

## 2024 Strategic Planning Subject Matter Expert Survey

### Question: How can the ENRTF help Minnesota be a leader nationally and internationally on environmental and natural resources issues?

#### Responses: 271

- Need to expand ways to grow and purchase food locally and in a non-polluting way for all economic classes to improve the environment.
- Ensure that dedicated funding is available specifically for natural resource acquisition, protection and restoration.
- Don't forget about the "old" existing programs. Fund State Agency general funds to help long-standing programs such as BWSR wetland section to increase capacity. So much money is going to agencies to start new programs.
- Support Universities and local companies to work on carbon capture.
- Funding for climate and water quality should be a priority
- 1st: Continue doing the amazing work you are doing - bravo, kudos to all the staff!! 2nd: Publicize the work you support by hiring media staff and using some of your funds to highlight and promote supported projects.
- Strategically fund quality projects for the environment.
- I work nationally in environmental education leadership. Our environmental education infrastructure leads the nation and is a model regarded highly. Our state plan for environmental education, The Green Print, needs to be updated. With our future cradled in the minds of our next generation, we need to increase our outdoor and hands-on education of our children in environmental and outdoor recreation areas. Childhood is an endeavor that has sadly been turned indoors for the majority of our youth. Continued strong commitment to use ENRTFunds for environmental education is a must.
- Climate change is an urgent issue for the mankind. ENRTF should fund more research projects about climate change and decarbonization.
- Keep investing in on the ground projects, innovate, and make sure results are communicated to others nationally and globally.
- Minnesota has an extensive history of being a leader in manufacturing and raw material sourcing. Continued investment in new technologies to improve environmental practices in those industries and support to reimagine existing technologies will go a long way in MN and across the world.
- Innovating strategies and solutions. Educate the public. Highly trained workforce. Share the success stories.
- More outreach to provide opportunities to community environmental leaders at the local government level. SWCD staff are experts at private land conservation, the majority of the work in this state by a wide margin needs to happen on private lands. Making the awards and granting process easier, and less time consuming for them would be a critical step.
- Continue to provide financial funding for natural resources and environmental projects.
- Develop strategic priorities and fund projects that aggressively address the biodiversity extinction crisis; develop a funding lane and different set of checks and balances for long-term projects that can propose and achieve big things. Establish permanent support from ENRTF for what the State Constitution called for at statehood: the state shall have statewide geological and biological surveys.

- Lead efforts to reduce industrialized farming practices that lead to bare soil for 6 months of the year and drain tiling all fields.
- Support working land conservation and ecological restoration that normalizes conservation and habitat management efforts that allow for less intensive land use practices and utilize perennial vegetative cover, cover crops, etc.
- A focus on education and outreach surround water quality concerns from agricultural lands. The scale of this resources alone warrants the level of attention, detail and adequate funding to implement. MN has already become a leader in the field of conservation nationally, the envy of program and rule implementation across the US.
- Fund good projects.
- Fund locally led projects that advertise their success.
- Focus more on implementation and monitoring and less on research.
- Fund staff who can do active outreach to private landowners. I.E The Farm Bill Biologists through PF and SWCD's throughout Minnesota
- Focus on restoration and preservation of wetlands and native prairie in the agricultural zone of Minnesota.
- Provide support to projects with multiple and expansive outcomes.
- Work Collaboratively with other funding agencies to leverage more funding.
- Fund as many projects as possible that result in on-the-ground improvements to Minnesota's natural landscapes and wildlife
- Having a mixture of single grants are larger "visionary" projects is a good way to make sure that good ideas (some even cutting edge and a bit risky) can be supported while also investing in a way to make larger change that supports our state. One potential "visionary" idea is to support a cohort of "LCCMR Fellows" who could work on research with a MN university but perhaps have a required internship with a state agency. This would build capacity in the state for highly educated individuals that can directly contribute to the state environmental missions of our agencies/govt while also investing in workforce development. I suspect that a group of faculty from several MN institutions and agency partners might be interested in developing this kind of a program with you.
- Support work and projects that are applicable beyond just the state boundaries. Also, support collaborations that occasionally extend beyond state boundaries.
- Research that is applicable regionally is more powerful than research that is solely state based. To be more applicable nationally and internationally it's important to consider regional issues that directly impact MN but may not be limited to working solely in Minnesota.
- Financing projects that work toward building knowledge of our environmental resources.
- By funding research that integrates land manager perspectives and provides answers to questions land managers have. It would also be imperative to start looking at funding projects that are experimenting with climate resilience plant communities in restoration projects, while trying to maintain our native ecosystems.
- Longer term investment in science/research. 2-3 years is just when the pieces are starting to come together and then everyone moves on to a new project.
- Invest in research and implementation efforts to advance "continuous living cover" agricultural systems. This is a nation-leading, innovative and unique strategy that has the potential to lead to broad-scale change in agricultural practices that results in substantial improvements in environmental outcomes. While this strategy requires upfront investment to get it off the ground,

ultimately it harnesses market forces, meaning that it will be less costly than traditional conservation incentive programs in the long run.

- Support the creation and utilization of state-of-the-art datasets to generate an unbiased and comprehensive understanding of what has happened to our natural resources throughout Minnesota in recent history and what is expected to happen in the future to inform policy and action to mitigate impacts on our natural resources and economy as the climate continues to change in the future.
- By providing funding for researchers to tap into the rich data stored in museum biodiversity collections and use this information to make evidence-based decisions on species conservation. The first step in doing this is funding digitization of these collections so the specimens are available to researchers across the globe.
- Support projects related to climate change
- Continue supporting research on our natural resources. Proposal submission process is very clear and concise. Ability to submit multiple proposal topics a plus--we can come up with ideas.
- Integrate environmental needs and natural resource issues across disciplines
- Continue supporting Minnesota organizations leading programs and projects impacting environmental and natural resources issues
- Increase funding for upkeep and management of protected lands (public and private land).
- I think it does a good job. Funding projects for longer duration would lead to better outcomes (e.g. success of restoration and management activities, insights into what leads to successes and failures) and more knowledge.
- Continue your emphasis on outcomes-based research.
- Encourage building relationships across sectors, disciplines, and social groups.
- Invest in research of critical unknowns related to pollution and water quality, accessibility and availability of clean water, climate change, and design guidance.
- Maintain relationship with County Parks and Recreation committees and board members.
- By ensuring that quality data is used to make decisions, and that the data are published on a public website.
- Continue to provide funding for research and projects.
- By keeping the public informed.
- This fund, LCCMR council and staff have did an amazing job to date. My suggestions for improvement would be to coordinate more effectively with OHF/LSOHC and DNR's Game and Fish Fund, continue to fund research and resource assessment efforts, and to not let motorized trail interests overrun non-motorized trail needs.
- Helping bridge the development / scale-up gaps. Implementing new practices requires a risk reduction, which typically means subsidies or funding to advance implementation. Most grant funds focus on early-stage research efforts, but funds lack in actual development and implementation of these ideas at meaningful levels. I think LCCMR can help support scale-up efforts to see meaningful change for the environment and natural resources that bring both economic and environmental benefit.
- We are the Land of 10,000 lakes, and we should be a leader in clean water. However, it seems that the abundance of lakes has had the opposite effect. We have grown complacent with the knowledge that if one lake doesn't meet our needs, we can simply go to the next. The Western States have more advanced and effective invasive species (IS) regulation and enforcement. They have also prioritized

water rationing and efficient use methods. ENRTF can help by increasing prevention efforts targeting IS, such as outreach, education, and enforcement. Work with conservation officers to make IS a priority.

- For water quality and availability, we need to prepare for what could happen in the future. Are we prepared for long-term drought? Pollution? Increased population? We can act now to prevent shortages in the future, while supplies are prevalent. We can be a leader in resilience, and ENRTF can help.
- Through funding not only cutting edge research but also pilot or actionable programs that move to prove research concepts
- Invest and focus on science and education on water/soil quality and climate related issues
- funding projects and efforts that use developing technologies or strategies, emphasizing involvement or consideration of historically underserved communities in the environmental space
- Provide resources and information on new and upcoming techniques and technology
- Fund practical responses to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change on our natural resources and people.
- Minnesota has a unique suite of transition zones which allows for experiments and natural experiments. The history of investment is huge and continuing this work makes Minnesota a global leader
- Prioritize funding that supports educating the next generation of environmental leaders.
- Investigate innovative approaches to clean up environmental contamination and limit practices that contribute to further contamination.
- Invest in projects that develop renewable energy and innovate in this area.
- Start investing in projects that aim to capture carbon from the atmosphere in a form that can be stored safely (not compressed CO2 gas).
- Prioritize research and innovation at the system level. ENRTF has become a funder of obscure topics to satisfy the curiosity of elite academia.
- The fund is a great step in that direction.
- By continuing to vet and fund research, applied science and land acquisition projects that target valued and threatened MN resources. Connecting and engaging scientists and stakeholders.
- no opinion
- Funding cutting edge research and land acquisition
- ENRTF can fund research into best practices to address environmental concerns.
- Leverage the state's strategically important natural resources (e.g., fertile soils, mineral resources, timber land) and world-class industrial base. Minnesota's unique combination of natural resources, raw materials, and business expertise can serve as a testing ground for projects that deliberately balance natural resource use and protection with business profitability.
- By funding innovative research and management practices to address existing and anticipated threats to natural resources and ecosystems in Minnesota. For example, thousands of acres of Minnesota cropland are being tile drained annually. However, no one is looking at the long term implications of this drainage. Will this drainage decrease groundwater infiltration on a wide enough area to affect groundwater supplies in the future and will the increased runoff from the drainage impact downstream flooding issues? The ENRTF could be a leader by funding research to answer these questions.

- Support initiatives to educate all ages and expose people to the benefits of being out in nature on a regular basis.
- Climate change is going to be a force. Can we remain forward thinking and flexible to deal with some of the unknown things coming.
- By selecting projects that has a real impact on Minnesota and beyond.
- Work with agriculturists and help them be economically sustainable while maintaining the beauties of MN.
- By supporting the development, adoption, completion, and maintenance of clean-up, conservation, and restoration activities through direct funding and technical support.
- Provide resources so that sensitive natural areas can be conserved or preserved, protect endangered species, fund research on protecting natural resources and fund that protection.
- Allow some projects to exceed 3 years
- ENTRF funds can be used in a way that enhance habit, encourage folks to become stakeholders for the environment, and meet the needs of the moment.
- Funding larger projects that measure multiple environmental outcomes to guide policy
- continue to fund research studies and innovative, novel management techniques (with adequate evaluation methods) that are at the forefront of their respective disciplines. However, I would ask, how well do the council members know if proposed studies or management techniques are innovative or novel enough? It can be daunting to keep abreast of new techniques and insight in just a single field of work. I would think it extremely difficult for the council to keep current with the myriad topics that are funded.
- Protection of remnant prairie and grassland habitats that support species that are in dire need of protection, like grassland birds and pollinators. Also, lead the way on carbon storage in grasslands and farmland using native cover, cover crops, and regenerative agriculture practices.
- Identify several top issues related to our state and provide consistent funding until the technology developed can be implemented or commercialized
- Fund pilot initiatives that explore transformative models for addressing climate change - in agriculture and working lands mgmt specifically.
- Help the people doing the projects provide more of an avenue for communicatino of results of their projects.
- Make findings from funded programs available widely
- Host a platform for all of the organizations that work in environmental education to come together to learn, network, etc.
- if we can help develop ways to use more agricultural products to help reduce carbon in Minnesota
- Raising awareness through publications on original research. Having a dedicated ENRTF member makes trips to science conferences or community outreach.
- By funding projects that help preserve our environment and natural resources.
- ENRTF can help be an international and national leader by modeling what it looks like to partner with Indigenous communities to find environmental and natural resources solutions in the face of a rapidly changing climate. While Minnesota has a great track record of funding environmental research, projects and initiatives, ENRTF has the opportunity in the new few years to really prioritize indigenous-led projects rooted in Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Other places in the country are

starting to utilize this approach, and if Minnesota wants to be a national leader, this is one of the best ways forward.

- I think ENRTF already does a fantastic job by providing funding focused on priority issues for our state.
- ENRTF is already helping MN be a leader and can continue to help by funding projects in MN - this has been an important funding source for projects on the ground that might not otherwise be funded. Being a leader means doing things first. ENRTF can help MN lead by funding projects that are on the leading edge or even anticipatory of environmental issues. This requires accepting a little more project risk.
- Promote projects and programs for the following: Support efforts for state agencies to better perform their jobs to enforce environmental protections (regulatory failures). 2) Prohibit neonicotinoid pesticides in Minnesota and on state lands (DNR allows neonic treatments on leased public lands). 3) Contaminated water is a major issue. Our current state administration does not prioritize environmental health - that needs to change. 4) Fund and support Highways for Habitat program for county road roadsides.
- It would be good to communicate what outcomes would not have been possible without the ENRTF. I know there is good stuff going on but I couldn't explain how that distinguishes us from other states.
- Work on projects that have immediate impact with long term benefits. Prioritizing projects that collaborate amongst government bodies, higher education research and watersheds.
- Continuing to provide service locally and within Minnesota that reinforces taking care of what you have. This often points to success that can be applied to other locations. This does not mean continuing to do what has always been done but push to find alternative solutions to the same problems. This may mean funding to trying new partnerships rather than the same.
- It can prioritize racial equity in decisions - understanding that historically communities of color have not been at the table in making decisions around these issues, despite the fact that they are disproportionately impacted.
- ENRTF can set the example with demonstration projects, education of the public and policy advisory to become a National Leader.
- The ENRTF has been shown to be fundamental to the development and conservation of projects and lands across the state of Minnesota and should serve as a blueprint for other areas.
- By funding research and projects that lead to protection and restoration of the environment and natural resources in Minnesota that are then adopted by others.
- Keep focusing on foundational environmental issues and collection/delivery of data needed to make good management decisions.
- ENRTF could support communities in environmental justice work, by supporting community-led efforts to understand and mitigate sources of pollution and environmental degradation. ENRTF could also support projects that identify links between environmental and human health.
- Provides funding opportunities for outdoor recreation to enhance the quality of life in Minnesota.
- Facilitate collaboration and partnerships between government agencies, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and private sectors so Minnesota can leverage collective expertise and resources to tackle complex environmental challenges.
- Collaborate with tribes in the state to develop priorities and focus areas. Then have both open and tribal set-aside funds for work on those areas.

- Continue to support the collection, management and distribution of high-quality environmental data.
- By continuing to help small cities fund their larger projects, the ENRTF can help Minnesota be a leader on environmental and natural resources.
- Fund projects at a variety of scales and at all points across the urban-rural continuum. Urban, suburban, small town, and rural/wild projects are all necessary to advance conservation in Minnesota.
- By fully incorporating climate-related goals into natural resource management, including agriculture. Protecting farm and natural lands, managing them to reduce emissions and to serve as a carbon sink, and tracking progress on these goals, would be a major example for other states, show how climate goals can be achieved nationally and internationally.
- Continue supporting research and educational efforts surrounding these resources.
- Seek to find the gaps and niche areas where there are limitations on the implementation of habitat. Whether that be related to funding, site preparation, equipment, resource availability, technical assistance, etc. Also, reconsider the "way business has always been done" and reconstruct the commonly used seed mixes that have grass species at too high of rates and general potential contract price gouging of certain programs like Lawns to Legumes and their mixes. Continue incentivization to create focal areas that "defend the core" in regards to invasive woody encroachment and areas promoting high quality habitat for breeding season monarch's, Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, and a variety of other grassland species. Continue promoting water quality, air quality, and soil health practices.
- Preparing for climate change, exploring assisted migration practices.
- Continue a wide array of proposals, try not to focus funding in only one bucket.
- We need to have more outdoor recreation participation per capita than any other state in the nation.
- Invest in tackling the issue of non-point source pollution but supporting initiatives to help and incentivize the agriculture industry as well as take serious steps towards mitigating the pollution (technology, monitoring, policies, regulations, education, etc. )
- ENRTF should look at where human infrastructure meets the environment and help local governments with projects that will make minnesota communities resilient to climate change and improve habitat and water quality. Things like proper road crossings at streams, wildlife over and under-passes, replanting right-of-ways to pollinator habitat, etc. The intersection of the human-built environment and our natural world.
- Continue supporting amazing organizations and projects and getting the word out
- Strength the supports on conducting fundamental research, as which is the key to be frontiers of the fields.
- Focus on environmental and natural resource related needs here in Minnesota, address problems that impact Minnesotans, and problems that can be solved by Minnesotans.
- Put heavy emphasis on projects that engage change, applied research vs "the next soy-bean hybrid" Projects that break down siloes-bring diverse groups together.
- Keep funding the good projects as you already are and keep the MN Legislature from micromanaging.
- I believe the the ENRTF can be a leader on environmental and natural resource issues by prioritizing projects having the most direct impact on the citizens of Minnesota. These include:

- Projects related to sustainable agricultural practices
- Projects related to sustainable mining and natural resource utilization
- Projects related to sustainable and renewable energy sources
- MN is currently a leader and in order to continue that leadership, MN should consider making the ENTRF eligible for as direct match for some federal level programs. For example - the MN DNR receives approximately 1.3 million/ year from federally administered State Wildlife Grants to implement the State Wildlife Action Plan. We are required to match those funds with non-federal dollars. Instead of having to submit grant proposals annually, having a stable match source to fund this work would save administrative effort and time and allow more funding to go directly towards on the ground efforts.
- Support innovative ideas geared towards environmental and natural resource management and preservation that augments human expertise while leveraging advances in technology.
- To help support and catalyze projects and activity aimed at i) cross-disciplinary technology transfer and ii) bridge the gap between research and application.
- By leading the development of projects and approaches that bridge the gap between application and research
- Make research investments in academia
- By firstly continuing to support natural resources research relevant to MN. Secondly, encouraging strong science that leads to strong publications, and thirdly, supporting participation in national and international conferences, etc. to share research results outside of MN
- I think ENTRF is already doing so much. This funding is a major game changer for some potentially transformative research.
- Fund more long term, collaborative efforts.
- Minnesota is very fortunate (and envied by other states) to have the foresight to invest in preserving our state's natural resources. ENTRF is helping Minnesota be a leader on environmental issues through its grant program and public communication. ENTRF should expand its influence and audience to include other states and nations in hopes they too will invest (more) in their environmental future. ENTRF should "brag" about what Minnesota is doing and offer other entities support in their environmental protection efforts.
- By identifying places where the environment has been degraded by human activity and finding and funding solutions that help the people who live in those areas continue to live and work in those areas while maintaining the productivity of the land and water for future generations.
- Continue to coordinate efforts with other key natural resource funding bodies such as LSOHC and the Clean Water Council to ensure the most efficient use of the financial resources for NR projects in Minnesota.
- Support research projects that create innovative solutions to environmental challenges, such as habitat loss and climate change. Continue to support conservation and restoration efforts of not only land but animals as well. Support technology and innovation on Climate change mitigation.
- Focus on solutions for current ag producers to adopt practice changes at a modest rate.
- Facilitate job training and employment paths for BIPOC/low-income/marginalized Minnesotans so they are represented in the natural resources fields; help local/regional/state parks departments and natural resource related orgs with their internal systems for inclusive and culturally responsive recruitment/hiring/retention to build a representative workforce



- Continue to support projects that uniquely address fundamental and applied natural resources management issues in Minnesota. Continue to streamline the use of ENRTF funds. Allowing for ENRTF funds to be used for overhead would strengthen the research labs and institutions doing this important work.
- Conservation starts with education. Focus resources on educating our children and adults about conservation and how they as private individuals can live more environmentally friendly lives. Starting this as a mandatory education requirement in schools (like MN history) would help Minnesota's population be more environmentally literate. Getting better info to farmers about practices that benefit the environment AND them would be very helpful too.
- By expanding research and pairing it with innovative implementation techniques.
- Supporting focused research on critical issues. It might be helpful to identify critical areas of focus and goals.
- Minnesota already is a leader. The ENRTF is one of the ways we indicate to others the importance of environmental and natural resource issues to our State. In order to continue to lead, however, we must place more emphasis on next level solutions (i.e. climate resiliency, etc) and collaborative decision making.
- Looking for innovative projects that can lead to making a marked positive difference in water quality.
- Continue to grow the areas in greater Minnesota. It may help to reduce the over crowding in the big cities if we invest more throughout the state.
- By helping more small business owners start up projects to help protect the environment.
- Promoting sustainable and maintainable natural surface trails where proper (city areas). Keep wild land wild. Provide more public access to major lake shores (like Lake Superior) instead of so much land being private.
- Planful, coordinated spending
- Identify schools and organizations with missions aligned to environmental goals and offer funding to advance those goals through action and education.
- Fund projects that are relevant at the local and state level. Ensure that those projects have a strong contribution from the public. Make award decisions based on sound science.
- Providing funding for projects that will help current AND future generations.
- Continue to support proposals to help preserve and enhance our natural resources in Minnesota.
- Don't let social agenda's influence funding decisions. Projects selected for funding should be based on sound practices proven by science and precedent.
- Spend time out in the woods or floating down a river
- The ENRTF can elevate Minnesota's national and international leadership on environmental and natural resources issues through strategic investments, partnerships, and innovative initiatives aimed at addressing pressing challenges and showcasing best practices.
- GHG is a vital area, reuse, recycle and composting contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions.
- continue funding of broad array of natural resources projects
- Keep doing what you are doing -- relative to peers, we have some of the best state funding for environmental research (if not the best)!
- By providing resources for generating new data and finding innovative solutions for our difficult environmental issues. This includes not just items of familiar interest (e.g. problems that the LCCMR

has been funding for years), but also think outside the box and support ideas about new topics that may be of substantial interest in the near future.

- By supporting balanced portfolio of basic and applied research.
- continue to do excellent work by funding the important work that needs to be done
- Choose higher impact projects. Get more knowledgeable reviewers with broader expertise.
- Fund Outdoor School for All
- By making long lasting, sustainable, impactful decisions the legacy of this work will last for generations. We need to be strategic with how we address the environmental damage that needs to be fixed, while preventing additional damage.
- Fund projects that make meaningful, on the ground differences for low income / under resourced populations
- Identify and understand stressors impacting our natural resources and implement correctional efforts and policy to correct.
- Through funding of applied research and conservation projects in areas on contemporary risk, along with maintaining systems that review projects to ensure relevance and impact.
- By supporting research that is co-produced by scientists and professionals, focused on Minnesota environmental challenges, that leads to actionable findings. Also by supporting innovative applications of environmental solutions.
- Push broad scale rapid restoration of native ecosystems and their FUNCTIONAL capacity. Help integrate agriculture with native ecology.
- ENTRF already has a history of funding innovative and sustainable solutions to the resource management issues that are continuously evolving. The size of the state and the variability of its ecosystems also means solutions developed here will have applicability in many other locations beyond Minnesota. It is important to focus on projects that provide a high probability of successfully attaining their goals. This means a careful examination and evaluation of all the factors which influence that probability. Simply put, pick good projects that sound like they have a good chance of working and are being conducted by people who know the systems involved.
- I'm surprised by the national and international aspect of this question as most of the program is within the state-- research that can be transferred beyond the state I guess.
- Taking risks to try new and different management/restoration practices; Supporting environmental justice initiatives; Continuing to minimize "strings" attached to money and "hoops" to jump through to access grants
- The ENTRF need to closely collaborate with the University of Minnesota through the federal funded programs and projects to maximize the impacts.
- Support applied research and community level efforts
- Continue funding important and strategic initiatives that impact our environmental and natural resources in a positive way.
- Invest in research and innovative approaches to environmental issues. MN has already demonstrated its leadership in areas, such as investing in research on invasive carp, that is now being utilized across the country. This type of research and innovation should continue.
- By funding projects that would otherwise not be funded by state or federal funds, especially projects that a lacking a clear or clearly definable stakeholder group.

- Fund work that focuses on how multiple environmental stressors work together to affect the environment (not just one single issue in isolation). These concerns (climate change, pollutants, habitat degradation) all occur together.
- Get away from Best Management Practices and start rewarding quality management through objective data.
- Research and innovation are key to success. ENRTF provides funds to improve environmental outcomes, not only in MN but also tackling effects in other parts of the country and the world.
- Long-term solutions oriented research support
- Land acquisition for rare habitats, species
- Transportation is the #1 source of climate pollution in MN and US. Address it more in your grant funding.
- Resources professionals are no longer plugged in to national meetings and conferences, so Minnesota is gradually falling behind innovations happening in other states. It's time to re-invest in professional development opportunities and participation at the conference room tables where innovation is happening.
- By taking a holistic approach that integrates research (cropping system practices and sustainable practices like cover cropping), demonstration (e.g., cover cropping techniques with support from UofM Extension), education (promoting awareness of sust ag practices through state institutions, UofM Extension, etc.), policy making (research results can feed policy-maker to develop policies to promote sust cropping), collaboration with greater Minnesota research institutions (UofM ROC system), and capacity building (support platforms for sharing information; e.g., extension, community colleges, etc). Research can help with internationalization through collaboration with abroad institutions
- Minnesota needs to make a concerted effort to understand to whom water has been appropriated, the recharge rate of each aquifer, how much water is still available for allocation, and which basins are in danger over the next 20-30 years of becoming depleted.
- Fund research. Fund projects that connect future generations to the actual natural resource and educate them to become the next generation of stewards.
- Increase support of outdoor education. Keep the Minnesota outdoor heritage alive for future generations.
- One of the biggest things I feel is needed is education, especially about interacting with wildlife positively and the negative effects we have on wildlife with things like poisons, chemicals, etc.
- Minnesota County Surveyors are looking for a permanent funding source for remonumenting all the Public Land Survey System corners in Minnesota that effect all land descriptions in the State.
- Keep the political ideology out of the decisions and work for the good of the state resources while maintaining the understanding that we still need to use the land for economic drivers, such as recreation, mining, and forestry.
- Habitat preservation and habitat creation are the keys. When habitat is created, wildlife, water quality, and soil health all improve. Carbon is sequestered, and recreation / tourism is enhanced.
- Support programs which do not look "cost effective." Radical reimagining of public transportation investments (car-free streets, highway shrinkage), funding support for small green infrastructure in all settings, funding for habitat restoration.
- By being honest, stop being racist.

- Develop programming goals for funding. i.e. create funding pathways for projects that achieve desirable outcomes.
- maintain and enhance Minnesota's diverse environment and natural resources, while supporting access to and educating about Minnesota natural resources
- focus on management of conservation lands that the state has current title to
- By remaining at the forefront of emerging issues to stay ahead on issues affecting environmental health instead of waiting for research from other geographic areas to come in and being reactive.
- Staying ahead of natural resources issues and increasing environmental education
- By providing continuous fundings for basic and applied research that benefit sustainable economic growth. We need to fund research that enables us to sustainably use Minnesota's natural resources to attract new industries and innovative companies to invest in our state.
- By cultivating the next generations of caretakers and fostering a lasting legacy of stewardship on our environment. The legacy of dominance of the environment needs to change, and ensuring that as many young people as possible understand their inseparable connection to the natural systems and fostering positive connection to the natural world is an investment worth making. Passion and necessity will take care of the rest, long after we here are all gone. We can support this effort by developing and funding in perpetuity programs which get students of all ages, and from a young age, out doors and engaging with the natural world as frequently as possible.
- Continue to emphasize youth-related participation in the outdoors, fostering a connection with nature. The earlier and more often young people learn the understanding of our role within nature, the better.
- By continuing to respond to and plan for the impact of climate change to our forests which has a trickle down effect on soil and waterways. By supporting and encouraging restoration of native species and elimination of introduced and invasive plants.
- Provide interdisciplinary partnership and funding for projects that will benefit the public through conserving natural areas and nature-based recreation
- 1) Distinguish what are (and are not!) environmental and natural resource issues. Opinions may differ, but LCCMR should be clear on what it includes/excludes. Housing affordability? Energy conservation? Recreation? Agriculture? Acknowledge that the more expansive the list, the more difficult it will be to achieve outcomes. Also remember that priorities may change. Clarify the \*unique\* role(s) that ENRTF could play in addressing those issues. For example, how is ENRTF different from the Outdoor Heritage Fund? How is it different from existing state programs (to avoid issues of supplanting resources)? Identify clear, \*measurable\* goals for environment and natural resource issues, acknowledging that LCCMR/ENRTF may not be the sole entity to achieve those goals. Clear goals create opportunities for coordination/collaboration. Goals with terms like ""better"" or ""more"" need to be clear (i.e., relative to what?). Encourage innovation. There are serious concerns about whether traditional approaches can keep pace with current environmental threats. Encourage projects to focus on outcomes that relate directly to stated goals.
- Minnesota is already leading the nation in environmental and natural resource issues. To keep on this trajectory, ensure that decisions made on LCCMR funding have a clear and clearly communicated basis in societal and scientific needs.
- Funding more projects that demonstrate the extent and magnitude of environmental degradation caused by contaminants and their ecological and human health effects. In addition, encouraging and funding projects aimed at pollution prevention and cleanup would have a lot of impact.

- Some of the projects that I see go through are not terribly scientifically rigorous. Others lack the proper permits to conduct the work prior to submitting proposals and end up derailed because the folks submitting the proposals simply don't have the training/skills necessary to complete the project. I think that the bar could be set higher for the scientific rigor of projects by making the research review step happen in advance of proposal submission.
- I think having fewer restrictions on how funding can be spent. For example, travel, contracts, etc.. Many applied aquatic plant management projects require hiring an applicator or harvester to apply treatments to research plots. It would be helpful if these types of sub-contract could be paid with ENRTF funds.
- Continue striving to reach 30 by 30 goal in natural land protection and restoration.
- It seems like ENRTF funds many mid-sized project (\$250K-500K) and fragmented projects. I think it would be beneficial to think bigger picture and more large scale. Try to leverage work that is already going on and unify all the work in MN so everything isn't so siloed with many different agencies doing similar work.
- Promote the development of recreation opportunities for all user groups, motorized use and quiet sports. Minnesota can become the trail system leader in hiking, biking, ATV and snowmobile trail systems. We also need to concentrate on sustainable development of our mineral resources following the stringent standards provided in our regulations. The clean energy future requires the raw materials required for the growing industry be provided from ethical and domestic resources. If we continue to rely on resource development from other countries the State of Minnesota and the United States will fall behind. I would suggest additional legislative pressure and action to ensure our permitting process is not only comprehensive but also completed in an efficient manner to not allow projects to move to states with weaker environmental protections and expedited processes.
- It already is! Colleagues in other states marvel at this resource that allows us to conduct cutting-edge research that benefits the state. I think it's truly unique.
- Continue to support and enhance the strong relationships between our environmental agencies; BWSR, NRCS, SWCD's, DOA...
- Make UNBIASED, NON-POLITICAL choices to fund research and implementation of practices for improving the environment.
- Provide outdoor recreational opportunities with educational programs to increase knowledge of environmental and conservation practices
- Fund cutting-edge habitat/natural resource/outdoor recreation projects, research that moves the needle on environmental issues, maintenance of habitat and natural areas (even previously funded restorations!), and also promote and communicate those successes widely.
- Create a robust, interconnected system of parks and trails that allows people to be more active, appreciate nature, be active, reduce VMT and allows people of all abilities and backgrounds to enjoy what Minnesota has to offer.
- Funding science through monitoring, studies, and of course staff/facilities to maintain those study and monitoring efforts.
- Mostly continue what is being done already. A more structured and transparent ranking process may help clarify the proposal process for project managers - and minimize a bit of the political gaming that occurs when ranking projects.
- MN is the greatest state for water recreation, so water resources should be maintained as a priority. However, we have an opportunity to take a lead in having the best biking trail systems in the US and

lead the way in climate solutions such as continuous living cover cropping systems and biochar production.

- SEEK INPUT FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALWAYS REPRESENT THE WILL OF THE CITIZENS. WORK WITH SWCD TO PROTECT WATER RESOURCES.
- Focus on real environmental issues and best management practices that improve water quality and reduce flooding, not climate change and DEI
- The funding for the ENRTF should be in perpetuity. Also, encourage other states to create the same or similar funding.
- I'd like to see less of the legislature be involved in deciding the projects and more of the public members being involved. There are a lot of "pet" projects that kept getting pushed and others that were added without review after the process had completed in the last couple years. I'd recommend getting more members on the panel that understand natural resources that are not members of the legislature and let that group decide the best suite of projects. Limit legislature membership to 4 seats (2 from each party).
- Continue to fund research on terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.
- Provide research and data that leads to practical implementation of environmental solutions.
- Supporting the protection and management of the state's rarest plants, animals, habitats, etc. ENRTF's support of rare species and habitats historically has been a main funding sources towards the preservation of nationally and globally rare species and habitats in Minnesota.
- I don't think using the fund for infrastructure or projects that are already core state budget priorities meets the goals of the ENRTF. 2. I see value the projects that collect data that can help legislators and agencies make better decisions, and projects that try more risky or local experiments which otherwise would not be done
- attack the perception that you just fund the same old groups and are a pass through for state money to the same old institutions
- The best decisions are made with the best information. MN needs solid foundational data, and systems in place to maintain up-to-date data in all natural resources areas.
- Continue to offer grant money for local government environmental and natural resources projects.
- Prioritizing conservation and water protection
- Keep doing what you are doing. Support environmental and natural resource research and projects.
- Fund cutting edge research and use funds to lead by example
- Focus on restoring habitat, especially wetlands.
- We are already on the way! I would like to see climate change incorporated into more projects. Allowing for a grant term to get more years of monitoring can capture a wider range of climatic conditions.
- This survey will hopefully be the help that is needed. Setting strategic goals is critical to ensuring MN is leading, not following, in research related to important environmental and natural resource related issues.
- By ensuring public access to MN natural resources
- Use solid science to base your decisions and direction,
- To fund innovated projects with a large impact on the land
- 1. Increase the participation of youth in nature and agriculture activities. Allow funded organizations to present at national conferences, we ARE national leaders in so many ways already.

- Find a way to use these lands to help return financially to the areas in which the land was taken
- Provide funding for research that state agencies need to advance their work. We rely on academia to advance the science; when proven, we can implement it through state programs. Ensure that projects have agency/enterprise backing - does the work requested advance the needs of the state.
- Continue to provide ongoing support for environmental organizations and policies that aim to reach farmers, homeowners, businesses, etc. in doing voluntary conservation. Find ways to work across environmental issues to conduct conservation activities that have multiple benefits - single species focuses are helpful and necessary, but the magnitude of single species management needs is challenging and we need to find efficiencies in how we conserve and evaluate habitat across multiple species and environmental concerns.
- Balancing funding needs for both research and implementation of land management. Especially funding projects that advance adaptive management by incorporating pre-project data gathering and plans for follow-up monitoring to better learn from the amount of management being done.
- Be willing to take the lead on these issues; show other states this is a priority
- Step back and think about the big issues and fund them. Ex. Forests store even more carbon yet our forest management, education and outreach is an embarrassment.
- 1) Elevate the work and findings of LCCMR funded projects so that the public and folks outside of our state can find them and read about them; 2) continue to invest money in research; 3) develop methods to help network funded projects with other similar projects done in other states or countries.
- I believe Minnesota can be a leader nationally and internationally in industrial decarbonization and the hydrogen demand economy, specifically targeting iron/steel, cement/concrete, ammonia/fertilizer, and e-fuels. Minnesota has unique access to suitable renewables, geologic storage opportunities, raw materials and natural resources, and existing infrastructure. All of this positions Minnesota to be a leader in these spaces with the right strategic and timely investments.
- Making participate every ethnic groups in the integrated environment and agricultural programs
- Research and education is critical to having impact in addressing the ENR issues. This creates a multiplier where new research innovations find new ways to address challenges, and education engages people in taking actions individually and collective to address key ENR challenges and opportunities.
- Continue what is being done. This is an excellent way to fund work on Minnesota's natural resources. Continue giving attention to work that involves natural resources that have been historically underappreciated or understudied. This sets precedent for other states and countries to follow.
- Promote precision agriculture and urban agriculture to reduce carbon foot print in agriculture production and food transportation.
- Funding tribal/native-led initiatives and climate mitigation for ecosystems such as ecosystem resiliency
- Focus on integrated solutions that hold high probability of successfully delivering improvements to ecosystems first and foremost, and cobenefits to humans, economics, etc.
- We can be the standard bearer, as Minnesota is on so many other progressive issues, and lead other states by example. We can also innovate, and adapt to current circumstances (i.e./climate change) more quickly, and set an example there as well.
- Take the politics out of environmental science. Duh! The whole process is a joke. It's all about politics. Good ideas aren't even considered unless you schmooze the right legislators. How sad that

is. You need a more transparent way to do business. I have wasted so much time on solid research projects that never got funded because this is a political tool.

- lead in researching the topics that impact our region - in the area I have expertise these are topics like chlorides, sulfates, and PFAS.
- By listening to the people who are impacted by the issues, especially the on the ground folks
- Funding diverse projects both high-risk, high pay-off and long term projects
- Funding research into programs with a MN angle in universities and cooperatives between universities and other organizations
- Funding pilot and proof-of-concept projects that can lead into larger funding mechanisms. Funding projects that can be generalizable to cities and subregions beyond Minnesota. Building on the legacies of forestry research established across the state's university systems, including urban and community forestry.
- Help parents see the need for change for their children's and grandchildren's future. Help children get more opportunities to develop a love for the environment. MN needs to change the mindset of the public. When we care about nature and our planet, we will want to put time, energy, and resources into fixing it.
- Minnesota, a leading state in both animal and crop production, faces significant environmental challenges stemming from its agricultural practices. These challenges affect air, water, and soil quality, as well as human health. To mitigate these impacts, there is a pressing need to develop and demonstrate innovative technologies capable of treating gaseous, solid, and liquid agricultural wastes. Such technologies should aim to maximize the elimination of viruses, bacteria, and chemical contaminants, while maximize the utilization of these wastes, thereby achieving zero waste and fostering the development of a sustainable circular economy. By doing so, we can ensure the safety and health of both animals and humans.
- Develop a web page for the general public and professionals that has results of projects
- We can invest in our future environmental leaders and decision makers by making nature and the environment accessible and a part of every MN K-12 student's learning experience. We can incentive wise water quality practices, sustainable agricultural methods, and resilient climate adaptive forest management.
- Continue to provide funding and outreach information for high quality research and habitat protection.
- By prioritizing important projects that have regional or global impacts on the environment or species of conservation concern.
- Funding grassroots innovations, ideas, implementation that can impact soil, water, and climate.
- Continue to find fundamental research and educational programs
- I would say that Minnesota should lead in implementation of plans to reverse climate change. The Midwest, in general, has been slow to recognize and cope with climate change aggressively. Yet Minnesota has an abundance of terrestrial and aquatic habitats that are at risk from climate change and will be deeply and negatively impacted by it.
- Continuing to have the courage to support innovative projects and initiatives.
- Protecting existing and increasing amount of conservation land.
- Preserve, protect and defend our natural resources
- Fund-related research.



- Prioritize protection of water quality and other sustainable natural resources over mining and unsustainable agricultural practices.
- By keep doing what the ENRTF has been doing. This is a wonderful and unique resource for the State.