote green fuel initiative in Minnesota, we propose an ethanol production pathway using CO_2 as the feedstock to prioritize ethanol fuel cell technology	U of MN, Duluth	$257,000
2026-417	Erin	Cortus	Roadmap to Decarbonize Livestock Farms	This project will develop a roadmap for decarbonizing energy use on Minnesota livestock farms by electrifying farm operations, reducing carbon emissions, and enhancing sustainability through techno-economic assessments.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$184,000
2026-423	Min	Addy	Microwave-Enhanced Chemical Recycling of Decommissioned Wind Turbine Blades	This project aims to develop and evaluate microwave-enhanced solvolysis and pyrolysis technologies for the recycling high-quality fibers and chemical building blocks from decommissioned wind turbine blades.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
2026-427	Jason	Hill	Climate Change Effects of a Clean Transportation Standard	This project will use newly-developed life cycle analysis methods to assess the potential for a Clean Transportation Standard in Minnesota to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-527	Aditya	Bhan	Biofuels for the Farm	The project addresses bioenergy research needs for heat, electricity, and liquid fuels by co-processing solid biomass and renewable biogas in small-scale reactors suitable for distributed chemical processing.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$291,000
2026-529	Kelsey	Klucas	Minnesota Chiller Energy Efficiency and Onsite Energy Generation	Project seeks to decrease carbon emissions through technical assistance aimed at cost-effective strategies to reduce energy use in chiller systems and identify onsite energy solutions that promote decarbonization and resilience.	U of MN, School of Public Health	$298,000
					Subtotal	**$2,478,000**
F. Land (RECEIVED: 41 Proposals / Subtotal - $57,646,000)						
2026-035	Martin	Walsh	Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Restoration	Funds will support land restoration and invasive species mitigation, including efforts to address EAB, in alignment with recommendations from the LMRP Natural Resource Management Plan (May 2024).	Carver County	$400,000
2026-040	Daniel	Larkin	A Restoration Dashboard for Seeding Better Prairies	Create an online tool to help managers improve prairie restorations. The tool evaluates plant species in existing seed-mixes and restorations and offers guidance on cost-effective improvements to better meet goals.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$496,000
2026-043	Sarah	Hewitt	Adopt a Flyway: Enhancing Minnesota's Migratory Bird Pitstops	The Adopt a Flyway pilot will incentivize habitat restoration and enhancement of Minnesota’s Mississippi Flyway to support native birds full life cycles. Audubon ecologists will guide participants through bird-friendly practices.	Audubon Upper Mississippi River	$1,425,000
2026-046	Lee	Penn	Eliminating Microplastics from Anaerobic Digestion to Prevent Pollution	This project optimizes anaerobic digestion to ensure that compostable plastics break down fully. By preventing microplastic pollution, it supports cleaner soils, water systems, and more sustainable waste management solutions.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$822,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-056	Emma	Haydock	Minnesota 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program	This approach to agriculture provides a science-based framework for plant nutrition, sustained crop production, and reduced risk to the environment, while considering specific individual farms' needs.	Minnesota Crop Production Retailers	$433,000
2026-058	Adrian	Hegeman	Strategic Metal Mining/Remediation Using Minnesota-Hardy Plants	Minnesota-hardy plant species suitable for bio-extraction of strategic metals (nickel, copper, cobalt, and RREs) and removal of toxic elements (cadmium and arsenic) will be identified for phytomining and phytoremediation.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$1,493,000
2026-067	Daniel	Cariveau	Collaborating for Resilience with the Prairie Reconstruction Initiative	A multi-agency effort to meet habitat goals on prairie reconstructions through partner coordination, monitoring, analysis, and outreach. The resulting products will help build resilience in a threatened prairie landscape.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$526,000
2026-078	Matthew	Aro	Utilizing Wood Waste and Biochar for Mineland Reclamation	We propose to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and expand markets for Minnesota wood waste by developing guidelines for utilizing wood waste and biochar as topsoil amendments for mineland reclamation.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	$371,000
2026-087	Grace	Wilson	Measuring Wind Erosion in Minnesota	Develop devices and protocols to measure wind erosion in Minnesota and take preliminary measurements of wind erosion	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$325,000
2026-095	Steve	Donovan	Establishing a Regenerative Agriculture Demonstration Farm	FarWide Conservation Trust (FWCT), working with several partners with expertise in promoting regenerative agriculture, will acquire and establish a long-term, regenerative agriculture demonstration farm in southwest Minnesota.	FarWide Conservation Trust, Inc.	$1,730,000
2026-143	Eli	Sagor	Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Curriculum Development and Pilot	Increasing access to safe, effective prescribed fire statewide through design and delivery of a Minnesota Certified Prescribed Burn Manager program to improve the collective competence of non-agency prescribed fire practitioners.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$465,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-171	Senyu	Chen	Developing Long-Term Resilient Cropping Systems Supporting Soil Biodiversity	This project will investigate soil health, biodiversity, and ecological services under different long-term cropping systems through the analysis of the structure and function of nematode, fungal, bacterial, and protist communities.	U of MN, Southern Research and Outreach Center	$456,000
2026-181	Shawn	Dolan	Bulky Waste Diversion Project (Oversized Bulky Waste)	Divert bulky waste from landfills by partnering with governments and haulers to expand recycling and reuse, protecting the environment, reducing landfill demand, and creating jobs through sustainable waste management.	EMERGE Community Development	$1,833,000
2026-190	Rebecca	Tucker	Pollinator Central V: Habitat Improvement with Public Engagement	Continuing pollinator habitat creation and enhancement on 10 sites from Mankato to Little Falls, with public engagement and education centered on native pollinators and community participation in natural resource stewardship.	Great River Greening	$1,114,000
2026-208	Maowei	Liang	Enhancing the Resiliency of Minnesota's Native Prairies	Restoring abandoned farmland in metro and central Minnesota through comprehensive science-based restoration approaches to enhance prairie biodiversity, ecosystem function, and resiliency to changing environments.	U of MN, Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve	$817,000
2026-211	Linda	Kinkel	Microbial Inoculants to Enhance Minnesota Agroecosystem Resilience	This project will enhance resilience of Minnesota's agricultural and natural lands by providing data on microbial inoculant performance to support grower adoption of more sustainable production practices.	Jord BioScience	$1,199,000
2026-223	Dan	Shaw	Oak Savanna Restoration for Living Landscapes	This pilot program will restore and enhance oak savannas on local public lands and permanently protected conservation lands strategically located across Minnesota's Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province.	Board of Water and Soil Resources	$3,436,000
2026-235	Jessica	Lee	Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition Phase 9	Acquire properties with high-quality natural resources or natural resources restoration potential for the metropolitan Regional Parks System. This project will be matched over 100% with Council and local Agency funds.	Metropolitan Council	$3,000,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-256	Vera	Krischik	Education on Land Management to Protect Beneficial Insects	Land management of urban forests, restorations, and backyards to reduce pesticide use, manage pests, and conserve beneficial insects requires accessible online educational materials, such as courses, videos, manuals, and bulletins.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$306,000
2026-276	Judy	Elbert	SNA Habitat Enhancement, Public Engagement and Biodiversity Protection	Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) habitat enhancement (~2,400 acres), increased public involvement, and strategic acquisition (~170 acres) will conserve Minnesota's most unique and rare resources for everyone's benefit.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	$5,475,000
2026-289	Dominic	Petrella	Reducing Microplastics and PFAS from Minnesota Lawn Fertilizers	This project will provide data to inform Minnesotans if fertilized turfgrasses contribute to microplastic and PFAS pollution, and to identify barriers/tradeoffs/incentives for consumers to use contaminant free fertilizers.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$998,000
2026-300	Ji Youn	Shin	Sustainable Land Use on Small-Farms through Collaborative Robots	Working with the Hmong American Farmers Association, this project will customize robotic technologies for use on small farms and train farmers to incorporate these robots into their traditional agricultural practices.	U of MN, College of Design	$562,000
2026-307	Irene	De Pellegrin Llorente	Managing Minnesota's Forests for Carbon: Tradeoffs and Synergies	Forests mitigate climate change by removing carbon from the atmosphere. Managing forests for carbon credits might impact other forest management objectives. Identifying tradeoffs and synergies across objectives is key.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$328,000
2026-310	Stuart	Lichtenberg	Microwave Assisted Pyrolysis for Environmental Prion Remediation	This project aims to develop and demonstrate a novel soil decontamination technology by integrating biochar application and microwave-assisted pyrolysis for remediating prions and other persistent pollutants in soil.	U of MN, College of Veterinary Medicine	$799,000
2026-324	Melissa	Barrick	Resilient Habitat Restoration Around Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape	Ensuring resilient, healthy habitats (private-public lands) within the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape: • Prescribed Fire (200 acres) • Habitat Restoration (60 acres) • Forest Management Plans (60) • Conservation and Oak Wilt Projects (20).	Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District	$968,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-328	Julie	Etterson	MN Million: Locally Grown Tree Seedlings for Reforestation	Our goal is to reforest one million acres. Continued LCCMR funding will increase the workforce of trained seed collectors and farmers who are raising tree seedlings for future Minnesota forests.	U of MN, Duluth	$1,095,000
2026-339	Heidi	Wolf	Native Prairie Bank-Private Native Prairie Conservation and Outreach	Native Prairie Bank (NPB) will help landowners conserve native prairie though multiple outreach methods, restoration and enhancement of 600 acres, and protection of 140 acres through conservation easements.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	$2,500,000
2026-340	Morteza	Maher	Swift Coulee Channel Restoration - Phase 2	Swift Coulee Channel Restoration - Phase 2, will create a 140 ft wide permanently managed habitat on over 8 miles long of farmed stream while protecting farms from flood as well.	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District	$3,564,000
2026-346	William Tai Yin	Tze	Recyclable/Reversible Thermosets for Reducing Microplastics in Minnesota	We will reduce microplastics in Minnesota by creating a heat-hardened (thermoset) polymer which is not easy to wear down, yet reversible in structure upon stimuli to allow reuse and recycling.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$499,000
2026-396	Skip	Langer	Southeast Minnesota Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Initiative	To collaboratively address rising nitrate trends in groundwater on a regional scale by implementing soil health practices on private land in southeastern Minnesota where groundwater is susceptible to contamination.	Olmsted County	$9,000,000
2026-418	Juer	Liu	Sustainable Landfill Management for Waste Valorization and Recovery	This project pilots sustainable landfill management at Bridgewater Landfill, optimizing gas recovery, treating leachate for PFAS/microplastics, and converting waste into resources, supporting long-term land conservation and circular waste management.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$890,000
2026-420	Star	Nelson	Minnesota Grazing Lands Conservation Education and Outreach Initiative	The Minnesota Grazing Lands Conservation Education and Outreach Initiative proposal aims to expand resources, offer educational opportunities, and increase communication for farmers and ranchers interested in sustainable grazing practices.	Minnesota Grazing Lands Conservation Association	$830,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-429	Jason	Hill	Roadmap for Pollution-Smart Agriculture in Minnesota	We will provide Minnesotans with a detailed report describing the potential for Minnesota agriculture to contribute to improved air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emission goals while improving farm profitability.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$377,000
2026-448	Judy	Yang	Reduce Agricultural Soil Erosion with Precision Cover Crops	We aim to integrate cover crops and precision agriculture technology to mitigate soil erosion in Minnesota's corn-soybean farms.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$440,000
2026-466	Adriana	Uscanga Castillo	Urban Nature: Mapping and Monitoring Minnesota's Green Spaces	Sustainable urban development requires detailed geographic information of urban vegetation. We provide detailed maps of past and current urban vegetation, and a reproducible workflow for updating future urban vegetation maps.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$505,000
2026-482	Colleen	Miller	Assessing Sociocultural, Economic Contributions of Northeastern Minnesota Resources	This project integrates ecosystem service modeling and stakeholder insights to assess nature's contributions in Northeastern Minnesota, addressing knowledge gaps and informing natural resource management from both scientific and community perspectives.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$325,000
2026-487	Christian	Lenhart	Cascading Generation of Hydrochar to Restore Farmed Peatlands	This project explores integrating hydrothermal carbonization (HTC) into dairy manure management to convert digestate into hydrochar, improving farmed peatland restoration, enhancing carbon sequestration, and promoting sustainable land management practices.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$610,000
2026-518	Joseph	Labuz	Evaluating Geologic Carbon Storage in the Tamarack Intrusion	An underground deposit of porous olivine rock near Tamarack, MN has the potential to permanently store millions of tons of carbon through natural and safe reactions with CO_2.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$509,000
2026-547	Andrea	Harrell	Windermere Bluff Park	Acquisition of sensitive habitat area endangered by development encroachment.	City of Shakopee	$2,200,000
2026-576	Ian	Alexander	Daylighting Shingle Creek Phase I	Brooklyn Center is seeking an ENRTF appropriation to acquire land for the purpose of daylighting part of Shingle Creek to provide additional habitat for wildlife and recreational opportunities for residents.	City of Brooklyn Center	$3,573,000

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-581	Robert	Bale	Living with Fire in Minnesota Forests	This project will restore and enhance lands by growing the pace and scale of prescribed burning on public and tribal lands and educating landowners to promote application of beneficial practices.	The Nature Conservancy	$952,000
					Subtotal	**$57,646,000**
F. Land						
G. Small Projects (RECEIVED: 13 Proposals / Subtotal - $3,003,000)						
2026-052	Elizabeth	Kluesner	PFAS Contaminated Land Cleanup Training/Brownfield Practitioner Expansion	Support 4 years of educational programming for emerging developers, environmental practitioners, government, and the private sector to increase the number of effective PFAS/PFOA cleanups and expand Minnesota's brownfield developer population.	Minnesota Brownfields	$57,000
2026-166	Bryan	Runck	Updating Land Cover Maps for Enhanced Natural Systems	Land cover information for Minnesota's most populous counties is outdated. These were last updated in 2016. We will update land cover data using new LiDAR and aerial imagery.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$298,000
2026-200	Mark	Bowen	Evaluating Soil Health Benefits of Controlled Agricultural Drainage	This multi-year project compares changes to soil health over time for cultivated croplands in soybean-corn rotation with controlled and uncontrolled tile drainage installed.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Minnesota State University Mankato	$249,000
2026-217	Brett	Arenz	Supporting Critical Capacity for Minnesota Plant Pathogen Detection	The requested funding would bridge a projected budget gap at the UMN Plant Disease Clinic, preserving its critical capacity to be a diagnostic resource for Minnesota farmers, businesses, and citizens.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$176,000
2026-275	Madison	Rodman	Blown Away? Assessing Resilience of Minnesota Point Dunes	Blown Away seeks to collaboratively develop a more thorough understanding of Minnesota Point dunes, engage volunteers in community science research, and encourage stewardship and build understanding through education and outreach.	U of MN, Duluth - Sea Grant	$261,000
2026-292	Jefferson	Brand	Lake Brophy Park Trail Armoring and Trail Improvements	Trail Armoring of the skills area at Lake Brophy Park. Revision of technical features on the Bomber Trail. Adding features to existing trails.	Big Ole Bike Club	$70,000

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
2026-317	Tony	Klaers	Soy Based Road and Trail Preservation Treatment	Northern Minnesota Regional Development Commissions will partner with cities, and counties in the region to pilot soy-based road treatment product to maintain and extend the useful life of the surface.	Headwaters Regional Development Commission	$221,000
2026-370	Daniel	Griffin	Checking in on Old-Growth and Heritage Oaks	To document old-growth oaks on public lands in southern and central Minnesota, we will use tree-ring analysis and field survey techniques to characterize age structure, vegetation composition, and tree health.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$244,000
2026-384	Jiwei	Zhang	Alleviating PFAS Impacts of Biosolids on Agricultural Lands	This project aims to monitor the impacts of PFAS-containing biosolids on farmland health and beneficial agricultural microbial species and develop a cost-effective PFAS bio-treatment method for remediating affected agricultural soil.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
2026-428	Jason	Hill	Cleaning Minnesota's Air with Plant-Based Protein	This project explores the potential for plant-based protein to clean Minnesota's air and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, while providing an additional revenue source for our state’s rural economic base.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$248,000
2026-433	Katherina	Pattit	Building Plant Natural History Data in Stearns County	This project has two aims; digitization of 30,000 natural history collections held at the SCSU herbarium and conducting floristic work with students in two Stearns County parks.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, St. Cloud State University	$285,000
2026-441	Brad	Gordon	Restoring Forests and Savannas Using Silvopasture- Phase III	Demonstrate the best practices for restoring buckthorn infested savannas and forests to diverse plant communities managed through implementation of fire and grazing.	Great River Greening	$299,000
2026-569	Bob	Basques	Capturing Seasons: PhenoCam Network for Monitoring and Forecasting	This project expands Minnesota’s PhenoCam Network to enhance forest monitoring, track climate impacts, improve management strategies, support public engagement, and provide real-time, high-resolution ecosystem data for research, education, and conservation.	SharedGeo	$295,000
					Subtotal	**$3,003,000**

2026 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2027
Proposals Received by Category with Summaries

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	30 Word Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
H. Administration (RECEIVED: 4 Proposals / Subtotal - $342,000)						
2026-006	LCCMR Universal	Account	Emerging Issues Account 2026	Emerging Issues Account FY2027	Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources	TBD
2026-007	LCCMR Universal	Account	LCCMR Administrative Budget	LCCMR Admin Budget	Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources	TBD
2026-009	LCCMR Universal	Account	LCC Legacy Website	Legacy website.	Legislative Coordinating Commission	$2,000
2026-497	Katherine	Sherman-Hoehn	2026 Contract Agreement Reimbursement	Provide contract management to ENRTF pass-through appropriation recipients for approximately 115 open grants. Ensure funds are expended in compliance with appropriation law, state statute, grants policies, and approved work plans.	MN DNR, Grants Unit	$340,000
					Subtotal	**$342,000**
					Total	**$358,772,000**