2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

As of March 18, 2026, the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) received 434 proposals requesting a total of approximately $375 million. The amount available for appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) for this funding cycle is projected to be approximately $121 million. This RFP process is for funds that become available for the first year of the FY 2028-FY 2029 biennium beginning July 1, 2027.

LCCMR reviews and evaluates all proposals against their adopted evaluation criteria. On June 17, 2026, members selected 120 proposals totaling approximately $156,598,000 to receive further consideration for funding from the ENRTF. Of the 120 proposals selected for further consideration, 88 were invited to present before the LCCMR on June 29-30 and July 1, 2026. 32 will be considered without the need for a presentation. On July 30, the LCCMR will meet to make final selection and funding allocation decisions. In late 2026, the commission will meet to approve appropriation bill language for these projects that will be presented to the 2027 Minnesota Legislature as the official LCCMR recommendations for spending from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

NOTE: Proposals selected for further consideration without a presentation needed are marked with an "X" in the Selected Column. Proposals selected for further consideration with a required presentation are marked with "XP".

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
A. Resiliency (RECEIVED: 47 Proposals / Subtotal - $44,352,000; SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION: 8 Proposals / Subtotal - $10,324,000)							
	2027-042	John	Gulliver	Resilient Lawns to Mitigate Flooding from Extreme Storms	We propose identifying a selection of grasses for lawns and parks that will open up the soil so that it can accept more rainfall and reduce flooding during extreme storms.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$598,000
	2027-091	Robert	Sip	Rural Floodplain Mapping Initiative for Strategic Watershed Conservation	The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) plans to map critical locations for flooding. The mapping can be used to implement resilient conservation practices and reduce flood damage.	Red River Watershed Management Board	$1,250,000
	2027-112	Marcella	Windmuller-Campione	Maximizing Lowland Conifer Ecosystem Services - Phase III	Eastern larch has been decimated by the native eastern larch beetle. We want to know what defenses trees have, if and which trees are regenerating and how wildlife are responding.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$575,000
	2027-129	Susan	Balenger	Assessing Risk of Neonicotinoid Seed Treatment on Insects	This project aims to provide risk assessment data on non-targeted insects when exposed to neonicotinoid seed treatment (NST hereafter), assisting evidence-based policy-making for NST regulation and integrative pest management.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$632,000
XP	2027-141	Mark	Green	Measuring Enhanced Greenhouse Gas Capture by Restored Peatlands	This project would build upon ongoing work to quantify the effect of peatland restoration in northern Minnesota on enhancing greenhouse gas capture by focusing on more heavily degraded peatlands.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	$1,164,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-147	Samuel	Sharp	Rural Resilience Coordination	This proposal will implement regional resilience planning across nine counties in southern rural Minnesota, providing technical assistance that moves projects toward implementation, strengthening communities' ability to prepare for extreme weather.	Region Nine Development Commission	$500,000
	2027-155	Megan	Kuhl-Stennes	Improving AQI Forecasting and Climate Resiliency with Sensors	The MPCA would place air sensors in every Minnesota state park, evaluate the data to forecast the AQI more accurately, as well as providing real time data to recreators.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	$893,000
XP	2027-160	Rachel	Gregg	Scandia Cemetery Shoreline Restoration Project	Construct a shoreline stabilization project for the Scandia Cemetery property to cease the uncovering of graves and exposure of human remains, prevent sediment erosion, and combat Lake Superior's weather events.	St. Louis County	$1,726,000
	2027-168	Heather	Arends	Aggregate Resource Mapping	Aggregate resource mapping identifies Minnesota's finite sand and gravel resources, helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions through local sourcing while supporting climate-resilient infrastructure and strategic flood recovery planning for 4-6 counties.	MN DNR, Lands and Minerals Division	$653,000
XP	2027-207	Shannon	Montante	Spring Lake Schaar's Bluff Prairie and Woodland Restoration	Restore 93 acres of land in Spring Lake Park Reserve (SLPR) by converting disturbed grassland to prairie and restoring woodlands to create habitat, improve water quality, and enhance ecosystem health.	Dakota County	$1,031,000
	2027-221	Jesse	Berman	Drought Adaptation and Resiliency Planning for Minnesota	Leading drought experts will partner with Minnesota communities to develop and pilot a statewide drought adaptation toolkit, strengthening natural resource resilience through locally informed, data-driven planning across sectors and regions.	U of MN, School of Public Health	$536,000
	2027-233	Christina	Smith-Martin	Determining Urban Forest Patch Health and Regeneration	The future of urban tree canopy depends on forest health, regeneration, and resilience to perturbation, which are currently unknown. We will determine these factors that are key to active management.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$577,000
XP	2027-235	Katie	Edmond	Building Resilient Urban Forests for Climate Change 2	Great River Greening will expand climate-resilient urban tree canopies in areas impacted by heat islands and tree loss through planting and establishment in partnership with cities, school districts, and volunteers.	Great River Greening	$897,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
XP	2027-242	Tyler	Butts	Developing Biological Benchmarks for Resilient Lakes	We will evaluate biological recovery of Minnesota lakes after meeting water quality standards and identify any mismatches between chemical, contaminant, and biological standards inclusive of aquatic plants, zooplankton, and fish.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$359,000
	2027-247	Danielle	Ignace	Recovery of Forest Ecosystems and Wildlife After Fire	Our project creates a unique long-term dataset to understand the response and recovery of people, animals, plants, water, and soil after the Pagami and Greenwood Fires in Northern Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$634,000
	2027-250	Britt	Gangeness	Leveraging K-12 Schools for Community Resilience	Advances GreenStep Schools and the Climate Action Framework via a climate resilience roadmap that activates school-based mitigation, education, and resilience actions with community and state climate priorities.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	$828,000
	2027-261	Wenqing	Zhang	Milkweed Renaissance: Conservation-Compatible Milkweed Supply Chain	Design a conservation-compatible milkweed supply chain that analyzes market potential, aligns stakeholder incentives, and creates public tools to reward milkweed protection while supporting monarch habitat and native biodiversity.	U of MN, Duluth	$1,579,000
	2027-265	Shawn	Dolan	Minnesota Furniture Recovery and Resilience Initiative	Restore value to discarded furniture by turning waste into opportunity. Reduce landfill use, expanding access to essential household goods, and building a more resilient, sustainable future for communities across Minnesota.	EMERGE Community Development	$2,365,000
	2027-266	Benjamin	Cull	Tick-Borne Disease Risk in Earthworm-Invaded Minnesota Forests	This project aims to determine if the activity of blacklegged ticks and risk of tick-borne disease will increase with the advent of jumping worm invasion of Minnesota woodland ecosystems.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$350,000
	2027-297	Jeffrey	Strock	Continuous Living Cover: Safeguarding Soil and Water Health	This project will measure plant, soil, and drainage components to anticipate adjustments to soil fertility requirements and water quality improvements or impairments associated with continuous living cover systems.	U of MN, Southwest Research and Outreach Center	$321,000
	2027-311	Veluchamy	Chitraichamy	Resilient Novel Bio-Based GHGs Reduction Strategies for Livestock-Manure	This project will develop and demonstrate a resilient novel biological additives and in-situ treatment system that reduces greenhouse gas emissions (methane and ammonia) during swine manure deep-pit storage and handling.	U of MN, WCROC	$585,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-316	Brent	Williams	Protecting Minnesota's Environment Through Mobile Air Monitoring	Utilizing a new mobile research laboratory, we propose to make the first ever high spatial resolution measurements of air pollutants throughout Minnesota, deploy for emergency responses, and widely disseminate findings.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$994,000
	2027-319	Sushma	Reddy	The Impact of Microplastics on Minnesota's Wildlife	Birds are indicators of emergent environmental threats. Using salvaged wildlife from across the state, we will investigate the prevalence of microplastics in wildlife and ecosystems to develop mitigation strategies.	U of MN, Bell Museum	$430,000
	2027-325	Qizhi	He	Forecasting Minnesota Natural Hazards by Geospatial Intelligence Model	Minnesota-calibrated geospatial artificial intelligence framework that integrates statewide satellite, hydrologic, and geologic data to map and forecast landslide and flood hazards and support early warning systems.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$516,000
	2027-337	Declan	Schroeder	Bee Minnesota II: Protect our Native Bees	Our goal is to protect two keystone Minnesotan native bees, Bumblebees and Sweat bees from Iflavirus associated diseases and population declines.	U of MN, College of Veterinary Medicine	$865,000
	2027-338	Eric	Buchanan	Solar Powered Container Farm for Local Food Production	Developing a novel crop and energy system in a hydroponic container farm for improved environmental and food supply resiliency.	U of MN, WCROC	$1,018,000
	2027-342	Grace	Wilson	Rebuilding After Fire: Investigating Soil Toxicity	Soils exposed to chemicals released during structural fires will be analyzed to identify pollutants present in order to characterize soil toxicity and inform remediation efforts.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$310,000
XP	2027-347	Ce	Yang	Wildfire Early Detection and Prescribed-Burn Management Using Drones	We propose to develop autonomous long-range drone swarm systems equipped with advanced sensors for wildfire early detection and safer prescribed burns to improve air quality and wildfire response strategies.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$856,000
	2027-367	Shri	Ramaswamy	Resilient Sustainable Bioeconomy Utilizing Minnesota’s Waste Bioresources.	Develop a resilient, sustainable bioeconomy utilizing waste bioresources such as under-utilized diseased plants, invasive species, forestry waste, agricultural residues, and food waste to help improve Minnesota’s land and water resources.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$712,000
	2027-370	Keb	Guralski	Forest Disturbance, Risk and Resiliency Mapping and Monitoring	Emerging and existing technologies will create a forest disturbance, risk and resiliency framework for mapping and monitoring changes to our forests and support improved forest management and data quality.	MN DNR, Forestry Division	$500,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-383	Roger	Ruan	Climate-Resilient Landfill Volume Reduction and PFAS Control	Pilot a mobile CMAP system to reduce landfill volume, mineralize PFAS, generates electricity, and integrate leachate management—reducing methane emissions while protecting Minnesota groundwater, land resources, and environmental quality.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$600,000
XP	2027-435	Ryan	Harp	TickWise Minnesota: A First-Of-Its-Kind Minnesota Lyme Disease Forecast	TickWise Minnesota will develop a first-of-its-kind Lyme disease forecast informed by participatory science and an Extension education program to help foster safe use and enjoyment of Minnesota's natural environment.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$541,000
	2027-443	Haley	Smith	Deepen Understanding of Environmental Impacts of Wetland Restoration	By studying wild rice and bird community data, downed woody debris, and soil nutrients, we will improve wetland restoration best practices while continuing restoration work in the northern lakes ecosystem.	National Park Service, Voyageurs National Park	$637,000
	2027-457	Matthew	Tierney	Resilience Adaptation Framework and Toolkit (RAFT)	Develop a resilience adaptation toolkit technology to help engineers, architects, planners and community designers better understand the site-specific resilience risks and design opportunities that are best suited for their location.	U of MN, Center for Sustainable Building Research	$1,464,000
	2027-459	Joe	Magner	Predicting BWCAW Landscape Damage: Extreme Rain/Runoff Thresholds	Ely, MN area BWCAW is a fragile landscape that will unravel with extreme rain/runoff. Predicting the precipitation upon disturbed land will prevent water quality damage to lakes and rivers.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$657,000
	2027-463	Anqing	Xuan	Forecasting Weather-Driven Cold-Water Habitat Risk in Minnesota	This project will identify the summer weather conditions that trigger cold-water habitat loss in Minnesota lakes and deliver predictive tools for forecasting, targeted monitoring, and conservation planning.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$336,000
	2027-466	Peter	Smerud	Reconnecting Sawmill Creek: Climate-Resilient Access for Learning	Wolf Ridge will design and construct a climate-resilient bridge and boardwalk over Sawmill Creek, ensuring safe access for a public angling easement and enabling ongoing habitat stewardship and environmental education.	Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center	$409,000
	2027-473	Nathan	Eylands	Pulse of the Plant: Smart Greenhouse Lighting Control	We will use autonomous plant-feedback sensors to optimize greenhouse lighting and heating, enabling highly energy-efficient production, land conservation, and climate resilience for Minnesota's year-round food producers.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$816,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-494	David	Mulla	Protecting Drinking Water from Nitrates in Southeast Minnesota	We build community capacity for reducing nitrate pollution using Continuous Living Cover in southeastern Minnesota. We engage stakeholders and farmers to identify and evaluate viable economic and environmental CLC alternatives.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$836,000
	2027-497	Leif	Olmanson	Guiding Minnesota Climate Resilience: Actionable Surface Temperature Insights	This project uses advanced modeling and satellite data to map Minnesota's surface and subsurface temperatures, helping farmers, resource managers, and Tribes mitigate heat stress and reinforce climate-resilient strategies.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$584,000
	2027-506	Mindy	Granley	Aligning Resources for Community Resilience Implementation in Minnesota	This project advances Minnesota's climate priorities by connecting leaders who implement resilience projects, funding local plans, and creating a statewide resilience finance plan for investment to protect natural resources.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	$5,935,000
	2027-523	Irina	Stepanov	Impact of Tobacco and Nicotine Waste in Minnesota	This project will map the distribution of the harmful chemical burden from nicotine and tobacco waste across Minnesota and will provide a tool for assessing the impact of relevant interventions.	U of MN, School of Public Health	$830,000
	2027-547	Lian	Shen	Winter Precipitation Prediction to Support Minnesota Forest Resilience	This project will develop physics-based methods to predict forest-damaging wet snow and freezing rain in Minnesota, providing scientific guidance to protect forests, wildlife habitat, and energy infrastructure.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$475,000
	2027-556	Kevin	Silverstein	Mapping Continuous Living Cover for Environmental Assessment	We will build an AI-driven remote sensing tool to track Minnesota's emerging continuous living cover crops, mapping Kernza and Camelina acreage to accurately model their long-term environmental impacts.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$523,000
XP	2027-558	Ace	Bonnema	Gap-Filling Weather Data to Improve Watersheds/Community Resilience	Improve Minnesota natural resource management by providing high-resolution weather radar data to fill observation gaps, enhancing flood forecasting, water quality monitoring, agricultural and community resilience, and wildfire awareness statewide.	Kandiyohi County	$3,750,000
	2027-581	Jennifer	Murphy	Mapping Forest Species Composition	Hyperspectral imagery has success in mapping forest species composition when combined with lidar. We'll research scalability, develop baseline maps and decision-support tools to detect emerging threats to our forests.	MN DNR, Forestry Division	$729,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-615	Kristine	Maurer	Building Implementation Capacity for Natural Systems, Hennepin County	Hennepin County will develop customized resources and intelligent tools that build local capacity to prioritize projects, find partnerships, and communicate natural systems strategies to smoothly transition from planning to implementation.	Hennepin County	$976,000
						SubTotal	**$44,352,000**
A. Resiliency **G. Small Projects (RECEIVED: 25 Proposals / Subtotal - $6,631,000; SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION: 2 Proposals / Subtotal - $371,000)**							
	2027-050	Jared	Rubinstein	Natural Resource Inventory for Restoration and Resilient Landscapes	The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum (Arboretum) will conduct vegetation, bird, and pollinator surveys across its natural and designed garden areas to create opportunities for management, restoration, and climate resilience.	U of MN, Landscape Arboretum	$137,000
	2027-078	Roger	Ruan	Expanding Minnesota Plastic Recycling Beyond Mechanical Limits	This project tests whether targeted plastic recovery combining chemical recycling can measurably increase the recycling capacity of hard-to-recycle plastics and reduce landfill and incineration impacts in Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
	2027-103	John	Du Plissis	Linking Minnesota's Forest Ecosystems with Future Forest Bioeconomy	Defining the current and future conditions of Minnesota's forests, forest products industry, timber producer's capacity to support existing and emerging forest bioeconomy.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	$265,000
	2027-137	Madison	Rodman	Community Dune Science for a Resilient Minnesota Point	This project establishes a community science collaborative to monitor Minnesota Point dunes, fostering interagency coordination and community stewardship to protect rare ecosystems, evaluate restoration needs, and enhance long-term coastal resilience.	U of MN, Duluth - Sea Grant	$299,000
X	2027-154	Cedar	Walters	Restoring Prairies, Supporting Communities	Support communities in west central Minnesota with transitioning mowed areas to prairie plantings, complemented by a regional campaign to increase awareness and adoption of prairie plantings for climate resilience.	West Central Initiative	$296,000
X	2027-157	Brandon	Miller	Evaluating Native Prairie Willow for Managed Landscape Applications	This project aims to characterize the soil moisture tolerances of Minnesota native shrub, prairie willow, to determine its suitability for managed landscape applications and potentially identify superior adaptable selections.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$75,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-186	Todd	Rexine	Expanding On-Site Biochar Statewide	Great River Greening will advance scaling biochar on site 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	$298,000
	2027-299	Jeffrey	Strock	Field to Future: Agroecological Cropping Systems for Resilience	Data synthesis from a statewide network of long-term experiments will provide a roadmap for solving critical local and regional challenges: food security, climate resilience, economic stability, and environmental quality.	U of MN, Southwest Research and Outreach Center	$274,000
	2027-306	John	Zobel	Balancing Wildlife Habitat, Forest Management, and Climate Readiness	Minnesota recently invested significantly in estimating carbon and climate impacts of future forest management. This project leverages that work to consider future wildlife habitat and the interaction with climate-smart forestry.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$163,000
	2027-326	Brett	Barney	Keeping Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizers in Their Place	We will develop natural slow-release nitrogen fertilizers using current waste and byproduct feedstocks to provide a form of nitrogen for agricultural applications that dramatically lowers contaminated water and atmospheric losses.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$289,000
	2027-327	Bo	Wang	Biological Deodorization of Biogas	A bioprocess will be developed to use soil bacterium Cupriavidus necator to remove major smelly and harmful compounds in the off-gas from anaerobic digesters. Potential valuable byproducts will be generated.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$297,000
	2027-392	Thomas	Rodengen	Minnesota's Lacustrine Systems: A Conservation Inquiry	Analyze the changes in watershed vegetation and associated lake carbon accumulation rate that are representative of the different biomes in Minnesota to promote future climate resiliency in land use management.	Creative Scientific	$148,000
	2027-401	Victor	Lai	Pathogen-Driven Behavioral Changes in Deer Ticks	This project develops an artificial feeding system to determine how Borrelia burgdorferi alters deer tick behavior, informing strategies to reduce Lyme disease risk and protect Minnesota’s wildlife and natural resources.	U of MN, Duluth	$299,000
	2027-407	Ognjen	Ilic	High-Altitude Imaging for Wildfire Detection and Monitoring	This project seeks to develop a low-cost, high-altitude imaging platform to detect wildfires and monitor smoke over Minnesota's landscapes, supporting earlier response and protection of the state's natural resources.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$298,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-424	Samantha	Wells	Wide-Row Corn Systems for Water Quality and Farmer	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	$293,000
	2027-445	Matthew	Petersen	Protecting Threatened Aquatic Insects and Coldwater Stream Systems	We will assess threats to stream quality in coldwater systems, develop tools to more easily locate threatened aquatic insect species, and promote viable solutions for increasing resilience in these systems.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$298,000
	2027-454	Brian	Dingmann	Evaluating Microbial Recovery in Restored Minnesota Peatlands	Microbial indicators of peatland restoration recovery in northwest Minnesota, producing a Microbial Recovery Index and Restoration Effectiveness Framework for watershed districts, with workforce development across three rural and tribal institutions.	U of MN, Crookston	$296,000
	2027-469	Henry	Van Offelen	Identifying and Prioritizing Water Storage Sites Throughout Minnesota	This project applies an established framework across 33 Minnesota watersheds to identify and prioritize water storage sites that improve hydrology, water quality, stream stability, and climate resilience.	Board of Water and Soil Resources	$251,000
	2027-475	Nfamara K	Dampha	Minnesota Resilience Accelerator: Nature-Based Watershed Planning	Develop decision tools (Nature-Based Investment Navigator) that help watershed managers identify flood risks, evaluate nature-based solutions, and guide resilient land and water management investments that protect communities, and working lands.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$299,000
	2027-477	Jeremy	Hemberger	Climate Resilient Pollinator Corridors	The iBUG Lab will monitor urban pollinator habitats using bio-thermal sensors and camera traps to identify seed mixes creating climate refuges that protect Minnesota’s pollinator investments from extreme heat.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
	2027-509	Cristian	Beza Beza	Enhancing Agrilus Biomonitoring to Increase Minnesota Forest Resilience	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	$296,000
	2027-518	Ghanesh	Narasimhan	Protecting Minnesota Rivers from Polar Vortex Flood Risk	This project develops a physics-guided machine learning model and public dashboard that predicts polar vortex-driven spring flood risk for Minnesota's rivers by integrating snowpack and soil frost data.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$267,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-527	James	Cotner	Land and Water Management to Minimize Herbicide Exposure	The project aims to develop novel methods to trace the source and fate of glyphosate and its degradation products when used for weed management on land and in water.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$293,000
	2027-534	Adriana	Uscanga Castillo	Remotely-Sensed Tree Inventories for Urban and Community Forests	Resilient urban forest management relies on up-to-date tree inventories. We will map trees on public and private lands for Minnesota cities vulnerable to pest outbreaks using remote sensing and AI.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
	2027-594	Sami	Holm	Headwaters Regional Resiliency Hub	Advance regional resilience by enhancing the Headwaters Regional Resiliency Hub, expanding GIS capacity, centralizing data, and equipping regional organizations to make informed, coordinated decisions and plan strategically.	Headwaters Regional Development Commission	$300,000
						SubTotal	**$6,631,000**
B. Water **(RECEIVED: 70 Proposals / Subtotal - $63,011,000; SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION: 12 Proposals / Subtotal - $20,998,000)**							
XP	2027-006	Matt	Simcik	Freeing Minnesota Biosolids of Their PFAS Burden	Pending	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$882,000
	2027-033	Hua	Zhao	Removing Toxic Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) from Minnesota Waters	This project will develop an effective process for removing a contaminant, known as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), from Minnesota waters by forming aggregates with lignin fragments when catalyzed by natural enzymes.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$403,000
XP	2027-035	Aaron	Hirsch	Mapping Southwest Minnesota's Hidden Aquifers	Improve our knowledge of the limited groundwater availability in Southwest Minnesota by conducting airborne electromagnetic (AEM) surveys over Rural Water Districts and Source Water Protection Areas.	U of MN, MN Geological Survey	$654,000
	2027-055	Alexander	Frie	Water Science-Policy Fellowships: Strengthening Minnesota's Waters and Workforce	Minnesota Water Science and Policy Fellowships will embed skilled fellows into resource agencies for one year, providing immediate technical capacity for water resource management while developing Minnesota's future science-policy workforce.	U of MN, Duluth - Sea Grant	$505,000
	2027-063	Jeff	Forester	Data Buoy - A Portal Beneath the Waves	Pilot ten low-cost water monitoring buoys that are connected to a unified statewide data platform to enhance early risk detection, improve coordination, and strengthen long-term public understanding of Minnesota's waters.	Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates	$685,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-068	Kaira	Kamke	Developing a Lake Macroinvertebrate Index - Phase 1	Develop a macroinvertebrate index of biological integrity specific to Minnesota lakes for impairment assessment, trend monitoring, and evaluation of restoration impacts across diverse ecological provinces.	The Research Foundation for The State University of New York	$2,624,000
	2027-070	Veluchamy	Chitraichamy	Dairy Wastewater to Clean Water: Sustainable Nutrient Recovery	This project will develop and demonstrate a sustainable nutrient recovery system that will capture key nutrients from dairy wastewater and thereby reduce environmental risks including nutrient runoff and eutrophication problem.	U of MN, WCROC	$498,000
XP	2027-073	Xiaowen	Chen	Hybrid Deconstruction of Persistent PFAS Toward Complete Mineralization	This project aims to achieve complete PFAS destruction and mineralization while significantly reducing energy demand and costs through an innovative hybrid treatment train that integrates plasma, photocatalysis, and biological methods.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$470,000
XP	2027-075	Mitchell	Hunter	A Comprehensive Approach to Advancing Forever Green Agriculture	The Forever Green Initiative will fund research, farmer adoption, and commercialization projects focused on protecting water, the climate, wildlife, and other natural resources by developing and deploying new over-wintering crops.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$5,000,000
	2027-081	Kyle	Pillatzki	Plasma System for Economically Viable PFAS Remediation	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) or forever compounds pose a health threat to Minnesotans. Plasma technology can be utilized to economically remove these dangerous compounds restoring water quality.	Cottonwood County	$868,000
	2027-082	Kathy	Nielsen	Study: Addressing HAB's in Pokegama Lake Using Nanobubbles Technology	This project will Study the use of innovation nanobubbles technology to increase dissolved oxygen in Pokegama Lake, reducing release of soluble reactive phosphorous and the resultant harmful algae blooms (HABs).	Pokegama Lake Association	$3,802,000
	2027-090	Heidi	Roop	Minnesota FloodWise Communities Extension Program	The FloodWise Minnesota Communities Extension Program will help communities plan and implement resiliency solutions to manage extreme rainfall impacts on stormwater systems, including the integration of nature-based solutions.	U of MN, Extension	$1,000,000
	2027-106	Jeffrey	Marr	Impact of Recreational Boating on Alum Treated Lakes	A laboratory and field study to investigate how alum treated lakes are impacted by large wake waves and propeller wash generated by motorized recreational boats.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$475,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-114	Timothy	LaPara	Is Non-Disinfected Groundwater a Cause of Legionnaires' Disease?	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	$699,000
	2027-156	Beatriz	Baselga Cervera	Biocontrol of Harmful Algal Blooms	Harmful algal blooms threaten Minnesota's environment, economy, and health. Our project combines student sampling, advanced genomic sequencing, and laboratory research to find cyanotoxins-degrading bacteria and cyanophages, biocontrol alternatives to blooms.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$483,000
	2027-162	Hailey	Sauer	Before the Thaw: Winter Matters for Harmful Algae	This project aims to identify and understand where and how harmful algae persist through winter, providing early-season information to support water quality improvement and bloom-risk reduction efforts.	Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station	$750,000
	2027-164	Seth	Thompson	Elevating Teachers as Local Water Leaders Through Education	In partnership with local government units, we will implement a teacher leadership development program that equips teachers with requisite knowledge, resources, and skills to lead community action for water health.	Freshwater Society	$350,000
XP	2027-170	Luke	Langner	Mississippi Riverwalk Restoration and Public Access Enhancement Project	This project will restore and enhance the Mississippi Riverwalk corridor by improving public access, connectivity, and recreational opportunities while protecting St. Cloud's drinking water supply and supporting long-term environmental stewardship.	City of St. Cloud	$6,100,000
	2027-177	Veluchamy	Chitraichamy	Duckweed for Clean Water and Sustainable Bioproducts Production	This project will develop and demonstrate an integrated duckweed based treatment system that recovers nutrients from swine wastewater and produces a valuable protein rich biomass for sustainable bioproducts development.	U of MN, WCROC	$688,000
XP	2027-178	Lea	Pollack	Biochar Applications for Stormwater Pond Management and Remediation	Researching how novel applications of biochar amendments in stormwater ponds can be used to maximize pollution remediation while minimizing negative effects on freshwater communities.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$641,000
	2027-183	Kelsey	Prihoda	Watershed Watchers: Empowering Educators to Expand Water Monitoring	We will expand Minnesota's real-time water-quality monitoring capacity by training 60 educators across the state, equipping them with build-a-buoy kits, and engaging 1,500 students in water resource protection.	U of MN, Duluth - Sea Grant	$496,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-191	Chuck	Kendall	Expand Successful Upper Twin Results to the Chain	To replicate the remarkable water quality improvement on Middle and Lower Twin Lakes that was achieved on Upper Twin Lake, during a three-year demonstration project utilizing a unique, innovative technology.	Twin Lake Association	$449,000
	2027-218	Daniel	Larkin	Better Training, Better Shoreline Restorations, Healthier Lakes	We propose a new training partnership hosted by UMN Extension to increase capacity for statewide efforts to protect Minnesota's vanishing natural shorelines through a shoreline restoration certification program.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$432,000
	2027-223	Emily	Zanon	Nitrogen Water Quality Trading Pilot Project	This Nitrogen Trading project will implement a scalable pilot that links nitrogen reductions with the purchasing of nitrogen reduction credits generated from non-point best management practices for permitted wastewater facilities.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	$627,000
	2027-224	Bridget	Ulrich	Will Extreme Weather Increase Runoff Toxicity to Fish?	Extreme weather may increase toxic tire-derived runoff threatening Brook trout. This project will measure and model 6PPDQ in urban waterways to inform stormwater management and better protect Minnesota fisheries statewide.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	$748,000
XP	2027-227	Ashley	Kneemueller	Evaluating Sulfate, Chloride, and PFAS Wastewater Treatment Technologies	Revise existing evaluations of wastewater treatment technologies for chloride, sulfate, and PFAS to include new technologies, revised cost estimates, and an affordability assessment, providing permittees resources to make informed decisions.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	$605,000
	2027-243	Lindsay	Pease	Improving Year-Round Water Quality Downstream of Livestock Pastures	This project will improve the year-round water quality of livestock runoff through an innovative filter strip design that better removes contaminants, particularly during winter and spring snowmelt events.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$847,000
	2027-244	Sarah	Roth	Aligning Conservation Programs with Farmer Needs	Determining if conservation programs are adequately meeting farmers' needs related to soil health practice adoption - and action planning programmatic improvements for increased effectiveness.	U of MN, Water Resources Center	$357,000
	2027-251	Michael	Ginsbach	Determining Ambient Background PFAS Concentrations in Minnesota Groundwater	This project determines ambient background per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) levels in groundwater. This information will help Minnesota determine the occurrence and movement of PFAS across the state.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	$500,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-255	James	Cotner	Restoring Lakes and Mitigating Our Changing Climate	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	$565,000
	2027-263	William	Arnold	Trifluoroacetic Acid in Minnesota Waters: Levels and Formation	Trifluoroacetic acid, the smallest PFAS, will be quantified in Minnesota waters. The maximum potential for trifluoroacetic acid formation and the chemicals that drive levels and risks will be determined.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$591,000
	2027-271	Michele	Guala	Improving Toe-Wood Design and Installation in Stream-Restoration Projects	Design and carry out a study to look at the use of toe-wood to stabilize cut banks and improve stream habitat in meandering, single thread Minnesota rivers.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$436,000
	2027-277	Byeonghwa	Jeon	Protecting Minnesota's Waters from Climate-Driven Antibiotic Resistance	Build Minnesota's comprehensive genomic monitoring network for antibiotic resistance in lakes, rivers, and stormwater; create a climate-driven early-warning map for watersheds; and engage over 2,000 Minnesotans through community science.	U of MN, School of Public Health	$1,621,000
	2027-281	Sami	Selter	Expanding Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Containment and Shielding	Use technology, education, and collaboration to prevent new aquatic invasive species (AIS) infestations on high-risk lakes while teaching Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose best practices through tools and regional civic pilots.	Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates	$1,445,000
	2027-283	Rachel	Wheeler	Alum Treatment Cross Lake Pine County	This is a 5-year plan to treat Cross Lake in Pine County with an Alum Treatment. Cross Lake is listed on the MPCA impaired water list due to high-level phosphorus.	Cross Lake Association of Pine County	$2,040,000
	2027-286	David	Bennett	Northfield Ames Mill Dam Removal	Project includes final design for removal of the Ames Mill Dam and installation of rock rapids; restoring aquatic organism passage, recreation, and safety on the Cannon River in downtown Northfield.	City of Northfield	$800,000
	2027-289	Bo	Wang	Use Cyanobacteria to Remove PFAS from Minnesota's Water	Cyanobacteria have been proven capable of removing and degrading PFAS. Model cyanobacterial strains and Minnesota cyanobacterial species will be studied for their capacity and mechanisms in removing PFAS from water.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$337,000
XP	2027-293	Bonnie	Keeler	Impacts of Winter Angling on Tribal Water Quality	Contaminant sampling and fish tissue analysis to determine environmental impacts of human waste from winter angling on Tribal lakes. Program evaluation and recommendations for improved waste disposal and fish consumption.	U of MN, Water Resources Center	$492,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-318	Andy	Erickson	Building Resilience Against Flooding from Extreme Rainfall	This project will develop optimal management approaches for managing flooding from intense rainfall in small watersheds and urban areas by improving flood resilience and reducing implementation costs.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$674,000
	2027-320	Brett	Barney	Minnesota Microbes for Enhanced Biodegradation of Microplastics	We are investigating the potential of natural microbes indigenous to Minnesota to biodegrade conventional plastics in the environment as a means for cleaning contaminated waters and soils across the state.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$608,000
	2027-321	Eric	Watkins	Protecting Groundwater Through Optimized Municipal Green Infrastructure	We will transform the National Sports Center into a living laboratory for demonstrating how to mitigate the environmental impact of municipal green infrastructure and then develop three toolkits for stakeholders.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$980,000
	2027-322	Prodromos	Daoutidis	Precision Water and Nitrogen Management for Sustainable Agriculture	We will develop an optimization-based decision-support tool for the precise management of irrigation and nitrogen fertigation on Minnesota farms to protect the freshwater quantity and quality while sustaining crop productivity.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$664,000
XP	2027-332	Rita	Weaver	Minnesota River Basin Water Storage BMP Prioritization	Create a Minnesota River Basin model to prioritize the locations of water storage BMPs throughout the basin and evaluate the effects of the BMPs on the Minnesota River.	Board of Water and Soil Resources	$500,000
	2027-346	Zachary	McEachran	Statewide River Forecast System	Using state-of-the-art models, we will triple the number of locations in Minnesota with daily flood forecasts to support proactive management of Minnesota's water resources.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$979,000
	2027-357	Judy	Yang	Floating Wetlands for Stormwater Microplastic and Pathogen Removal	This project will design and optimize floating treatment wetlands to cost-effectively remove microplastics and pathogens such as E. coli from Minnesota stormwater ponds, improving water quality in downstream aquatic ecosystems.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$390,000
	2027-358	Anna	Cates	Oats and Water Quality: Potential for Nitrogen Preservation	Quantify on-farm N losses in a novel corn-soy-oat/clover rotation, where we expect lower N fertilizer needs and nitrate losses across the rotation compared to corn/soy alone.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$706,000
	2027-359	Ardeshir	Ebtehaj	MinLake-IceWatch: Real-Time Minnesota Lake Ice Forecasting Decision Platform	Create a statewide system that forecasts lake ice conditions across Minnesota by integrating modeling, field data, and a public web platform to enhance safety, lake management, and ecological resilience.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$387,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
XP	2027-362	Vanessa	Baratta-Person	DNR County Groundwater Atlas	This project supports continuing development of County Groundwater Atlases for approximately three years. The goal is to provide these valuable water and resource management tools to every county in Minnesota.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	$3,500,000
	2027-388	John	Nieber	Tools to Improve Downstream Hydrology and Water Quality	Project will enhance understanding of how increasing upstream storage moderates downstream flow and create tools that will improve siting and design of storage to improve downstream hydrology and water quality.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$504,000
	2027-406	Natalia	Mossmann Koch	Roadside Mosses as Biological Filters for Mitigating Microplastics	This project will test the use of mosses as biological filters to mitigate microplastic pollution and prevent them from reaching waterways in Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$509,000
XP	2027-432	Barbara	Lusardi	Geologic Atlases for Water Resource Management-FY27	Geologic atlases provide maps/databases essential for improved management of groundwater, surface water, and other natural resources. This proposal will continue efforts and start new counties equaling about 3 atlases.	U of MN, MN Geological Survey	$1,455,000
	2027-440	Phillip	Larson	Dam Failure and the Future Blue Earth River	Monitor and assess geomorphic and ecological response to the Rapidan Dam Failure, Blue Earth River valley. Surveying and monitoring through the period of proposed dam removal and river modification.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Minnesota State University Mankato	$415,000
	2027-453	Sebastian	Behrens	Engineered Soils for Pollution and Road Salt Resiliency	Research will focus on the resilience of Minnesota's soils to stormwater pollutants and road salt stress with emphasis on the impacts of biochar on contaminant removal and overall soil health.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$550,000
XP	2027-455	Mark	Edlund	Inventory Aquatic Resources in Minnesota's Scientific/Natural Areas	We will survey water quality, identify aquatic bioindicators, and share the the amazing diversity of Scientific and Natural Areas across Minnesota to insure long-term management support for these treasured resources.	Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station	$699,000
	2027-458	Lian	Shen	Predicting Foam Formation and Motion in Minnesota Waters	This project will build prediction tools, validated using existing observational and environmental data, to identify where contaminant-rich foam is likely to form on Minnesota lake surfaces and accumulate along shorelines.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$500,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-482	Armando	Oster	Brooklyn Center Urban Waterway / Linear Ponding Feasibility Study	Preliminary planning, design, and modeling for 10,033 LF urban waterway/linear ponding system to enable stormwater management, habitat restoration, flood resiliency, and stewardship protecting Shingle Creek and Mississippi ecosystem.	City of Brooklyn Center	$393,000
	2027-486	Tim	Sundby	Quantifying Stream Restoration Results to Prioritize Future Investments	Establish long-term monitoring of publicly funded stream restoration projects in Minnesota measuring water quality, habitat, and geomorphic outcomes, and create a science-based decision-support index to improve future watershed restoration investments.	Carver County Water Management Organization	$346,000
	2027-490	Matt	Simcik	Using Irrigation to Rid Minnesota of PFAS	We propose to implement a proven technology for PFAS sequestration in groundwater to take advantage of irrigation to flush the land clean of PFAS.	U of MN, School of Public Health	$370,000
	2027-507	Byron	Steinman	Fate of Storm-Driven River Sediments in Lake Superior	We will map North Shore river plumes and sediment history to determine how storm-driven contaminants impact Lake Superior's nearshore ecosystems and the security of municipal drinking water intakes.	U of MN, Duluth - Large Lakes Observatory	$447,000
	2027-512	Jane	de Lambert	Emerging Contaminant Monitoring in Minnesota Drinking Water	Supplemental sampling and analysis of contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) in Minnesota drinking water sources and finished water to help inform risk assessment, evaluation and mitigation.	Minnesota Department of Health	$1,150,000
	2027-513	Han	Liu	Predicting Microplastic Hotspots in Minnesota Rivers	This project will develop a predictive tool identifying microplastic accumulation hotspots in Minnesota rivers, converting years of statewide sampling data into actionable guidance for watershed managers.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$350,000
	2027-530	Tianhong	Cui	Removing PFAS from Minnesota Waters Using Sunlight	This project is to develop a sunlight powered system to remove and destruct PFAS in wastewater and environmental water, helping clean up Minnesota waters with a cheap and low-energy method.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$365,000
	2027-531	Tianhong	Cui	Preventing Algal Blooms with Real-Time Phosphate Monitoring	This project aims to develop an affordable sensor network to monitor phosphorus in real time, helping detect algal bloom risks early and support proactive lake management across Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$377,000
	2027-533	Aicam	Laacouri	Scaling Oats for Soil Health and Water Quality	Grants to farmers and organizations in Minnesota to develop supply chains and markets for oats to improve soil health and water quality by diversifying crop rotations	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$500,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-542	Emily	Dick	Recovering the Natural Balance of Fish Lake	Fish Lake is a rare lake which can be entirely restored to a natural clear state equilibrium by tying up the errs of the past with one alum treatment.	Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District	$666,000
	2027-544	Erin	Mittag	Balancing Budgets: Incorporating Sediment Phosphorus Strengthens Lake Management	This project aims to fill a critical gap in lake nutrient budgets—sediment phosphorus burial and release—helping managers better identify nutrient sources, prioritize actions, and restore Minnesota's impaired lakes.	Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station	$699,000
	2027-553	Karl	Anderson	Minnesota Water Watch: Citizen Sensors for Water Quality	This project equips community partners with 75 validated, low-cost sensor kits and a shared data platform to expand continuous water quality monitoring and establish microplastics baselines across Minnesota's freshwaters.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Northwest Technical College	$445,000
	2027-567	Nicholas	Gallagher	Dashboard and Economic Analysis for Nutrient Reduction Goals	Development of a decision-support dashboard and empirical evaluation of on-farm conservation practices to facilitate watershed-specific identification of cost-effective approaches for reducing non-point source nitrogen and phosphorus runoff from Minnesota agriculture.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$621,000
	2027-569	John	Downing	Neighbors Protect Lakes: A Septic Stewardship Pilot	Minnesota pilot trains trusted peer advisors, led by a septic system expert, to help neighbors reduce costs, take voluntary action, prevent pollution, and protect lakes through a scalable, community-driven model.	Itasca Waters	$532,000
	2027-614	Warren	Formo	Watershed-Scale Evaluation of Conservation Drainage Using Machine Learning	This multi-year project will develop a watershed-scale tool to evaluate conservation drainage performance, enabling comprehensive, system-level assessment of storage efficiency, connectivity, resilience, and long-term impacts on soil and water resources.	Minnesota Agricultural Water Resource Center	$765,000
						SubTotal	**$63,011,000**
B. Water **G. Small Projects (RECEIVED: 24 Proposals / Subtotal - $5,419,000; SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION: 5 Proposals / Subtotal - $1,307,000)**							
	2027-040	Alicia	O'Hare	Howard Lake Habitat Restoration	Howard Lake's water quality suffers from low biodiversity. This project will improve water quality by restoring shoreline, nearshore, and aquatic zones habitat by planting native plants and removing invasive species.	Wright Soil and Water Conservation District	$297,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
X	2027-057	Kelsey	Klucas	Reduction of Persistent Industrial Chemicals in Minnesota's Water	MnTAP will protect and conserve Minnesota's drinking water through technical assistance that identifies and reduces the use of persistent chemicals of high concern and decreases water consumption in Minnesota industries.	U of MN, School of Public Health	$209,000
	2027-087	Larry	Vollmar	AIS Shielding and Containment on Cedar Lake	We propose to install (2) CD3 Wayside Solar units, a waterless boat cleaning station with wet/dry vacuum, air blower, and cleaning implement at (2) DNR launches on Cedar Lake.	Cedar Lake Improvement District	$85,000
	2027-101	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
	2027-108	Joshua	Layfield	Biochar-Based Solutions for Forever Chemical Contamination	Treatment solutions for contaminated water in Minnesota will be advanced through the development of computer simulation models of molecular-level interactions between PFAS and biochar interfaces.	University of St. Thomas	$124,000
X	2027-121	Lily	Carr	Strengthening the Lake Steward Program: It's Shore Important!	Expanding the Lake Steward Program from 65 lakes to an additional 30 lakes, increasing awareness of natural shoreline loss and encouraging new norms around shoreline development and stewardship.	Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Protection and Education	$204,000
	2027-197	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	$264,000
X	2027-288	Veluchamy	Chitraichamy	Novel Algae Based Sustainable Bioproducts from Mining Wastewater	This study will explore the potential use of mining wastewater as a growth medium for the robust microalgae with a focus on sustainable bioproduct production as an emerging circular bioeconomy.	U of MN, WCROC	$300,000
	2027-298	Min	Addy	Integrated Treatment and Metal Recovery from Mine Water	Develop an integrated treatment train for mine-influenced water that combines engineered biochar conditioning, attached-growth microalgae polishing, and continuous microwave-assisted pyrolysis to concentrate dissolved metals into recoverable solid products.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-324	Prasanth Kumar	Sasidharan Pillai	Polyurethane Fertilizer Coatings to Reduce Agricultural Nutrient Runoff	Polyurethane-coated fertilizers derived from agricultural and food-processing byproducts will be developed to reduce nitrate leaching and phosphorus runoff from soils to water systems, improving nutrient retention and protecting water quality.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$260,000
	2027-344	Jeff	Jeremiason	Why are Crane Lake Mercury Levels So High?	Mercury levels in Crane Lake fish exceed safe limits threefold. Is the deep, tan-colored water to blame, or is upstream industry the cause? Is there anything that can be done?	Gustavus Adolphus College	$192,000
	2027-355	Xiaowen	Chen	Bio-Based Slow-Release Fertilizer to Reduce Agricultural Nitrate Runoff	Advance a nonthermal plasma-enabled lignin-based slow-release nitrogen fertilizer to improve nutrient retention and quantify nitrate transport in Minnesota soils, strengthening groundwater and surface-water protection.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
	2027-384	Juer	Liu	Reducing PFAS Mass Loading to Minnesota Waters	Evaluate continuous-flow CHIEF plasma technology for PFAS destruction in high-strength wastewaters, quantifying defluorination and energy performance to establish scalable approaches that reduce PFAS loading to Minnesota groundwater and surface waters.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
	2027-385	Satoshi	Ishii	Mapping Hotspots of Antibacterial Resistance in Minnesota's Waters	This project will identify the antibiotic resistance hotspots and hot moments in Minnesota's surface waters and provide a decision support tool for water managers.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$190,000
	2027-386	Abdennour	Abbas	Minnesota PFAS Destruction Verification Framework	Many PFAS removal technologies rely on vendor-defined testing protocols. This project will develop a standardized destruction verification protocol to confirm mineralization, fluorine mass balance, ecological relevance, and regulatory confidence.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
X	2027-418	Andy	Chambers	Water Education and Well Testing for Karst Communities	SMM will provide Karst residents free nitrate well screening and train K-5 teachers with custom groundwater models to protect vital regional water resources and improve community science literacy.	Science Museum of Minnesota	$295,000
	2027-423	Larry	Vollmar	Phosphorus Reduction Through Biomass Removal in Cedar Lake	Phosphorous testing in Cedar Lake indicates a level exceeding 185 ug/l. Our project removes AIS biomass while applying herbicide to kill curly-leaf Pondweed, this lowers phosphorous levels improving lake-quality.	Cedar Lake Improvement District	$113,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-434	Juan	Medina Bielski	Industrial Wastewater Upcycling for Nutrient Recovery and Reuse	Treatment of wastewater using innovative technologies to recover and generate nutrients for valuable agricultural byproducts, while producing cleaner effluent for process reuse and reducing reliance on well water.	Rahr Technical Center, LLC	$300,000
	2027-462	Thomas	Rodengen	Ice Thickness Monitoring Sensor	Lake ice thickness monitoring sensors will be developed, tested and deployed in the 25 Sentinel Lakes of Minnesota. The sensors will collect and record hourly ice thickness data.	Creative Scientific	$60,000
X	2027-492	Jiarong	Hong	HAB Early Warning Using Imaging Triggered eDNA Analysis	Pilot an automated harmful algal bloom early-warning workflow using imaging-triggered eDNA analysis. Deliver validated alert thresholds, manager-ready deployment playbooks, and a public dataset linking cyanobacteria dynamics to Minnesota water conditions.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$299,000
	2027-504	Prasanth Kumar	Sasidharan Pillai	Microalgal Consortium for Bioremediation of PFAS in Minnesota	This project evaluates microalgal–bacterial consortia as a nature-based strategy to remove PFAS from Minnesota freshwater systems by isolating cold-adapted species and quantifying contaminant removal under laboratory and mesocosm conditions.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$294,000
	2027-524	Xiaojia	Wang	Energy-Efficient Electrochemical PFAS Destruction for Minnesota Water Protection	Develop energy-efficient electrochemical technology to permanently destroy PFAS in Minnesota groundwater by optimizing electrode materials, reactor design, and PFAS transport, enabling scalable treatment systems that protect Minnesota water.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$297,000
	2027-526	Xiaojia	Wang	Solar-Driven Near-Zero-Liquid-Discharge for PFAS-Contaminated Minnesota Water Resources	We will develop a solar-driven, near-zero-liquid-discharge system to safely concentrate PFAS-rich brines from Minnesota waters, reducing residual volume, preventing airborne release, and lowering disposal burdens for decentralized groundwater treatment.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$218,000
	2027-571	Susan	Colvin	Linking Land Use, BMPs, and Groundwater Nitrate Levels	This project will improve our understanding of how best management practices (BMPs), land use, and precipitation impact nitrate concentrations in a shallow aquifer with rapid response times in Southeastern Minnesota.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Minnesota State University Mankato	$150,000
						SubTotal	**$5,419,000**

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
C. Education and Outdoor Recreation (RECEIVED: 82 Proposals / Subtotal - $105,586,000; SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION: 38 Proposals / Subtotal - $60,404,000)							
	2027-053	Andrew	Wickert	Parks of Fire and Ice	State-of-the-art scientific information to educate and inspire visitors of northeastern Minnesota's state parks, delivered through oft-breathtaking Key Sites and built into Connected Narratives describing how our shared home formed.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$485,000
	2027-067	Alexa	Shapiro	Minnesota Driftless Hiking Trail Development	Research and develop infrastructure along the trail that supports long term sustainability of the region's natural resources while supporting education and development to engage residents in protection and preservation efforts.	Minnesota Driftless Hiking Trail	$495,000
	2027-074	Luke	Reese	Jay C. Hormel Supplemental Teaching Staff	This project maintains impactful and engaging environmental education to students outside of Austin, providing access to outdoor programming that is in line with Minnesota state science standards.	City of Austin	$397,000
XP	2027-083	Sara	Lemke	Developing Leadership Pipeline for Minnesota's Natural Environment	Camp Fire Minnesota will provide comprehensive Environmental Education and self-development for 18,762 youth, reducing gaps in STEM education, access to nature; increasing the pipeline of Minnesotan land/water stewards.	Camp Fire Minnesota	$1,089,000
XP	2027-088	Ingrid	Schneider	Minnesota Sustainable Foraging: Participant Research and Educational Outreach	Develop a community-informed foraging education program that promotes safe and sustainable foraging practices and meets information gaps identified by the state task force with research on foraging participation.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$773,000
XP	2027-092	Lisa	Luokkala	Caring for Minnesota's Premier Hiking Trail	Renew 12 miles of the oldest section of the Superior Hiking Trail and professionally assess the next five trail sections in most need of rehabilitation and renewal.	Superior Hiking Trail Association	$653,000
	2027-095	Zac	Dockter	Mississippi Dunes Park Development Project	The City of Cottage Grove is seeking LCCMR funding to support the design and development costs associated with the future construction of the Mississippi Dunes Park building.	City of Cottage Grove	$386,000
XP	2027-115	Kent	Skaar	Minnesota State Trails Development	This project proposes to expand recreational opportunities on Minnesota State Trails through the development or rehabilitation of select new or existing State Trail Segments.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	$8,740,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
XP	2027-120	Tony	Wotzka	Native American Veterans Memorial Plaza and Shoreline Restoration	Native American Veterans Memorial Plaza, loop trail connections, interpretive signage to honor Native American veterans, enhancing wetland habitat, new bioretention basin for stormwater and pond, shoreline, and prairie restorations.	Dakota County	$495,000
XP	2027-124	Tiffany	Wolf	Indigenous Practice, Modern Threat: Brain-Tanning and CWD	We will explore and mitigate human-mediated dispersal and exposure to CWD prions by examining the potential for leather products to be contaminated with CWD prions through traditional brain-tanning practices.	U of MN, College of Veterinary Medicine	$416,000
XP	2027-125	Maggie	Heurung	CP Rail Regional Trail - South Segment Construction	This project will construct a 4.7-mile, 10-foot-wide, paved, off-road, multiuse trail between Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in Edina to the southern boundary of Hyland Park Reserve in Bloomington.	Three Rivers Park District	$2,000,000
XP	2027-139	Anne	Gardner	Mississippi River Learning Center - Peninsula Restoration	Peninsula restoration including earthwork, habitat creation, native plant establishment, and introduction of outdoor learning elements including a forest classroom, Indigenous education space, and river overlooks.	City of St. Paul	$2,901,000
XP	2027-152	Alison	Nyenhuis	The Boundary Waters Is Our Backyard	Increasing access for Northeastern Minnesota students, teachers, and families to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness through immersive outdoor education, training opportunities for educators, and supportive family programming.	Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness	$655,000
	2027-165	Seth	Thompson	Two-Eyed Seeing: Mentorship Blending Indigenous and Western Science	This work proposes a new intergenerational mentorship program that prioritizes Indigenous knowledge to support youth in developing reciprocal and culturally-sustaining relationships with water and raising awareness of environmental careers.	Freshwater Society	$495,000
	2027-167	Matt	Poppleton	St. Croix River Gateway Project at Lumberjack Landing	Wild Rivers Conservancy and the National Park Service will activate Lumberjack Landing in Stillwater Minnesota as a gateway to the St Croix National Scenic Riverway connecting youth and visitors outdoors.	Wild Rivers Conservancy	$1,158,000
	2027-173	Lawrence	Kirch	Completing the Root River Trail in Houston County	Complete preliminary engineering, environmental review, permitting and stakeholder engagement for the first six miles (La Crescent to Hokah) of the final 18 miles of the Root River State Trail.	City of La Crescent	$792,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
XP	2027-175	Kjersti	Monson	Two Harbors Waterfront: Enhancing the North Shore Experience	The City of Two Harbors seeks to develop a park on 20+ acres of formerly industrial Lake Superior Agate Bay waterfront legislatively conveyed to the City by MN DNR.	City of Two Harbors	$1,620,000
XP	2027-184	Robert	Blair	Minnesota Master Naturalist Teacher Institute	Minnesota Master Naturalist Teacher Institute trains 72 middle and high school teachers in Minnesota biomes, building content knowledge and confidence to engage students in rigorous scientific investigations and outdoor learning.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$446,000
XP	2027-192	Hannah	Brithón	Mikinaake: Connecting Indigenous Youth to Land-Based Learning	Belwin will expand access to experiential outdoor learning opportunities for Indigenous youth and families, while incorporating traditional ecological knowledge in our collaborative restoration work at Belwin's Indigenous Learning Site.	Belwin Conservancy	$817,000
XP	2027-193	Marissa	Milstein	Revitalizing Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping in White Earth	This project promotes participation in traditional subsistence activities and revitalizes traditional cultural knowledge of these practices in White Earth through the co-development of a community-based GIS and experiential learning classroom.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$561,000
	2027-205	Autumn	Hubbell	Spring Lake Park Reserve- Indigenous Messaging Plan Implementation	Install interpretive signage in SLPR to acknowledge Dakota and Indigenous sacred sites, share Indigenous history and stories, and educate visitors about the park's cultural and ecological significance.	Dakota County	$316,000
	2027-206	Tony	Wotzka	Pollinator Pathways: Habitat Restoration and Connecting Communities	Restore natural areas along the North Creek Greenway to enhance biodiversity and pollinator habitat, and support green space access and environmental education through trailhead enhancements and a pollinator art exhibit.	Dakota County	$652,000
	2027-208	Niki	Geisler	Dakota County Parks Outdoor Accessibility Improvements	This project will address barriers that currently limit participation by people with mobility impairments, older adults, veterans with service-connected disabilities, and families with young children in outdoor recreation activities.	Dakota County	$558,000
XP	2027-209	Brent	Larson	Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Trail Development	Construction of an ADA compliant bike/pedestrian connection via a wetland boardwalk and trail connecting various neighborhoods to city trails, regional trails, and other recreational and environmental resources.	City of Blaine	$2,350,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-213	Joe	Masiarchin	Environmental Learning Center Program Enhancements: Ritter Farm Park	This project expands accessible, year-round nature programming for all ages, strengthening environmental literacy, stewardship, and well-being through dedicated staff and enhanced outdoor learning spaces connected to Lakeville's Environmental Learning Center.	City of Lakeville	$723,000
	2027-219	Aaron	Raivo-Lynch	Camp Katharine Parsons - Main Road and Parking Lot	Project will include road improvements and new parking lot that were included in conditional use permit. Upon completion, tours will be regularly provided by MAAHMG to the MN community.	Phyllis Wheatley Community Center	$1,052,000
	2027-222	Dawn	Pape	Clean Economy Educators: In-School Field Trips	Clean Economy Educators transforms existing substitute-teacher days into "in-school field trips," connecting students across Minnesota with diverse clean-economy careers, maximizing underutilized school time into scalable, statewide climate and workforce education.	We All Need Food and Water	$638,000
	2027-237	Forrest	Fleischman	Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Workforce Development Study	Minnesota depends on our natural resources and we need people to manage and steward those resources. We will identify gaps in our workforce and develop recommendations to address those needs.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$542,000
	2027-259	Heather	Nelson	Mississippi River Trail Expansion in Champlin	This project will construct a 1.7-mile,10-foot-wide, paved, off-road, multiuse trail along West River Road (CSAH 12) between Douglas Drive and 109th Avenue in Champlin, MN.	City of Champlin	$1,500,000
XP	2027-270	Nick	Bancks	Outdoors For All: Collaborative Partnerships Increasing Out-Of-Doors Access	A partnership of outdoor and conservation organizations will expand hunting, angling, & conservation leadership pathways that reduce barriers and engage Minnesotans of all ages in stewardship of public lands & waters.	The Trust for Public Land	$1,034,000
	2027-279	Timothy	Dudley	CREST Groundwork Project	The Groundwork Project engages rural Minnesota youth in hands-on soil science connecting agriculture, environmental stewardship, and community sustainability through inquiry-based activities delivered via schools, libraries, and campus field trips programs.	U of MN, Crookston	$494,000
XP	2027-285	Michael	Stifter	Casting Lines, Growing Habitat, Connecting Community	Hutchinson requests ENRTF funding to build two fishing piers, improve safety and shoreline habitat at Otter Lake, and expand equitable, accessible outdoor recreation for the community for residents to enjoy.	City of Hutchinson	$530,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-290	Ange	Hwang	Minnesota Comprehensive Environmental Education: From Immersion to Hands-on	A four-component environmental education initiative combining an AI-powered immersive/interactive exhibition, BIPOC youth urban agriculture training, cultural environmental justice education, and a community digital platform for all Minnesotans.	MN350	$6,668,000
	2027-304	Kellee	Omlid	North Creek Greenway Trails and Trailhead Construction Project	Constructing trailhead facilities and approximately 11,730 linear feet of bituminous multi-use trail in Rambling River Park to serve the North Creek Regional Greenway.	City of Farmington	$2,095,000
	2027-305	Nick	Arola	Carey Lake Accessible Trailhead Building Project	A new ADA-compliant, accessible trailhead with restrooms at Carey Lake Park providing inclusive access to recreation and nature.	City of Hibbing	$1,124,000
XP	2027-307	Catherine	Early	Braiding Knowledge for Biodiversity Conservation	This professional development program will empower Native participants to harmonize Western approaches to conserving non-human relatives with traditional ecological knowledge to better protect Minnesota's natural resources.	Science Museum of Minnesota	$709,000
XP	2027-312	Jenni	Bubke	Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Grant Programs	Provide approximately 18 matching grants for local parks, trails, acquisition of natural and 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
	2027-314	Zach	Robinson	Spark-Y Urban Agriculture Hub Development	Spark-Y will train young adults in sustainable agriculture, educate youth and community members in urban habitat restoration, and develop a demonstration conservation site in Northeast Minneapolis.	Spark-Y, Pathways Program	$672,000
	2027-323	Ingrid	Schneider	Assessing Actual and Perceived Watercraft Behavior and Safety	Use novel technologies to analyze watercraft behaviors and lake conditions. Assess recreationist and lake-residents views of on-water recreational conditions. Compare and combine data to inform lake management and improve safety.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$786,000
	2027-333	Kris	Eilers	Restoring Generational Connections to the St. Louis River	Through community-tailored outreach, education and river-based activities we will connect generations of Duluth's underserved neighborhoods to the St. Louis River while fostering integration of indigenous traditional knowledge through collaboration.	St. Louis River Alliance	$404,000
XP	2027-341	Sarah	Ciochetto	Mesabi Trail Multiple Segments Eveleth, Gilbert, and Tower	(1.) Construct the final 2.5 miles from West Two River to Tower and (2.) Reconstruct a 3.68-mile segment between Eveleth and Gilbert, including a 0.32-mile relocation.	St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority	$1,650,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-352	Zach	Burnside	Conservation Ed -Minnesota- "Statewide Platform for Environmental Educators"	This project creates an online conservation education clearinghouse, four educational television programs, 16 online videos to expand access to environmental education, water stewardship, and outdoor recreation for all Minnesotans.	Wildlife Forever	$517,000
	2027-380	Dean	Weiberg	Civilian Conservation Corps Regional Trailhead Pavilion Restoration	Project restoring and enhancing the 1939 Civilian Conservation Corps Pavilion in Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota, improving ADA accessibility, enhancing environmental stewardship and strengthening regional trail connectivity for year round outdoor recreation.	City of Hoyt Lakes	$850,000
	2027-382	Katie	Johnston-Goodstar	Culturally-Sustaining Environmental Education Phase 2	Support educators to address Minnesota science standards with professional development integrating western science and Indigenous knowledge. Extend workshops to enhance environmental education initiatives and address parallel gap in outdoor recreation.	U of MN, College of Education and Human Development	$868,000
	2027-399	Jennifer	Vieth	Trail Restoration and Adaptive Environmental Education at Carpenter Nature	Carpenter Nature Center seeks funding to repave 1.9 miles of deteriorated trail to restore accessibility, allowing the continuation of current programs and development of new accessible outdoor experiences.	Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center	$756,000
	2027-404	James	Forester	Empowering Youth to Participate in Urban Wildlife Research	We will integrate K–12 curricula with a new Twin Cities urban wildlife monitoring grid to enhance conservation literacy and provide critical data for biodiversity management.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$809,000
	2027-411	Erika	Bailey-Johnson	Mishko Wisitoon Wilderness Academy	The Mishko Wisitoon Wilderness Academy will increase the opportunity for all Minnesotans to connect to the lands, sky, and waters of northern Minnesota through the lens of the Ojibwe worldview.	Sacred Bundle	$897,000
XP	2027-425	Rebecca	Swenson	Bugs Below Zero: Engaging Communities with Winter Science	Bugs Below Zero connects classrooms and communities to winter science, builds understanding of stream food webs through hands-on experiences, and fosters future scientific researchers and environmental stewards statewide.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$432,000
XP	2027-426	Nell	Holden	Increasing Access to Outdoor Recreation for 21,000 Minnesotans	Wilderness Inquiry will engage 21,000 Minnesota youth and families through a progression of outdoor recreation experiences that inspire learning, environmental stewardship, and future careers in the outdoors.	Wilderness Inquiry	$1,580,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
XP	2027-428	Kevin	Fellbaum	Glacial Edge Regional Trail - Cabbage Hill Segment	Construction of the Cabbage Hill Segment (5.0 miles) of the 14-mile Glacial Edge Regional Trail that will connect the City of Fergus Falls to West Red River Lake.	Otter Tail County	$1,838,000
XP	2027-429	Andrea	Rehm	Lake Elmo Park Reserve - Single Track Trail	Construct a 10-mile single track trail system in Washington County's Lake Elmo Park Reserve to enhance and expand outdoor recreational opportunities.	Washington County	$1,500,000
	2027-484	Tracy	Fredin	Minnesota's Lands and Waters	Minnesota's Lands and Waters extends statewide a proven education and stewardship initiative that advances Indigenous perspectives and science-based solutions to increasing problems of water quality, severe wildfire, and invasive species.	Hamline University	$949,000
XP	2027-485	Brian	Nerbonne	Expanding Fishing Education and Shore Fishing Opportunities.	Expand fishing opportunities in urban areas, teach more kids and families how to fish, expand accessible shore fishing sites throughout Minnesota, and create a webpage with shore fishing locations.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	$4,570,000
	2027-495	Adam	Arvidson	Enhancing Mississippi River Access in North Minneapolis	This project will accelerate implementation of a community-driven vision plan for North Mississippi Regional Park, helping to connect underserved neighborhoods to the river and a variety of enhanced landscape types.	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	$1,852,000
XP	2027-499	Adam	Arvidson	Accessible Tree Canopy Walk at Eloise Butler Garden	This project will create a new accessible tree canopy walk at the entrance of Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden to enhance access to nature and protect a woodland ecosystem.	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	$705,000
XP	2027-505	Breanna	Trygg	Voyageurs Dark Sky Science and Stewardship Education	Connecting communities to dark skies, citizen science, and Indigenous knowledge through classroom visits, outdoor recreation, stewardship programs, and educator residencies delivering 22,000 learning experiences statewide and building conservation knowledge.	Voyageurs Conservancy	$1,078,000
XP	2027-511	Ashley	Cauley	Southwest Chaska Park - Phase 1 Improvements	Deliver phase 1 improvements at Southwest Chaska Park, including the nature play area, outdoor amphitheater, community/sensory garden, prairie sledding hill, stormwater features, trail nodes, and Big Woods nature trails.	City of Chaska	$3,500,000
	2027-529	Nancy	Sanford	Babbitt Community Beach Access and Recreation Development	The Community Beach Access & Outdoor Recreation Development seeks to add inclusivity to the City of Babbitt's Public Beach, making outdoor recreation amenities easily accessible and safe for all.	City of Babbitt	$3,057,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-532	Ronald	Gregg	Preserving Recreational and Trail Connections: Historic Forestville Bridge	The project will improve the connection for the future Root River Trail between Forestville State Park and Historic Site by rehabilitating the 1899 Historic Forestville Bridge, owned by Fillmore County.	Fillmore County	$1,494,000
	2027-538	Katy	Guthrie	Perennial Crops for Wildlife - Education and Demonstration	Create curricula and demonstration fields to educate students, farmers, and the public on how perennial crops can conserve natural resources.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$377,000
XP	2027-540	Klara	Beck	Fergus Falls Multiuse Recreational Building	Design and construction of a multiuse recreational facility on city-owned property bordering Pebble Lake, transforming an underutilized seasonal asset into a year-round outdoor recreation destination.	City of Fergus Falls	$1,720,000
XP	2027-551	Clement	Loo	Agriculture–Energy Innovation Talent Development Camp (Morris, MN)	Development of a weeklong summer residential educational experience for high school students on the campus of UMN Morris where students will learn about rural and agricultural energy innovation.	U of MN, Morris	$416,000
XP	2027-555	Scott	Haugen	Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge Replacement	Removal and replacement of the Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge (Bridge 3459) spanning the Baptism River which serves as the main connection to interior public use areas.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	$4,951,000
XP	2027-565	Amy	Demmer	Connecting Minnesota Youth to the Lake Superior Watershed	Engage 8,400 Minnesota youth in hands-on watershed education, including co-designed programs specifically for underserved youth, and develop interpretive and inclusive materials supporting understanding of Lake Superior ecosystem and restoration.	Hartley Nature Center	$486,000
XP	2027-566	May	Yang-Lee	Pathways to Environmental Careers	This collaborative project creates a college-to-workforce pathway for underrepresented students interested in pursuing careers in environmental and natural resources by reducing barriers to successful educational attainment.	MN DNR, Operational Services Division	$981,000
	2027-570	Micayla	Nelson	Building Environmental Connections Between PWLC and the Community	The ENRTF grant will provide two full-time Naturalist Educators to extend programming at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center beyond what the FPWLC have currently allocated through June of 2028.	Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center	$328,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-572	Foxfeather	Zenkova	Shared Skies: Connecting Communities and Wildlife Through Art	Shared Skies engages Minnesota communities in wildlife conservation through art, supporting local artists and offering free workshops with ambassador animals to build empathy, awareness, and empowered coexistence.	Foxloft Conservancy	$325,000
	2027-573	Eric	Weiss	150 Thompson Park	150 Thompson Park will transform an empty lot into a vibrant town square for all ages, featuring play areas, nature, learning, and community-building, completing a long-held community vision.	City of West St. Paul	$327,000
XP	2027-575	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	$825,000
	2027-577	Britt	See-Benes	Splash Pad Phase 3 and Silver Lake Trail	Design, construction, and management of the Splash Pad Phase 3 project, including an open air market pavilion and reconstruction of the Silver Lake Trail along the west and north shoreline.	City of Virginia	$1,023,000
	2027-578	Katie	Heimer	Expanding Environmental Education and Access in Theodore Wirth	The Loppet seeks to embed environmental curricula across youth programming, expand equitable access, and strengthen our ability to measure our long-term impacts on environmental stewardship.	The Loppet Foundation	$814,000
	2027-579	Sara	Miller	Camp Northern Lights Commercial Kitchen Reconstruction	Rebuild YMCA Camp Northern Lights commercial kitchen, to restore food services to over 700 camp families that visit the grounds in Babbit, MN annually.	YMCA of the North	$3,895,000
XP	2027-582	Geanella	Ochoa	Building Climate-Resilient Conservation Leadership in Minnesota	Through outdoor events, Climate Stewardship Cohorts, College Tours, and educational media, COPAL will strengthen conservation literacy, climate adaptation, ecosystem awareness, and recreational practices among communities historically underrepresented in outdoor experiences.	Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Accion Latina	$564,000
	2027-583	Nikolaos	Papanikolopoulos	DIY Amphibious Robots: Aquatic Ecology Education for Minnesota	We propose to create robotics-based educational activities for middle- and high-school youth on aquatic ecology in Minnesota. Youth will learn to measure lake health and communicate results through hands-on projects.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$450,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
XP	2027-586	Anna	Carlson	Expanding Outdoor Leadership Through Minnesota's Natural Resources	This project expands equitable access to Minnesota's lakes, forests, rivers, and public lands through field-based outdoor recreation and environmental education delivered by Bemidji State University's Outdoor Leadership Center.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Bemidji State University	$375,000
	2027-592	Jessica	Rich	Proctor Kingsbury Creek Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail Bridge	The project includes the design and construction of an approximate 100-foot pedestrian and bicycle bridge, enhancing safety, connecting to the Munger State Trail, and improving regional trail accessibility and connectivity.	City of Proctor	$526,000
	2027-593	Jennifer	Swenson	Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center Phase 1 Improvements	Prairie Woods will construct nature trails, a 700-foot boardwalk, a canoe and kayak launch, a plaza and water fountain at the pavilion, and improvements at the existing yurt area.	Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center	$1,119,000
	2027-595	Sara	Miller	Cultivating Environmental Education and Stewardship Through YMCA Volunteering	Engage over 6,000 Minnesotans annually, while driving year-over-year volunteer growth, through environmentally focused educational and conservation volunteer opportunities at 13 YMCA camp and adventure locations around the state.	YMCA of the North	$708,000
	2027-601	Pete	Cleary	Phase II Environmental Education at Shepard Farm	Dodge Nature Center will provide 31,300 experiences to K-5 youth through standards-aligned outdoor experiences and hands-on learning in classroom, field trips and out of school time programming at Shepard.	Dodge Nature Center	$809,000
XP	2027-604	VaMegn	Thoj	Asian Youth Arts and Environmental Leadership	Arts-centered environmental leadership program engaging Southeast Asian youth in outdoor recreation, citizen science, and watershed stewardship while expanding equitable access to Minnesota's parks, lakes, and natural areas.	Asian Economic Development Association	$1,018,000
XP	2027-609	Casey	Byers	Sudheimer Park Project	The City of Waconia is requesting ENRTF funding to construct bituminous and natural trails, trail nodes, natural play areas, interpretive signage, and a boardwalk in Sudheimer Park.	City of Waconia	$1,026,000
XP	2027-611	Jason	McGrew-King	Mobile Water Safety Education	In response to urgent community requests for water safety education, this proposal builds upon a successful indoor Family Water Safety Workshop to launch an outdoor-focused mobile water safety initiative.	Three Rivers Park District	$400,000
						SubTotal	**$105,586,000**

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
C. Education and Outdoor Recreation **G. Small Projects (RECEIVED: 44 Proposals / Subtotal - $9,494,000; SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION: 13 Proposals / Subtotal - $3,088,000)**							
	2027-045	Kara	Baldwin	Longitudinal Ecology-Focused Science Education Programming	Providing science-focused ecology field trips linked with in-class experiences for multiple grades within the same school to enhance learning outcomes and connection with Minnesota-based science and ecosystems.	U of MN, Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve	$145,000
	2027-066	Rebeka	Ndosi	HEALL Hub: BIPOC Environmental Education on the Northshore	HEALL Hub establishes the first BIPOC-led environmental education program on Minnesota's North Shore, training 75 Master Naturalists in culturally affirming, land-based learning and engaging 900+ participants as lifelong environmental stewards.	Maji ya Chai Land Sanctuary	$300,000
	2027-145	Jaime	Souza	Rooting Resilience Through Community Forest Stewardship	Restore a school forest into a resilient community arboretum through forest restoration, outdoor education and recreation, expanding public access while engaging students and residents as stewards of Minnesota’s natural resources.	Marine Village School	$298,000
	2027-148	Ansel	Schimpff	Duluth Traverse Three Year Sustainability Program	Establish a dedicated trail crew for the Duluth Traverse to carry out targeted projects that improve long-term sustainability, enhance accessibility, reduce environmental impact, and maximize resource efficiency.	Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores	$232,000
X	2027-151	Bryan	Wood	Increasing Education and Outdoor Recreation Camps for Youth and Families	Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center will provide meaningful, hands-on environmental education learning experiences to underserved rural and metro-area children and families through our day-use and overnight youth and family camps.	Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center	$199,000
	2027-161	Mikaela	Ayim	Sustainable Landcare Training and Career Readiness + Exploration Program	Metro Blooms’ Sustainable Landcare Training provides experiential education and career development for young adults from underserved communities to access local employment in green infrastructure and protect our natural resources.	Metro Blooms	$295,000
X	2027-166	Colleen	Foehrenbacher	Improving Access to Recreational Trails at Eagle Bluff	Improve and increase the use, safety and educational value of Eagle Bluff's campus trail system through accessible design and trail/trailhead improvements.	Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center	$32,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-174	Jessica	Willman	The Bee Line Method: Restoring Small Urban Parcels	The Bee Line Method offers an effective and replicable model for small-scale urban land management, demonstrating how to care for climate-resilient landscapes through community engagement and public sector support.	Como Community Council - District 10	$297,000
	2027-176	Owen	Connell	Evaluating Programs for Immigrant and ESL Students	Saint John's Outdoor University plans to conduct an independent, 3rd party evaluation of its PreK-12 environmental education programming to create an improvement plan for including immigrant communities in programs.	Saint Johns Arboretum and University	$70,000
	2027-180	John	Santi	Wildcat Woods Disc Golf Course and Hiking Trail	To expand the highly successful Wildcat Woods Disc Golf Course and Hiking Trail to be a relevant and easily accessible multi-use gathering space for the community.	North Branch Disc Golf Association	$40,000
	2027-203	Kyle	Smith	Expanding Inclusive Access to Nature-Based Recreation Statewide	This project investigates barriers limiting nature-based recreation participation among underrepresented groups, focusing on safety, belonging, cultural acceptance, and financial access, to inform more inclusive outreach and strengthen long-term conservation engagement.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$260,000
	2027-204	Thomas	Crawford	Water Science Field Day on Public Lands	Host water focused River Watch Field Days for public high schools in Hennepin county using hands-on field-based scientific explorations of public waters, fauna, and landscapes.	Friends of the Minnesota Valley	$117,000
X	2027-231	Jennifer	Maki	The Living Lab: A Science and Art Experience	Pop up labs and art studios in Duluth area engage adults in air/water quality experiments, converting science and data into art, fostering science literacy, stewardship, and connection.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	$178,000
	2027-234	Joey	Schugel	New Ulm Pollinator Park Expansion	The New Ulm Pollinator Park Expansion project goal is to protect the natural resources, restore native vegetation, and further connect people to nature through recreation and educational opportunities.	City of New Ulm	$216,000
X	2027-236	Alisha	Paplow	Mobile Nature Center Serving Southwest Minnesota	Wild Compass Environmental Education will bring evidence-based, hands-on outdoor environmental education to schools, community organizations and county fairs throughout Southwest Minnesota, building on our strong history.	Wild Compass Environmental Education	$258,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
X	2027-238	Brennan	Blue	Future Stewards: Expanding Native Habitat and Outdoor Education	Great River Greening will enhance Minnesota schools by restoring school forests and creating on-campus outdoor classrooms with native habitat, while engaging students and volunteers in hands-on education and stewardship.	Great River Greening	$299,000
	2027-248	~~Zsuzsanna~~	~~Allerton~~	**WITHDRAWN** - ~~Soudan Geology Trail Project~~	~~The Soudan Geology Trail Project develops an accessible trail and associated curriculum to educate K-12 students and the public about the geological history of Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park.~~	~~U of MN, College of Science and Engineering~~	~~$290,000~~
	2027-254	Bridget	Kelly	Camp Earth-P: Environmental-Agricultural Regenerative Technology for Healthier Planet	To increase interest and representation in agricultural and environmental fields, Camp EARTH-P will provide hands-on learning experiences for students in SW Minnesota using technology to make farming fun and accessible.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Southwest Minnesota State University	$258,000
	2027-294	Ryan	Murphy	Team Tree Youth Education Program	The Team Tree Program engages K–12 students in hands-on science and learning rooted in their local urban forest. Through education, youth create lasting connections to trees and green spaces.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$208,000
X	2027-310	Sarah	Bignall	Season Watch: Nature for Every Generation	Season Watch strengthens multi generational stewardship by providing accessible seasonal education, classroom phenology training, and Indigenous ecological knowledge that increase understanding and care for Minnesota's land, water, and wildlife.	Northern Community Radio, Inc.	$201,000
	2027-369	Kimberly	Rockman	Gathering Garden	The Gathering Garden will transform a former barn foundation at Prairie Ally Outdoor Center into a space featuring perennial food producing and native plants, seating areas, and a shelter building.	Project Food Forest	$57,000
X	2027-372	Paul	Brinkman	Restoration of the Historic Laurentian Environmental Center's Mission	The Laurentian Environmental Center's unique ecosystem encompasses all aspects of Minnesota's natural resources. Shuttered since 2020, NESC will engage LEC's legacy partners to restore its long-term accessibility, stewardship, and sustainability.	Northeast Service Cooperative	$160,000
	2027-374	Lindsay	Bjorklund	The Observation Yurt: A Hub for Nature Journaling	Deep Portage's yurt classroom and surrounding forest area will become a hub for hands-on environmental observation, nature journaling, and outdoor learning, fostering ecological literacy, stewardship, and public engagement.	Deep Portage Learning Center	$42,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-377	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	$220,000
	2027-379	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
X	2027-387	Arielle	Courtney	Leveraging Nature for Mental Health	This project will develop training and guidance for student support personnel and teachers in public schools that incorporate time outside and nature-based activities into mental health practices with students.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	$300,000
	2027-398	Ryan	Wille	Deeper Environmental Education for Youth Through Aligned Curriculum	To help Project Wild Rooted standardize and align nature-based outdoor education programs, ensuring equity by providing families with enriching experiences throughout the year and for years ahead.	Friends of Project Wild Rooted	$257,000
	2027-438	Thomas	Rodengen	Minnesota's Climate Change Understanding: Lakefluence	Youth art Instructors will lead art contributions to the graphic novel "Lakefluence: Minnesota's Climate Change Understanding" lakeside at 15 locations around Minnesota summer of 2027. A social influencer will document.	Climate Union	$119,000
	2027-450	Marc	Schwabenlander	Cofactors: Equipping Minnesotans for CWD Threat Mitigation	We will leverage popular interest in a CWD video game and demonstrated stakeholder demand to create accessible, role-driven educational tools that cultivate informed, responsible citizens who actively contribute to mitigation.	U of MN, College of Veterinary Medicine	$294,000
X	2027-480	Natalie	Kennedy	Nature for New Minnesotans: Expanding Inclusive Environmental Education	Nature for New Minnesotans will improve existing ELL environmental education curriculum offerings by developing and piloting curriculum reflective of Dakota and Ojibwe perspectives.	U of MN, Bell Museum	$300,000
	2027-491	Zachary	Pope	Validating AI Trail Analytics for Minnesota Public Lands	AI-based trail monitoring using new vision-based technology will be validated at Minnesota public lands to improve understanding of recreational use, enabling agencies to make better stewardship decisions with better data.	Verticl Ventures LLC	$235,000
	2027-502	Jeannette	Lutter-Gardella	Empowering Minneapolis Youth and Educators Through Nature Access	Nature Inside Out expands equitable outdoor learning for underserved Minneapolis students through field trips, interdisciplinary lessons, and teacher training that provides access to nature, strengthen environmental literacy, and long-term stewardship.	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	$290,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
X	2027-508	Brad	Bourn	River Bend Nature Center Outdoor Diversity Initiative Expansion	River Bend Nature Center will actively engage 300 underrepresented youth in reforestation and environmental education through a youth conservation workforce leadership program addressing Emerald Ash Borer impacts in Faribault.	River Bend Nature Center	$296,000
	2027-545	William Hunter	Duncan	West Central Canoe Route	Connecting eight lakes in Douglas County with proper canoe landings and portages, including lakes Darling, Brophy and Charlie.	~~Douglas County~~ William Hunter Duncan	$138,000
X	2027-546	Sarah	Wilcox	Expanding Conservation Education Access in Northeast MN	The Lake Superior Zoological Society requests $270,000 to expand conservation education across Northeast Minnesota by removing cost and transportation barriers for under-resourced youth and communities.	Arrowhead Zoological Society	$270,000
	2027-548	Justo	Garcia	Green Careers Exploration and Exposure Expansion	This project will provide funding for partner organizations to continue delivering training and pathways into green careers for Minneapolis youth and young adults.	City of Minneapolis	$245,000
	2027-552	Tom	Dougherty	Blue Ox Connection ATV Trail	Planning and preliminary engineering for an approximately 4.6-mile ATV trail connecting Ericsburg to the Blue Ox State Trail, building on a completed EAW and including studies, borings, and coordination.	Voyageur Country ATV	$100,000
	2027-562	Phil	Schwarz	10,000 Birdwatchers Project	The 10,000 Birdwatchers Project is a tuition-free workshop for 3rd grade and up, teaching bird identification, food chain connections, and how to create healthier backyard habitats for birds.	Elpis Enterprises	$243,000
	2027-580	Brad	Olson	Increasing K-12 Student Learning to Develop Environmental Education	Education and appreciation of the outdoors to students in grades K-12 to learn more about the outdoors through our outdoor classroom at Camp Wilderness.	Northern Lights Council of the Boy Scouts of America	$300,000
X	2027-584	John	Lenczewski	Growing Environmental Stewardship Through Trout in the Classroom	Trout in the Classroom programming provides daily natural resource education to students across the income spectrum, fostering genuine connections to our natural world.	Minnesota Trout Unlimited	$295,000
	2027-585	Jason	McGrew-King	Mobile Classroom for Outdoor Recreation	The Outdoor Recreation School teaches recreation skills at outdoor locations. A mobile classroom will provide indoor teaching space during inclement weather and expand programming to locations without available indoor spaces.	Three Rivers Park District	$250,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
X	2027-598	Anne	Conway	Watershed Resilience: Youth, Science, and Dakota Cultural Knowledge	The Will Dilg Chapter engages youth, families, and volunteers in watershed monitoring, habitat stewardship, outdoor education, and Dakota-led learning to strengthen community resilience and protect water, land, fish, and wildlife.	Izaak Walton League of America, Will Dilg Chapter	$300,000
	2027-602	Michael	Jensen	Bayview School Forest Restoration and Stewardship Plan	The Bayview School Forest Restoration and Stewardship Project is working to restore and enhance a 13-acre urban forest located at Bayview Elementary School in Waconia, Minnesota.	Waconia Conservation Club Booster	$141,000
	2027-603	Julia	Nerbonne	Community Climate Resilience Network Youth Apprenticeship Program	MNIPL will provide technical assistance and train youth apprentices and community decision makers to plan and build out resilience networks and hubs in 16 community based organizations over two years.	Climate Justice Commons, Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light	$300,000
						SubTotal	**$9,494,000**
D. Fish and Wildlife (RECEIVED: 38 Proposals / Subtotal - $45,496,000; SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION: 18 Proposals / Subtotal - $26,419,000)							
	2027-039	Euan	Reavie	Confirming Fish Habitat Resilience for Future Lake Management	Long-term management solutions are needed regarding coldwater fish habitat loss in Minnesota. Retrospective analysis of lake sediments will confirm refugee lake status and enable site-specific management recommendations.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	$750,000
XP	2027-041	Jacob	Haus	Fond du Lac Deer Study - Phase 2	Deer are important to the FDL Band and future elk reestablishment could alter deer population dynamics. Baseline data will better inform deer management by the RMD and Minnesota DNR.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Bemidji State University	$2,512,000
	2027-061	Kassandra	Ford	Restoring Minnesota's Historical Fluid Collections	This project seeks to restore and enhance the Bell Museum's Minnesota alcohol-preserved (fluid) collections by improving long-term storage and digital records, and strengthen our connection to broader Minnesota through outreach.	U of MN, Bell Museum	$400,000
	2027-069	Emily	Fairfax	Stream Complexity and Habitat Use in the Northwoods	We will use eDNA, remote sensing, and geospatial modeling to identify the biophysical characteristics of streams that provide climate-resilient habitat for key species with the goal of informing river restoration.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	$675,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-076	Ted	Ozersky	Predicting Winter Fish Kill Risk in Minnesota Lakes	This project will develop a model of under ice oxygen depletion and predict the likelihood of winter anoxia and fish kills across thousands of Minnesota lakes.	U of MN, Duluth - Large Lakes Observatory	$592,000
	2027-080	Dale	Gentry	Rediscovering Bobwhite and Warblers in the Driftless Region	Audubon will evaluate the Minnesota Driftless habitat Cerulean Warbler and Northern Bobwhite Quail rely upon, and drive management strategies to increase populations on private and public lands.	Audubon Upper Mississippi River	$365,000
	2027-094	Mae	Davenport	Sustaining Food Ecosystems for Tribal and Community Health	Our project unites Tribal and nontribal environmental and health professionals, scientists, and students to mobilize knowledge and guide investments that sustain traditional Food Ecosystems for Tribal and Community Health (FETCH).	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$1,610,000
XP	2027-109	Joseph	Bump	Critical Information for Science-Based Management of Minnesota's Wolves	This 6-group, statewide collaboration integrates historic & current biological data, mortality & survival analyses, pack composition tracking, and community-engaged monitoring to establish science-supported management strategies, ensuring long-term Minnesota wolf population viability.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$2,550,000
XP	2027-111	Dakota	Rowsey	Building a Superior Understanding of Minnesota's Small Mammals	We will mobilize data from small mammal specimens to identify factors driving Lyme disease expansion and support emerging pathogen research on these species that are key to ecosystem function.	Science Museum of Minnesota	$690,000
	2027-133	Meggan	Craft	Disease Implications of Connectivity Among Metro Deer Populations	Our project aims to understand the implications of white-tailed deer density and population connectivity across the Twin Cities Metro region to inform more efficient deer management and disease control.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$1,248,000
XP	2027-136	Michael	Joyce	Enhancing Fisher Management with Population and Health Data	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	$842,000
	2027-163	Seth	Thompson	Documenting Waterborne Contaminants in Culturally Important Foods	This project aims to document waterborne contamination of culturally important plants and animals for Minnesota's Indigenous communities and create culturally relevant management guidelines to inform community harvest practices.	Freshwater Society	$1,198,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
XP	2027-280	Liz	Beery	Expanding MN Prescribed Fire Implementation and Landowner Education	Grasslands are dynamic ecosystems that depend on frequent disturbance. This project will enhance grassland communities and wildlife populations through direct fire implementation and demonstrations, private landowner education & hands-on fire training.	The Nature Conservancy	$1,853,000
	2027-295	Brett	Nagle	Fish Movement Patterns in the Upper Mississippi River	The proposed project would establish a telemetry network to monitor the movements of ten species of native fish in the Upper Mississippi River system between Brainerd and Grand Rapids.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	$929,000
	2027-301	Brittany	Smith	Sustaining Prairie Investments: Disturbance Guidance for Restored Grasslands	Minnesota's restored prairies need active disturbance management to sustain habitat value, yet managers lack guidance. This project delivers evidence-based recommendations protecting monarchs, pollinators, grassland wildlife, and prior public investments.	Monarch Joint Venture	$525,000
XP	2027-345	Kathryn	Holcomb	Status of Mollusks in the Minnesota River Watershed	We will conduct mussel surveys to assess the status and potential recovery of mollusks (mussels, snails, pea clams) in the Minnesota River Watershed and to inform ongoing DNR conservation planning.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	$740,000
XP	2027-360	Elizabeth	Baker	Health Assessment, Tracking, and Conservation of Wild Turkeys	Through a statewide community science and telemetry research project, MNDNR biologists will estimate disease prevalence and evaluate effects on wild turkey behavior, survival, and fecundity to inform management.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	$2,111,000
	2027-373	Elena	West	Bioacoustics for Species Monitoring and Conservation: Phase III	Using citizen science and AI-assisted bioacoustic monitoring, this project will detect and map Minnesota's Species of Greatest Conservation Need—birds, bats, and frogs—across public and private lands statewide.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$1,108,000
XP	2027-394	Andrew	Gregory	Interagency Partnership to Conserve Minnesota Wild Turkey	This project will assess wild turkey population viability, health, and spatial ecology across four Minnesota ecoregions and metro area to improve management, mitigate conflict, and enhance natural resource agency coordination.	University of North Texas	$1,649,000
	2027-400	Jake	Walsh	Investigating Big Waves' Impacts on Native Aquatic Plants	We will investigate the impacts of wakeboat waves on aquatic plants in Minnesota lakes, performing experiments to quantify thresholds for plant damage and mortality under different ecological and boating scenarios.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$664,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
XP	2027-402	Geoffrey	Miller	Investigating Social Interactions and Relationships of Urban Coyotes	We will assess the habitat use, social associations and genetic relationships between coyotes in St. Paul to rigorously address the population structure of coyotes in Minnesota's urban landscapes.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$755,000
XP	2027-403	Holly	Bernardo	Integrating Biodiversity Data to Improve Conservation Decisions	Create a statewide health assessment and system-specific decision tools to conserve and manage MN's native plant communities; fill information gaps in MN's biodiversity data to inform modern, complex conservation challenges.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	$1,960,000
XP	2027-409	Brian	Nerbonne	Invasive Carp Tagging, Tracking and Removal	Monitoring, tagging, tracking and removal of invasive carp will help to prevent their establishment in Minnesota. Tagging and tracking of native fish will increase our knowledge of impacts from barriers.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	$1,086,000
XP	2027-417	Tricia	Markle	Evaluating American Kestrel Declines to Inform Conservation Action	The Minnesota Zoo and partners will study the long-term decline of American kestrels; addressing knowledge gaps related to demographics, diet, movements, and potential threats to inform conservation action.	Minnesota Zoological Board	$449,000
	2027-421	Garrett	Steede	Strengthening Urban Pollinator Habitats: Citizen Science and Strategic 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	$400,000
XP	2027-451	Mark	Edlund	Protect and Sustain Red Lake's Fisheries and Peatlands	Past peatland management has impacted Red Lake area water quality, fisheries, and peatlands. We will test how to best manage our peatlands to protect fisheries, natural resources, and traditional uses.	Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station	$1,324,000
XP	2027-456	Nicholas	Phelps	AIS Solutions for Minnesota - Innovation, Translation, Leadership	Using innovative and collaborative approaches, MAISRC will launch 16-20 high-priority projects aimed at solving Minnesota's AIS problems. Impacts will be realized with strong end-user engagement and an emphasis on research-implementation.	U of MN, MAISRC	$6,000,000
	2027-479	Solomon	David	Floodplains and Fishes: Aquatic Connectivity Through Native Species	This study directly addresses LCCMR and DNR priorities for resiliency, fish and wildlife through study of river-floodplain ecosystem connectivity using associated Minnesota native species.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$594,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
XP	2027-483	Tanya	Roerick	Moose Monitoring on the Leech Lake Reservation	We will monitor and assess moose population dynamics, spatial ecology and health data in a moose population that is outside of core moose range on the Leech Lake Reservation.	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	$675,000
	2027-489	Peter	Kennedy	Tracking Change at Minnesota's Great Forest Boundary	Minnesota's two great forests meet at Itasca, and that boundary is shifting. This project re-measures 35,000 tagged trees, trains student scientists, and establishes a baseline before multiple pathogens arrive.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$443,000
	2027-522	John	Lenczewski	Protecting Priority Trout Streams for Restoration and Access	Protect priority trout streams by acquiring permanent easements, enabling habitat restoration of these special public waters, providing recreational access, and connecting corridors of fish and wildlife habitat.	Minnesota Trout Unlimited	$1,496,000
XP	2027-528	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	$321,000
	2027-559	Joe	Triplett	Chisago County TH 8 Wildlife Crossing Project	The Project will construct culverts and fencing along the Trunk Highway 8 corridor between Forest Lake and Chisago City to provide habitat connectivity for Blandings Turtles and other wildlife.	Chisago County	$3,000,000
	2027-561	Tim	Amundsen	Excelsior Commons Park Shoreline 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	$654,000
	2027-568	Daniel	Cariveau	Tracking Minnesota's Rare Specialist Bees to Guide Conservation	This project will survey rare Minnesota bees, estimate population sizes using mark-recapture, and study host-plant colonization to improve conservation assessments and guide protection of the state’s native bee diversity.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$782,000
XP	2027-574	Mary	Mallinger	Understanding Minnesota's Migratory Bats to Advance Conservation	We will advance bat conservation by deploying transmitters that leverage Minnesota’s expanded Motus wildlife tracking network to document movement patterns and by evaluating new long-term transmitter attachment methods.	Minnesota Zoological Board	$568,000
XP	2027-600	Charlotte	Roy	Aerial Infrared Surveys of Sharp-Tailed Grouse and Prairie-Chickens	We will conduct aerial infrared surveys to locate and count display grounds of two native gamebirds vulnerable to habitat loss so population data are sufficient to inform adaptive management.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	$334,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-605	Kristin	Hall	Priority Actions for Species in Greatest Conservation Need	Conducting surveys, developing tools and disseminating information to help guide conservation action for rare and declining species based on prioritized needs highlighted in the 2025-2035 State Wildlife Action Plan.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	$1,644,000
						SubTotal	**$45,496,000**
D. Fish and Wildlife **G. Small Projects (RECEIVED: 23 Proposals / Subtotal - $5,414,000; SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION: 6 Proposals / Subtotal - $1,312,000)**							
X	2027-031	David	Remucal	Recovering and Restoring Rare Native Minnesota Eastern Hemlocks	Restore native germplasm and revive resiliency of native hemlock trees in Minnesota through collection and propagation of genetically-identified native seeds and cuttings. Enable repopulation project in collaboration with the DNR.	U of MN, Landscape Arboretum	$170,000
	2027-064	Daniel	Dauwalter	Informing Habitat Restoration Design to Benefit Brook Trout	This project will elicit what practitioners need to improve habitat restoration designs for Brook Trout, and study seasonal habitat use of Brook Trout at multiple scales, in southeast Minnesota.	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	$298,000
	2027-126	Joe	Whittaker	Monitoring of Richardson's Ground Squirrels in NW Minnesota	Richardson’s ground squirrel (Urocitellus richardsonii) populations have declined across Minnesota. I propose translocating individuals from at risk populations to a stable, protected site to conduct genetic rescue for that population.	Concordia College	$241,000
	2027-130	Darin	Ulness	Concordia College Bat Monitoring Project	Deploy a network of AudioMoth recording devices across the Moorhead metro to map bat activity, support white-nose syndrome recovery monitoring, and engage residents as Citizen Scientists.	Concordia College	$255,000
	2027-189	Katya	Kovalenko	Multi-Scale Stream Habitat Complexity Confers Resilience	Minnesota beloved streams are fish and wildlife biodiversity hotspots at risk of extreme climate events. Information on habitat structure conferring resilience is urgently needed to protect stream-dependent fauna.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	$298,000
X	2027-194	Elena	West	Advancing Bioacoustics Beyond Species Detection in Minnesota	We will link bird song characteristics to population vital rates—survival, productivity, and recruitment—transforming bioacoustic monitoring from species detection into demographic assessment for evidence-based conservation.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$299,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-211	Evangeline	Holley	A Bird's Eye View: One Health STEM Programming	Using a One Health approach, The Raptor Center proposes providing holistic environmental education focused on raptors, inspiring and activating youth in under-resourced schools and engaging their families through community events.	U of MN, Raptor Center	$232,000
	2027-212	Daniel	Pauly	Assessing Minnesota Heritage Trout Lakes for Long-term Protection	Assess the status of Minnesota's heritage lake trout lakes through temperature/oxygen profiling, eDNA surveys, and bathymetric mapping to protect these irreplaceable ice-age ecosystems during a time of climate change.	Headwaters Project	$263,000
	2027-226	Lynn	Waterhouse	Understanding Cisco Dynamics Using Sentinel Lakes' Monitoring Data	Leverage Sentinel Lakes Program data to identify ecological conditions linked to changes in cisco abundance, growth rates, and mortality in four inland lakes to better inform management decisions.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$280,000
	2027-232	Tia	Parks	Mobile Biochar for Invasive Plant Disposal and Suppression	Purchase a mobile biochar kiln that will be used for the innovative disposal and suppression of invasive plants on public, private, local, state, tribal, and federal lands in Cook County.	Cook County	$69,000
	2027-253	Jeanine	Refsnider	Impact of "Forever Chemicals" on Blanding's Turtle Health	We will test Blanding's turtles, a state-Threatened species, for PFAS ("forever chemicals") and quantify turtles' health along a PFAS-contamination environmental gradient to understand how PFAS affect Minnesota's rare wildlife.	University of Toledo	$283,000
	2027-258	Julia	Leone	Novel Floral Assessment Tools for Pollinator Habitat Management	Position Minnesota at the forefront of data-driven habitat management by comparing novel assessments of the effects of prairie restoration practices on pollinators and developing a floral resource monitoring decision tool.	Friends of the Mississippi River	$298,000
	2027-272	Ya	Yang	Protecting Minnesota's Native Pondweeds	The state-wide study will clarify species identification and detect hybrids in pondweeds, one of Minnesota's largest groups of aquatic plants that are critical for wildlife habitats and water recreation.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$300,000
X	2027-284	Jonathan	Oliver	Moose Pathogen Surveillance and Genotyping Using Engorged Ticks	We will test moose blood found in engorged Winter ticks to determine what blood-borne pathogens are present in MN moose and develop a genotype database for identifying individual moose.	U of MN, School of Public Health	$129,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
X	2027-303	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	$130,000
X	2027-329	Ron	Moen	Minnesota Mammal Atlas	The Minnesota Mammal Atlas will be a one-stop source for knowledge and data on all Minnesota mammal species. It will be used by agencies, scientists, students, and citizens of Minnesota.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	$294,000
	2027-410	Allen	Mensinger	Reducing Underwater Noise to Benefit Aquatic Life	Underwater noise in Minnesota lakes will be assessed to determine its extent and impact on fishes and develop strategies and methods to decrease noise without impacting recreational opportunities.	U of MN, Duluth	$236,000
X	2027-442	Annie	Bracey	Saving Common Terns: Decoding Drivers of Population Decline	Minnesota's state-threatened Common Tern faces declining colony productivity. This project integrates long-term monitoring, mercury exposure, and environmental data to identify drivers of decline and guide conservation actions supporting population recovery.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	$290,000
	2027-444	Devon	Oliver	Evaluation of Redhorse in Mississippi River Tributaries	The goal of this project is to increase knowledge and fill information gaps related to River, Shorthead, Greater, and Black Redhorse in Cannon, Zumbro and Root Rivers to inform management.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	$129,000
	2027-470	Emily	Pavlovic	Long-Eared Owl Monitoring in Minnesota to Inform Conservation	Long-eared Owl will be tracked using GPS and radio telemetry to determine migratory patterns, habitat use, and survival to create conservation and management action plans for the species in Minnesota.	Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory	$165,000
	2027-599	Lizzy	Larson	Project LEAP	Project LEAP (Local Ecosystem Amphibian Preservation) is a dedicated conservation initiative focused on the captive rearing and strategic reintroduction of native amphibians to restore local populations and enhance ecosystem biodiversity.	Arrowhead Zoological Society	$260,000
	2027-610	Lynn	Waterhouse	Fish as eDNA Tools to Detect Aquatic Species	Develop and validate fish swabs as biological eDNA samplers to monitor Minnesota's native aquatic species, enhancing biodiversity conservation, ecosystem health, and adaptive management of lakes and rivers.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-613	Henry	Strater	Off-Road Vehicle Wash Stations at Minnesota ORV Parks	The Minnesota Four Wheel Drive Association (MN4WDA) requests $195,000 from the ENRTF to design, procure, and install vehicle wash stations at off-highway vehicle parks.	~~Swift County~~ Minnesota Four-Wheel Drive Association	$195,000
						SubTotal	**$5,414,000**
E. Energy (RECEIVED: 22 Proposals / Subtotal - $26,540,000; SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION: 1 Proposals / Subtotal - $1,200,000)							
	2027-049	Melissa	DeVetter	Restoration Park Net Zero Energy Building	Construction of a 1600 sf net-zero energy building with an environmental classroom providing public educational opportunities while promoting sustainability, green energy, and the beneficial reuse of reclaimed and recycled materials.	Dodge County Environmental Services	$794,000
	2027-131	Jun	Li	Data-Driven Design of Anti-Icing Coatings for Heat Pumps	I will use a data-driven approach to design effective and durable polymeric anti-icing coatings, which could potentially solve the frost problem for air-source heat pumps in cold climates like Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$510,000
	2027-199	Seamus	Kane	Accessible Biogas Fuels for Minnesota's Small Family Farms	Development of a portable, low-cost biogas processing, compression, and storage system for on-farm use; overcoming the key barrier for greater adoption of renewable biogas digesters in Minnesota agriculture.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$680,000
	2027-200	Ping	Zhao	Low Impact Water Energy Harvesting for Renewable Energy	This project advances low-impact renewable energy generation from water motion, developing small-scale systems that produce electricity and expand clean energy options while protecting Minnesota’s freshwater ecosystems.	U of MN, Duluth	$454,000
	2027-215	Ratul	Das	Maximizing Solar Output Under Harsh Minnesotan Weather	This project will develop and verify a novel multi-input power electronic converter optimized for solar energy harvesting considering Minnesota’s irradiance, temperature, wind, and snow profiles.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$534,000
	2027-239	Brian	Krohnke	Navigating Our Metro to Efficiency and Clean Energy	Expansion of energy efficiency navigation program for under invested communities, to create a sustainable revenue model. Concurrent modeling and feasibility study of clean energy commercial integration opportunities with aligned partners.	Community Power	$1,652,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-256	Alexander	Mehne	Reviving Indigenous Sustainability in Wood Use and Native Plants	The Fond du Lac Forestry will do a pilot trial to familiarize itself with numerous plants historically used by the Indigenous People while creating natural energy resource to the community.	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	$1,525,000
	2027-335	Jacob	Swanson	RENEW-MN Renewable Energy Workforce Network – Minnesota	RENEW-MN creates a statewide Renewable Energy Workforce Network that solicits real renewable energy projects from industry and educates undergraduate engineers through applied, experiential learning to accelerate Minnesota's clean energy future.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Minnesota State University Mankato	$445,000
	2027-356	Keivan	Davami	Improving Industrial Milling Technology for Scalable Biofuel Production	Research, optimize, and implement an improved Szego Mill to enhance conversion of Minnesota corn stover—including stalks, leaves, and cobs—into renewable biofuels in partnership with the University of Minnesota.	University of Alabama	$867,000
	2027-364	Daniel	Bond	Minnesota Microbes as Living Fertilizers	We will isolate Minnesota microbes capable of naturally capturing nitrogen from the air and enhance their abilities to act as living fertilizers in crops and small scale production.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$399,000
	2027-376	James	Van de Ven	High-Efficiency Hybrid Transmissions for Cleaner Agricultural Vehicles	We will develop a highly efficient hybrid transmission for agricultural vehicles, reducing fuel consumption and enabling alternative fuels. We plan on partnering with Minnesota's AGCO to commercialize this eco-friendly technology.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$611,000
	2027-390	Sam	Toan	Electrochemical CO_2-To-Ethanol Conversion for Fuel Cell Systems	Electrochemical catalysts and hierarchical electrodes will convert industrial CO_2 streams into renewable ethanol, enabling carbon recycling, reducing emissions, and advancing scalable technologies for sustainable fuel production and carbon-circular energy systems.	U of MN, Duluth	$629,000
	2027-396	Dave	Goebel	enVerde Advanced Sustainable Technology	enVerde LLC will design, construct, commission, and operate a commercial demonstration facility using its patented eVp™ process, converting woody biomass into heat and syngas, supporting multiple sustainable applications, including SAF.	en Verde LLC	$6,133,000
XP	2027-412	Melissa	Birch	Minnesota Solar for Soil, Water, and Wildlife	The project will strengthen natural resource and agricultural co-benefits of increasing solar deployment through co-designed educational materials, land use planning tools, outreach and engagement, technical assistance, and a train-the-trainer approach.	U of MN, Extension Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships	$1,200,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-415	Geanella	Ochoa	Adopting Closed Loop Geothermal System as Climate-Resilient Solution	The Latino Center for Community Engagement will eliminate onsite fossil fuels through a closed loop geothermal system, creating a sustainable, resilient, and culturally anchored hub for Latine communities across Minnesota.	Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Accion Latina	$604,000
	2027-441	Jeff	Havig	Soudan Mine as a Minnesota Subsurface Hydrogen Observatory	The proposed work will characterize and integrate water chemistry, microbiology, dissolved H2, and mineralogy of Soudan Mine system and Lake Vermillion to assess H2 production and consumption in the subsurface.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$576,000
	2027-446	Craig	Hill	Hardware-in-the-Loop Coastal Wave Energy Conversion: Minnesota's Blue Energy	Using wave buoys, Great Lakes wave models, physics-based wave energy converter (WEC) simulations, and a hardware-in-the-loop dynamometer, we assess real WEC power potential, guiding coastal Lake Superior blue energy production.	U of MN, Duluth	$384,000
	2027-449	Soon Li	Teh	Vitivoltaics: Integrating Renewable Energy with Minnesota Grape Production	Vitivoltaics integrates Minnesota's new cold-hardy table grapes with solar arrays, creating a 'climate shield' to mitigate winter injury while maximizing land-use efficiency, renewable energy production, and economic resilience for growers.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$525,000
	2027-461	Naomi	Carlson	Community Resilience Collaborative Energy Pilot Projects	Two community energy pilots expand renewable power, resilience, housing, and workforce training while the Regional Resilience Collaborative strengthens regional capacity for additional climate resilience pilot projects.	Headwaters Regional Development Commission	$3,823,000
	2027-465	Xinyuan	Zheng	Sustainable Recovery of Critical Mineral Elements from Wastes	This project plans to develop sustainable technologies to recover critical mineral elements from Minnesota waste streams, including mining residues and wastewater, reducing pollution while transforming wastes into valuable resources.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$599,000
	2027-488	Jian-Ping	Wang	Improving Power Efficiency with Critical Element Free Minnealloy	We will develop and evaluate Minnealloy, a soft magnetic material which offers improved transformer and generator technology for clean energy and eliminates the use of environmentally damaging critical materials.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$492,000
	2027-607	Troy	Goodnough	Demonstrating Innovative Thermal Energy Storage in Cold Climates	UMN Morris proposes to demonstrate a scalable and replicable approach for rural energy development using a thermal energy battery and local energy to provide heat to a district energy system.	U of MN, Morris	$3,104,000
						SubTotal	**$26,540,000**

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
E. Energy							
G. Small Projects (RECEIVED: 8 Proposals / Subtotal - $2,205,000; SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION: 0 Proposals / Subtotal - $0)							
	2027-043	Benjamin	Worsfold	Next-Generation Wind Turbine Towers for State Electrification	Our research will investigate causes of observed damage in wind turbine towers and develop next-generation designs, strengthening the resilience of Minnesota's renewable energy infrastructure against extreme weather events.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$272,000
	2027-089	Ellen	Thompson	Energizing the Next Generation Through Experiential Learning	Undergraduate engineering students develop hands-on demonstrations for a children's museum exhibit about renewable energy and climate change, including mailable museum kits and video workshops to improve access across Minnesota.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Minnesota State University Mankato	$290,000
	2027-093	Xiaowen	Chen	From Minnesota Agricultural Waste to Sustainable Aviation Fuel	This project focuses on developing novel technologies converting Minnesota based agriculture waste into cost competitive sustainable aviation fuels. While advancing technologies, the project will access the environmental benefits for Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
	2027-273	Keiko	Miller	Equitable Access to Renewable Energy Through Community Solar	This project enrolls 150–200 primarily income-eligible Metro households in 1 MW of community solar, advancing equitable renewable access while developing a replicable neighborhood-led clean energy ownership model and toolkit.	Minneapolis Climate Action	$295,000
	2027-291	Paul	Chen	Electrified Ethanol-to-Jet Fuel for Minnesota	Develops a two-step electrified pathway to convert ethanol to lower-carbon sustainable aviation fuel and test whether this process (alternative to conventional refinery) reduce lifecycle emissions and strengthens Minnesota climate resilience.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$300,000
	2027-317	Michael	Levin	Maximum Throughput Ramp Metering Algorithm with Field Testing	A new ramp metering control on freeways will reduce traffic congestion and its corresponding energy consumption and emissions. Implementation in MN's current control software will make it deployable on freeways.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$181,000
	2027-464	Prasanth Kumar	Sasidharan Pillai	Enhancing Biodiesel Blend Limits Using Waste Oil-Derived Additives	This project converts waste cooking oil into novel additives that prevent biodiesel crystallization at −30 °C to −40 °C, enabling higher biodiesel blend limits for reliable use in Minnesota's cold.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$268,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-471	Gwendolyn	Bailey	Developing High-Efficiency Catalysts for Minnesota Corn Oil-to-Fuel Conversions	This proposal aims to develop a new catalytic technology that will enable the conversion of distiller's corn oil (DCO) to sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$299,000
						SubTotal	**$2,205,000**
F. Land (RECEIVED: 37 Proposals / Subtotal - $53,708,000; SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION: 10 Proposals / Subtotal - $25,372,000)							
	2027-028	Star	Nelson	Minnesota Grazing Stewardship Education and Outreach Program	The Minnesota Grazing Stewardship Education and Outreach Program delivers hands-on producer training, youth education, mentorship, and resources to promote sustainable grazing, enhance soil and water health, and strengthen statewide conservation.	Minnesota Grazing Lands Conservation Association	$802,000
XP	2027-051	Josh	Pommier	Precision Grazing – Virtual Grazing for Ecological Outcomes	Evaluate how grazing paddock size influences the effectiveness of virtual fencing for prescribed targeted grazing of invasive species, protecting sensitive habitat and optimizing ecological outcomes.	Pheasants Forever Inc	$686,000
	2027-058	Adrian	Hegeman	Planting for Mineral Extraction and Soil/Water Improvement	To identify Minnesota-hardy plants for multiple land use cases for extraction of toxic or economically valuable metals, and to test processes for metal enriched plant biomass conversion and metal extraction.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$498,000
	2027-077	Melissa	DeVetter	Restoration Park Expansion - Acquisition	Acquisition of adjacent quarry/private properties containing high-quality wetlands, forests, and grasslands proposed for development. Acquired land will be restored, enhanced and protected as part of Restoration Park in perpetuity.	Dodge County Environmental Services	$1,251,000
	2027-084	Riley	Buley	Advancing Climate-Smart Agriculture to Reduce Nitrate Pollution	Promote climate-smart agriculture in the Root River and Cedar Watersheds to cut nitrate pollution, protect water resources, and increase carbon sequestration for measurable water quality and climate benefits.	Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation District	$6,025,000
	2027-085	Dean	Current	Agroforestry Systems for Soil, Water, Habitat and Bioenergy	This project will develop a framework evaluating agroforestry systems and forest residues as biomass sources for sustainable aviation fuels while improving ecosystem services, environmental quality, and rural economic resilience.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$598,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-097	Wiley	Buck	Forest Health in Brainerd Lakes Conservation Focus Area	Maintain and improve forest health in the Brainerd Lakes Conservation Focus Area, a geography of statewide significance, with a robust approach addressing public and private ownership, urgent threats and opportunities.	Great River Greening	$736,000
	2027-143	Bo	Hu	Cascading Hydrochar Production to Restore Farmed Peat Soils	This project proposes using hydrothermal carbonization of digestate from organic waste treatment to produce hydrochar for farmed peatland restoration, enhance carbon sequestration, destroy emerging contaminants, and promote sustainable land management.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$536,000
XP	2027-181	Sara	Reagan	Engaging Landowners in Conservation Easement Stewardship	Providing technical guidance on best management practices for maintaining and enhancing RIM easements by engaging and empowering landowners and the SWCDs that they work with.	Board of Water and Soil Resources	$1,307,000
	2027-198	Jennifer	Schmitt	Urban Land and Minnesota's Resilient Future	Investigating soil health and pollinator communities in Lawns to Legumes pollinator patches to inform statewide native planting strategies and understand the role of urban lands in securing Minnesota’s resilient future.	U of MN, Institute on the Environment	$1,102,000
	2027-217	Jennifer	Grommes	Forest and Savanna Management Through Silvopasture- Phase 3	Demonstrate, evaluate, and increase the adoption of silvopasture - integrating livestock with trees - as a method to restore and manage oak savannas across Minnesota.	Great River Greening	$516,000
	2027-246	Rebecca	Montgomery	Fostering Oak Regeneration via Novel Prescribed Burning Strategies	Oak regeneration in Minnesota remains alarmingly low. Despite effective use of prescribed fire, oaks still require refuges to establish. Practical shifts in burning strategies will immediately improve regeneration potential.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$342,000
	2027-260	Naba	Kalita	Managing Microplastics in Minnesota’s Compost and Soils	This project optimizes aerobic composting 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, Duluth - NRRI	$779,000
	2027-262	Joshua	Feinberg	Securing Minnesota’s Critical Minerals: Emily Manganese Deposit	This project uses geophysics and advanced characterization to map the extent of Minnesota’s high-grade Emily Manganese Deposit, securing a domestic battery-mineral supply while ensuring long-term environmental and social stewardship.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$659,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-269	Jonathan	Schilling	Sharing the Science Behind Outdoor Recreation at Itasca	This project will facilitate access (public, tribes, students) to a University-led, outdoor plant restoration study inside Itasca State Park, welcoming all Minnesotans to see the science behind protecting outdoor recreation.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	$492,000
XP	2027-276	James	Harding	Northern Minnesota Integrated Reforestation and Climate Resilience Initiative	Restore forests and urban canopy in northern Minnesota following the 2025 derecho through coordinated county, city, and university efforts to improve habitat, resilience, and long-term ecological function.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Bemidji State University	$1,555,000
	2027-282	Paulo	Pagliari	Optimizing Biostimulant Use for Minnesota Grain Production Sustainability	This proposal investigates biostimulants to reduce nitrogen fertilizer use in multiple grain crops and potatoes grown in Minnesota, supporting HF2683 water quality incentives while sustaining crop yields and farm profitability.	U of MN, Southwest Research and Outreach Center	$890,000
	2027-292	Tyler	Nelson	Automated Invasive Detection Using Multispectral and LiDAR UAVs	We will develop an automated detection algorithm to identify target invasive species using UAV(drone)-based Multispectral and LIDAR sensors, streamlining statewide monitoring and management for natural resource managers.	Real Vision Drones	$347,000
XP	2027-309	Rylee	Hince	Integrated PFAS Capture and Destruction on Tribal Lands	Demonstrate a closed-loop system capturing and destroying PFAS from groundwater and vegetation at Prairie Island Indian Community, advancing scalable land-based solutions for protecting Minnesota water, ecosystems, and cultural food systems.	Prairie Island Indian Community	$613,000
XP	2027-334	Megan	Lennon	Expanding Minnesota Grazing for Resilient Landscapes	This project accelerates adoption of managed grazing practices and expands perennial forage planting in Minnesota to improve water quality, soil health, wildlife habitat, landscape resilience, and farm diversification.	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	$4,143,000
XP	2027-336	Jessica	Lee	Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition Phase 10	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
	2027-339	Bo	Hu	Mitigating Soil Salinity in Western Minnesota Landscapes	The project proposes to change biomass management practices for sugar beets and sunflowers to remove soil salinity, improve water quality, and enhance ecosystem resilience in salinity area of western Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$495,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-340	Eric	Buchanan	Agrivoltaics to Improve Agricultural Land Resiliency	Optimizing methods to combine solar energy and crop production while improving resiliency for agricultural lands and rural farmers.	U of MN, WCROC	$2,405,000
XP	2027-349	Logan	Shoup	Minnesota Public Lands Conservation Grazing Coordination	Ducks Unlimited will improve grassland habitat on Minnesota's prairie public lands by facilitating conservation grazing to increase management through grazing coordinators, fencing and other infrastructure, and building long-term agency capacity.	Ducks Unlimited Inc	$4,671,000
XP	2027-363	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 655 acres, and protection of 100 acres through conservation easements.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	$2,570,000
XP	2027-371	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 (~200 acres) will conserve Minnesota's most unique and rare resources for everyone's benefit.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	$5,950,000
	2027-420	Jason	Allen	Scaling Minnesota's Waste Diversion and Material Reuse Economy	Expand Minnesota's material recovery and reuse system by strengthening diversion infrastructure, municipal partnerships, and reuse markets, reducing landfill waste, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and conserving natural resources statewide.	Better Futures Minnesota	$1,342,000
	2027-431	Brian	Olson	NW Regional 9 County Biochar Initiative	The project consists of purchasing a Biochar unit, processing equipment, constructing 4 hoop buildings for storage, purchasing bagging equipment, processing wood into biochar, and testing quality.	Beltrami County	$3,160,000
	2027-447	Vera	Krischik	Pesticide Research and Education to Lower Use	F2. Outreach/research on pesticide residues in wildflowers around crops and effects on beneficial insects will be performed and mitigation suggested. Create online outreach education resources on sustainable pesticide management.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$496,000
	2027-467	Boya	Xiong	Optimizing Benefits of Polymer-Coated Fertilizers on Minnesota Land	Strategies to optimize the agronomic, environmental, and economic performances of conventional and biodegradable polymer-coated fertilizers will be developed by assessing the potential release of microplastics into Minnesota's agricultural land.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$549,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
	2027-474	Uwe	Kortshagen	FIELDS: Farms Integrating Energy, Land, and Dairy Sustainability	FIELDS evaluates innovative management practices on agricultural lands to provide long-term environmental benefits while ensuring economic viability for Minnesota farmers through integrating agrivoltaic energy production.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$1,408,000
	2027-515	Christy	Haynes	Controlling Oxidative Stress Using Nanobiostimulants for Resilient Crops	This collaborative project will use interdisciplinary research at the interface of plant pathology, nanotechnology, and chemistry to develop stress-resistant crops to enhance Minnesota food production.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$688,000
	2027-536	Karma	Choeyang	Shared Land, Shared Love	Growing traditional barley using seeds from the University of Minnesota or Tibet, and developing a recreational center for educational purposes by teaching the forefathers' way of life in Tibet.	The Tehor Tibetan Organization of Minnesota	$650,000
XP	2027-541	Colleen	Miller	Conservation Finance on School Trust Peatlands	Implement conservation finance on 2-3 School Trust peatland sites to generate new revenue for public schools while restoring critical ecosystems and creating a replicable model.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	$877,000
	2027-557	Angela	McDonnell	Developing a Vegetation Monitoring Model in Stearns County	We will collaboratively monitor vegetation in Stearns County parks to assess ecological health and inform management decisions; this will create an actionable plan to improve park quality.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, St. Cloud State University	$355,000
	2027-564	Megan	Wilcots	On Edge: Investigating Tipping Points of Woody-Encroached Prairies	The integrity of Minnesota grasslands statewide is threatened by encroachment of woody plant species. We seek to identify when and how to remove woody species to preserve grassland function.	The Nature Conservancy	$655,000
	2027-590	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 CO2.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	$560,000
						SubTotal	**$53,708,000**

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
F. Land							
G. Small Projects (RECEIVED: 11 Proposals / Subtotal - $2,600,000; SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION: 3 Proposals / Subtotal - $790,000)							
	2027-098	Clara	Shaw	Understanding Nematode Communities in Northeastern Minnesota Soils	Soil-dwelling organisms maintain soil health but their dynamics remain understudied. We will characterize soil nematode communities over two years in soils sampled from agricultural and forest sites in northeastern Minnesota.	U of MN, Duluth	$184,000
	2027-099	Hannah	Lewis	Establishing and Evaluating the Benefits of Urban Mini-Forests	Renewing the Countryside and partners will establish native “mini-forests” at community sites and measure the buffering effect on air and noise pollution and temperature of 4 mini-forests along high-traffic corridors.	Renewing the Countryside	$298,000
	2027-144	Breanna	Wheeler	Friends of Northfield Area Natural Areas (FoNANA)	FoNANA coordinates a public-private-volunteer partnership to bridge stewardship gaps in Northfield. By empowering volunteers and aligning community resources, this model ensures sustainable habitat restoration and provides framework for statewide replication.	Breanna Wheeler Consulting	$258,000
	2027-245	Annette S.	Lee	Turtle Island Skywatchers - Research and Data Visualization 2	Turtle Island Skywatchers - Innovative Research and Data Visualization Phase 2 will utilize bioacoustics research and data visualization to enhance management strategies, foster collaborative stewardship, and to empower youth researchers.	Native Skywatchers Inc	$210,000
	2027-302	Carrie	Taylor	Enhancing Anoka Sand Plain Habitat and Biodiversity	This project will fund the restoration of diverse Anoka Sand Plain habitats, monitoring of wildlife and plants to assess management success, and establishment of long-term prescribed burn partnerships.	Anoka Conservation District	$295,000
X	2027-361	Lisa	Luokkala	Protecting the Future of the Superior Hiking Trail	We seek to ensure a bright future for Minnesota's premier hiking trail by creating and implementing a robust Trail Protection Program that will secure the Superior Hiking Trail corridor.	Superior Hiking Trail Association	$200,000
	2027-378	Ed	Potter	Tree Seed Procurement for Future Forests	Develop and train seed collectors, select forested stands for collecting improved seed collection, and establish a seed orchard for building future forest resiliency.	MN DNR, Forestry Division	$295,000
X	2027-408	James	Shaffer	Minneapolis Urban Forest Ecology Restoration, Phase 1	This project will restore a variety of urban natural areas within the MPRB’s park system and increase access to healthy green space widely across Minneapolis.	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	$300,000

2027 LCCMR Request for Proposal (RFP) - FY2028
Proposals Selected for Further Consideration by Category with Summaries

Selected to Present	Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Title	Summary	Organization	Amount Requested
X	2027-498	Adam	Arvidson	Ecological Riverbank Restoration at St. Anthony Falls	This project restores approximately 850 linear feet of degraded, low habitat shoreline upstream of the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock, extending restoration at the lock by Owámniyomni Okhódayapi.	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	$290,000
	2027-500	Alison	Ling	Biosolids PFAS Management: Evaluating Risks, Costs, and Benefits	This project integrates PFAS risk modeling and economic analysis to evaluate alternative biosolids management strategies to land application and identify cost-effective opportunities to protect Minnesota's soil, agricultural and freshwater resources.	University of St. Thomas	$193,000
	2027-520	Michele	Peterson	Chatfield Wastewater Treatment Native Reed Plant Study	The project includes the planting of two native reed beds, monitoring for and mitigating potential spread of invasive reeds, and conducting additional sampling/testing to evaluate native reed performance.	City of Chatfield	$77,000
						SubTotal	**$2,600,000**
H. Administration **(RECEIVED: 4 Proposal / Subtotal - $5,013,000; SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION: 4 Proposals / Subtotal - $5,013,000)**							
X	2027-001	LCCMR Universal	Account	LCCMR Administrative Budget 2027*	$ amount TBD. Members do not need to select during evaluation; will advance automatically.	Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources	$4,600,000
X	2027-002	LCCMR Universal	Account	LCC Legacy Website 2027	Project Summary (30 word limit)	Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources	$3,000
X	2027-003	LCCMR Universal	Account	Emerging Issues Account 2027	Project Summary (30 word limit)	Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources	$0
XP	2027-214	Katherine	Sherman-Hoehn	2027 Contract Agreement Reimbursement	Provide contract management to ENRTF pass-through appropriation recipients for approximately 170 open grants. Ensure funds are expended in compliance with appropriation law, state statute, grants policies, and approved work plans.	MN DNR, Grants Unit	$410,000
						SubTotal	**$5,013,000**
						Total	**$375,469,000**

* This is a placeholder. The actual amount of the two-year budget will be determined at a later date following budget development and LCCMR approval.