



LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING, 1st FLOOR
658 CEDAR STREET
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155

Phone: (651) 296-2406
Email: lccmr@lccmr.mn.gov
Web: www.lccmr.mn.gov

Becca Nash, Director

MINUTES

Monday, June 10, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Location: HYBRID: Room G-23, Minnesota State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155 and through electronic means ([YouTube](#))

Members Present: Rep. Patty Acomb, Rita Albrecht, Rep. Jeff Backer, William Faber, Nancy Gibson, Sen. Steve Green, Rep. Rick Hansen, Sen. Foug Hawj, Rep. Josh Heintzeman, Rep. Athena Hollins, Seth Moore, Jeremy Peichel, Sen. Aric Putnam, Michael Reese, Sen. Torrey Westrom

Staff Present: B. Nash, M. Varien, M. Campana, N. Fribley, D. Griffith, T. Schaufler

Members Excused: Shona Langseth

Members Absent:

Co-Chair: Rep. Rick Hansen

Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. due to technical issues.

1. Roll call attendance

Chair Hansen asked for a roll call. Diana Griffith took roll call for attendance. There were 14 members present at the time of roll call, and nine were needed for a quorum.

Member	Attendance	Member	Attendance
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	Yes	Commissioner Hollins – Rep	Yes (remote)
Commissioner Albrecht	Yes	Commissioner Langseth	Excused
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Absent	Commissioner Moore	Yes (remote)
Commissioner Faber	Yes	Commissioner Peichel	Yes (remote)
Commissioner Gibson	Yes	Commissioner Putnam – Sen	Yes
Commissioner Green – Sen	Yes	Commissioner Reese	Yes (remote)
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Yes	Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Yes
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Yes		
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	Yes (remote)		

2. Approve minutes for April 29, 2024

MOTION: Commissioner Green moved the minutes for April 29, 2024 – motion prevailed.

Rep. Patty Acomb, Rita Albrecht, Rep. Jeff Backer, William Faber, Nancy Gibson, Sen. Steve Green, Rep. Rick Hansen, Sen. Foug Hawj, Rep. Josh Heintzeman, Rep. Athena Hollins, Shona Langseth, Seth Moore, Jeremy Peichel, Sen. Aric Putnam, Michael Reese, Sen. Torrey Westrom

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3. Members report potential conflicts of interest regarding today's business

Members reported the following conflicts of interest:

Proposal ID	First Name	Last Name	Project Title	Organization	Members With Conflict of Interest
2025-078	Bradley	Heins	Agrivoltaics 2.0 Building a Resilient E-Farm	U of MN, WCROC	Michael Reese
2025-122	Jenni	Bubke	Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Grant Programs	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Jeremy Peichel
2025-218	Uwe	Kortshagen	Minnesota Center for Agrivoltaics and Biodiversity (MCAB)	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	Michael Reese
2025-241	Joel	Tallaksen	Foundational Precision Agriculture Data to Reduce Environmental Impacts	U of MN, WCROC	Michael Reese
2025-249	Jennifer	King	Industrial Decarbonization in Minnesota through Sustainable Aviation Fuels	National Renewable Energy Laboratory	Michael Reese
2025-309	Michelle	Carstensen	Recruitment and Fecundity of Minnesota Moose	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Seth Moore
2025-314	Brad	Matuska	Agricultural Technologies for Nutrient Efficiency and Water Protection	Agricultural Utilization Research Institute	Aric Putnam
2025-316	Luca	Zullo	Assessing and Improving Environmental Impacts of Agri-Food Businesses	Agricultural Utilization Research Institute	Aric Putnam

4. Introduction of new LCCMR member

Chair Hansen introduced the new LCCMR Member, Sen. Aric Putnam.

5. Director’s report

Director Nash provided the following updates:

1. Introduced new staff member – Tiffany Schaufler.
2. Provided an update on final reports.
3. Provided an update on peer review of RFP 2024 proposals .
4. Indicated that the LCCMR calendar will be updated to only have meeting dates on August 20 and September 24 (if needed) for the Subcommittee on Strategic Planning.
5. Announced Sen. Morrison has resigned from the Legislature, and the Governor will be making citizen member announcements at the end of the year – to align with Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) decision-making process – for three citizen appointments.
6. Showed members a copy of the Breeding Birds of Minnesota book that was completed using information collected through several years of funding.
7. Directed members to an email from the MPCA with their input on whether or not certain proposals through the 2025 funding cycle are solid and hazardous waste disposal sites or municipal water treatment facilities of the type that are deemed ineligible in our statute .

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- 8. Confirmed there is written testimony and Mr. Rick Heller has asked to present today under public testimony.

Commissioner Backer joined the meeting remotely.

6. Information and possible discussion: 2024 Session Report

Director Nash presented the 2024 Session Report.

7. Action: Discuss and approve selection of 2025 (FY26) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund proposals for further consideration and presentation:

- a. The top 91 (rounded for any ties) proposals determined by tallying individual member selections**
- b. 9 additional proposals selected: 3 each by House, Senate, and Citizens**
- c. Possible additional adjustments**

Chair Hansen started discussions on the 2025 proposals received. Director Nash provided an overview of the memo titled “Discuss and Approve Selection of 2025 ENRTF proposals for further consideration and presentation”.

MOTION: Commissioner Gibson moved from the spreadsheet titled “LCCMR Member Compiled Evaluation #1 – RFP 2025 (FY26)” the following:

- 1. Invite for presentation and further consideration all proposals selected by 5 or more members.
- 2. Increase the additional number of proposals selected by the House, Senate, and Citizen groups to be invited for presentation and further consideration from up to 3 each to up to 7 each.

Members discussed.

RENEWED MOTION: Commissioner Gibson renewed her motion to move from the spreadsheet titled “LCCMR Member Compiled Evaluation #1 – RFP 2025 (FY26)” the following:

- 1. Invite for presentation and further consideration all proposals selected by 5 or more members.
- 2. Increase the additional number of proposals selected by the House, Senate, and Citizen groups to be invited for presentation and further consideration from up to 3 each to up to 7 each.

- motion prevailed (14 Yes / 1 No).

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	X		Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep		X
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	X	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	X		Commissioner Langseth	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner Moore	X	
Commissioner Gibson	X		Commissioner Peichel	X	
Commissioner Green – Sen	X		Commissioner Putnam – Sen	X	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	X		Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	

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Members recessed at 9:33 a.m. and reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

Michael Varien announced the results from House / Senate / Citizen member groups on their selections from the spreadsheet titled "LCCMR Member Compiled Evaluation #1 – RFP 2025 (FY26)":

House Members:

1. ID: 2025-081 "Mesabi Trail Aurora to Hoyt Lakes" (Line 168)
2. ID: 2025-098 "Critical Preparedness and Outreach for Possible CWD Spillover" (Line 138)
3. ID: 2025-180 "The Impacts of Climate Change on Northeastern Minnesota" (Line 177)
4. ID: 2025-216 "Thompson County Park Restoration and Accessibility Improvements" (Line 150)
5. ID: 2025-227 "Sportsmen and Sportswomen Training Center – Phase 2" (Line 118)
6. ID: 2025-270 "A Riparian Area Adaptation Strategy for Southeast Minnesota" (Line 122)
7. ID: 2025-282 "Minnehaha Park South Plateau Oak Savanna Restoration" (Line 126)

Citizen Members:

1. ID: 2025-012 "Eagle's Nest: Where the World Becomes Your Classroom" (Line 163)
2. ID: 2025-069 "Native Forages: Growing Drought and Climate Resiliency" (Line 113)
3. ID: 2025-191 "Citizen Scientists Capture Microplastic Pollution Around State" (Line 146)
4. ID: 2025-213 "Lake Byllesby Regional Park Restoration and Recreation" (Line 149)
5. ID: 2025-244 "Continued Aggregate Resource Mapping" (Line 121)
6. ID: 2025-290 "Renewable Energy Conversion for Farm Diesel and Ammonia" (Line 160)
7. ID: 2025-296 "Moving Minnesota towards a Lead-Free Sporting Future" (Line 128)

Senate Members:

1. ID: 2025-078 "Agrivoltaics 2.0 Building a Resilient E-Farm" (Line 192)
2. ID: 2025-091 "PLSS Preservation to Protect Public Lands" (Line 170)
3. ID: 2025-201 "Scandia Gateway Trail Connection: Recreation, Wetlands, Environmental Education" (Line 148)
4. ID: 2025-241 "Foundational Precision Agriculture Data to Reduce Environmental Impacts" (Line 112)
5. ID: 2025-306 "Innovative Solution to Renewable Energy from Food Waste" (Line 131)
6. ID: 2025-313 "Fueling the Future: Decarbonizing Regional Transportation Project" (Line 161)

Members continued discussion.

Members recessed at 10:29 a.m. and reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

Michael Varien announced the Senate has selected a 7th proposal - ID: 2025-125 "River Bend Nature Center Outdoor Diversity Initiative" (Line 193), and this brings the requested amount total to \$125,455,000.

MOTION: Commissioner Westrom moved from the spreadsheet titled "LCCMR Member Compiled Evaluation #1 – RFP 2025 (FY26)" to invite the following additional proposals selected by the House, Senate, and Citizen members for presentation and further consideration:

1. ID: 2025-012 "Eagle's Nest: Where the World Becomes Your Classroom" (Line 163)
2. ID: 2025-069 "Native Forages: Growing Drought and Climate Resiliency" (Line 113)
3. ID: 2025-078 "Agrivoltaics 2.0 Building a Resilient E-Farm" (Line 192)
4. ID: 2025-081 "Mesabi Trail Aurora to Hoyt Lakes" (Line 168)
5. ID: 2025-091 "PLSS Preservation to Protect Public Lands" (Line 170)
6. ID: 2025-098 "Critical Preparedness and Outreach for Possible CWD Spillover" (Line 138)
7. ID: 2025-125 "River Bend Nature Center Outdoor Diversity Initiative" (Line 193)

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- 8. ID: 2025-180 “The Impacts of Climate Change on Northeastern Minnesota” (Line 177)
- 9. ID: 2025-191 “Citizen Scientists Capture Microplastic Pollution Around State” (Line 146)
- 10. ID: 2025-201 “Scandia Gateway Trail Connection: Recreation, Wetlands, Environmental Education” (Line 148)
- 11. ID: 2025-213 “Lake Byllesby Regional Park Restoration and Recreation” (Line 149)
- 12. ID: 2025-216 “Thompson County Park Restoration and Accessibility Improvements” (Line 150)
- 13. ID: 2025-227 “Sportsmen and Sportswomen Training Center – Phase 2” (Line 118)
- 14. ID: 2025-241 “Foundational Precision Agriculture Data to Reduce Environmental Impacts” (Line 112)
- 15. ID: 2025-244 “Continued Aggregate Resource Mapping” (Line 121)
- 16. ID: 2025-270 “A Riparian Area Adaptation Strategy for Southeast Minnesota” (Line 122)
- 17. ID: 2025-282 “Minnehaha Park South Plateau Oak Savanna Restoration” (Line 126)
- 18. ID: 2025-290 “Renewable Energy Conversion for Farm Diesel and Ammonia” (Line 160)
- 19. ID: 2025-296 “Moving Minnesota towards a Lead-Free Sporting Future” (Line 128)
- 20. ID: 2025-306 “Innovative Solution to Renewable Energy from Food Waste” (Line 131)
- 21. ID: 2025-313 “Fueling the Future: Decarbonizing Regional Transportation Project” (Line 161)

- motion prevailed (12 Yes / 2 No).

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	X		Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep		X
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	X	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Excused		Commissioner Langseth	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner Moore	X	
Commissioner Gibson	X		Commissioner Peichel	X	
Commissioner Green – Sen		X	Commissioner Putnam – Sen	X	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	X		Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	

MOTION: Commissioner Westrom moved to exclude proposals in Category H from presentation, but remain in consideration, that were selected by 6 or more members on the spreadsheet titled “LCCMR Member Compiled Evaluation #1 – RFP 2025 (FY26)”.

Members discussed.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Hansen amended Commissioner Westrom’s motion to have proposals in Category H that were selected by 6 or more members on the spreadsheet titled “LCCMR Member Compiled Evaluation #1 – RFP 2025 (FY26)” to only have 8 minute presentations instead of 15 minute presentations. Commissioner Westrom accepted the amendment.

RENEWED MOTION: Commissioner Westrom renewed his motion as amended to have proposals in Category H that were selected by 6 or more members on the spreadsheet titled “LCCMR Member Compiled Evaluation #1 – RFP 2025 (FY26)” to be allotted 8 minutes for presentation and questions instead of 15 minutes and to the extent possible group those presentations together in blocks.

- motion prevailed (14 Yes / 0 No).

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Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	X		Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	X	
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	X	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Excused		Commissioner Langseth	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner Moore	X	
Commissioner Gibson	X		Commissioner Peichel	X	
Commissioner Green – Sen	X		Commissioner Putnam – Sen	X	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	X		Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	

MOTION: Chair Hansen moved from the spreadsheet titled “LCCMR Member Compiled Evaluation #1 – RFP 2025 (FY26)” proposal ID: 2025-306 “Innovative Solution to Renewable Energy from Food Waste” (Line 131) to be allotted 20 minutes for their presentation and questions.

- motion prevailed (14 Yes / 0 No).

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	X		Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	X	
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	X	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Excused		Commissioner Langseth	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner Moore	X	
Commissioner Gibson	X		Commissioner Peichel	X	
Commissioner Green – Sen	X		Commissioner Putnam – Sen	X	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	X		Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	

8. **Action:** Continuation of Proposal evaluation / selection process for 2025 LCCMR Recommendations – Action #3 and #4

Director Nash provided an overview of Action #3 in the memo “Proposal evaluation and decision-making process for 2025 LCCMR recommendations” dated April 22, 2024. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Albrecht moved from the memo “Proposal evaluation and decision-making process for 2025 LCCMR recommendations” dated April 22, 2024, Action #3 without modifications:

1. No more than the requested amount may be allocated to a proposal.
2. Only the full requested amount may be allocated to a proposal in Category H (Small Projects; proposals for \$250,000 or less).
3. Allocations for all other proposals may not be less than \$250,000. That is, no proposal requesting more than \$250,000 may be allocated funds at a level less than \$250,000.

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4. There will be a \$250,000 buffer for mistakes made during the allocation process. If the buffer is not needed in the end, the commission may either allocate it to another proposal or it will be allocated to the Emerging Issues Account.
5. Allocations will be rounded to the nearest \$1,000.
6. Members may allocate available ENRTF dollars to the Emerging Issues Account or to Legislative Discretion (i.e., ENRTF dollars for the Legislature to solely determine how to appropriate).
7. Members may also leave funds unallocated. It would be understood that any final unallocated funds would be considered a recommendation to return those funds to the Trust Fund corpus (even RFP years) or to carry them forward to the next RFP cycle (odd RFP years).
8. The LCCMR administrative budget (if applicable), LCC Legacy Website, and DNR Contract will be included in the recommendations at the requested amount.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Reese amended Commissioner Albrecht’s motion to move Action #3 Item 5 to have allocations rounded up to the nearest \$1,000.

Members discussed.

Commissioner Reese withdrew his amendment.

RENEWED MOTION: Commissioner Albrecht renewed her motion to move from the memo “Proposal evaluation and decision-making process for 2025 LCCMR recommendations” dated April 22, 2024, Action #3 without modifications:

1. No more than the requested amount may be allocated to a proposal.
2. Only the full requested amount may be allocated to a proposal in Category H (Small Projects; proposals for \$250,000 or less).
3. Allocations for all other proposals may not be less than \$250,000. That is, no proposal requesting more than \$250,000 may be allocated funds at a level less than \$250,000.
4. There will be a \$250,000 buffer for mistakes made during the allocation process. If the buffer is not needed in the end, the commission may either allocate it to another proposal or it will be allocated to the Emerging Issues Account.
5. Allocations will be rounded to the nearest \$1,000.
6. Members may allocate available ENRTF dollars to the Emerging Issues Account or to Legislative Discretion (i.e., ENRTF dollars for the Legislature to solely determine how to appropriate).
7. Members may also leave funds unallocated. It would be understood that any final unallocated funds would be considered a recommendation to return those funds to the Trust Fund corpus (even RFP years) or to carry them forward to the next RFP cycle (odd RFP years).
8. The LCCMR administrative budget (if applicable), LCC Legacy Website, and DNR Contract will be included in the recommendations at the requested amount.

- motion prevailed (14 Yes / 0 No).

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	X		Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	X	
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Hollins – Rep	X	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Excused		Commissioner Langseth	Excused	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner Moore	X	
Commissioner Gibson	X		Commissioner Peichel	X	

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Commissioner Green – Sen	X		Commissioner Putnam – Sen	X	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	X		Commissioner Reese	X	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	

9. Strategic planning update

Mike Campana provided an overview of the strategic planning process to-date and the preliminary results from the public survey. Members discussed.

10. LCCMR Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Public Testimony

Rick Heller, unofficially representing Twice Exceptional and Print disabled life long learners, provided testimony on accessibility.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.