

Evaluation and Selection Criteria

All proposals must be eligible for funding, as defined by law and as indicated in the request for proposals (RFP), and clearly articulate how the project will meet the constitutional purpose of protecting, conserving, preserving, or enhancing the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, or other natural resources. The following criteria are considered in evaluating and selecting individual proposals to recommend for funding:

Funding Priorities: The proposal responds to RFP funding priorities.

Environmental or Natural Resource Benefits: The extent to which the project will benefit Minnesota's environment, natural resources, or how Minnesotans experience them relative to the amount requested.

Outcomes/Results: The proposal clearly identifies the work that will be done, and the specific outputs, results, and likely outcomes that will benefit the environment and natural resources, or how Minnesotans experience them.

Capacity: The proposal is clear, complete, and demonstrates the applicant's administrative, financial, professional, scientific, and/or technical capacity to manage the project and deliver on proposed outputs and results in a timely, accountable, and effective manner.

Additional factors may also be considered, as applicable, in evaluating and selecting proposals, including but not limited to:

Information and Dissemination: The project will contribute to the knowledge base and disseminate that information so that it can be used to benefit efforts to protect, conserve, restore, enhance, or manage the environment and natural resources.

Innovation: The project will employ or demonstrate innovative approaches to more effectively and efficiently solve specific environmental and natural resource issues.

Timeliness and Readiness: The proposal includes work that is urgent or would significantly benefit from funding in the current cycle and demonstrates readiness for that work to begin as soon as funds are available.

Leverage: The project will leverage additional efforts, resources, or non-state funds.

Collaboration/Coordination: The project will use a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach with project partners from a diversity of agencies, organizations, or communities and/or will include meaningful engagement with those entities in completing the proposed work.

Finally, the commission may consider how the selected proposals as a whole provide benefits to and address needs in all areas and communities of the state.