



**LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES**

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Becca Nash, Director

**Agenda**

**Wednesday, July 31, 2024**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Location:** In Person: Room G-15, 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, Rep. Athena Hollins, Shona Langseth, Sen. Jennifer McEwen, Jeremy Peichel, Sen. Aric Putnam, Michael Reese, Sen. Torrey Westrom

**Staff Present:** B. Nash, M. Varien, M. Campana, D. Griffith

**Members Excused:** Sen. Foug Hawj, Rep. Josh Heintzeman, Seth Moore

**Members Absent:**

**Co-Chair: Rep. Rick Hansen**

Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**1. Roll call attendance**

Chair Hansen asked for a roll call. Diana Griffith took roll call for attendance. There were 13 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	Yes (remote)
Commissioner Backer – Rep	Yes (remote)	Commissioner McEwen	Yes
Commissioner Faber	Yes	Commissioner Moore	Excused
Commissioner Gibson	Yes	Commissioner Peichel	Excused
Commissioner Green – Sen	Yes	Commissioner Putnam - Sen	Yes
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	Yes	Commissioner Reese	Yes
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Excused	Commissioner Westrom – Sen	Yes (remote)
Commissioner Heintzeman - Rep	Excused		

Chair Hansen welcomed Commissioner McEwen to the LCCMR.

**2. Approve minutes for June 26, 27 and 28, 2024**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Faber moved to approve the minutes for June 26, 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, Sen. Jennifer A. McEwen, Seth Moore, Jeremy Peichel, Sen. Aric Putnam, Michael Reese, Sen. Torrey Westrom

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MOTION: Commissioner Faber moved to approve the minutes for June 27, 2024 – motion prevailed.

MOTION: Commissioner Faber moved to approve the minutes for June 28, 2024 – motion prevailed.

**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	Direct Personal Financial Interest in the Organization
2025-078	Bradley	Heins	Agrivoltaics 2.0 Building a Resilient E-Farm	U of MN, WCROC	Michael Reese	Yes
2025-122	Jenni	Bubke	Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Grant Programs	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Jeremy Peichel	No
2025-182	Karlin	Ziegler	Lake Zumbro Park Water Access and Site Improvements	Olmsted County	Shona Langseth	No
2025-241	Joel	Tallaksen	Foundational Precision Agriculture Data to Reduce Environmental Impacts	U of MN, WCROC	Michael Reese	Yes
2025-309	Michelle	Carstensen	Recruitment and Fecundity of Minnesota Moose	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Seth Moore	Yes

Commissioner Peichel joined the meeting remotely.

**4. Director’s report**

Director Nash provided updates on the following:

1. Final reports
2. Peer review
3. M.L. 2024 work plans
4. Copyrights, patents, and royalties - Two checks have been received and will be returned to the corpus of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust.
5. Emerging Issues - The emerging issues request recommended for funding on June 28, 2024, has been approved by the Governor.
6. Strategic Planning - The Subcommittee on Strategic Planning continues to make progress and will be meeting after this meeting.
7. Updated agenda materials

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8. Public testimony

Director Nash answered questions related to staff workload and the LCCMR conflict-of-interest policy.

**5. Action: Work plans for projects funded in M.L. 2024**

**a. Approve workplans ready for consideration**  
 - Posted workplans for [M.L. 2024 appropriations](#)

**b. Plan for remaining work plan(s)**

Director Nash provided an overview of the two projects ready for approval. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Faber moved to approve from the spreadsheet titled “Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – M.L. 2024 (FY2025) Final Work Plan Review and Approval – for July 31, 2024” the following two work plans along with approval notes and contingencies shown:

1. M.L. 2024, Chp. 83, Sec. 2, Subd. 03c titled “Characterizing Tree Cavities and Use by Minnesota’s Wildlife”, U of MN, Duluth – NRRI, \$349,000
2. M.L. 2024, Chp. 83, Sec. 2, Subd. 03e titled “Turtle Island Skywatchers – Minnesota Research and Data Visualization”, Native Skywatchers Inc., \$200,000

- motion prevailed (13 Yes / 1 No)

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

**6. Current Project Update: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09I- Upper St. Anthony Falls Enhancements, Owámniyomni Okhódayapi (previously Friends of the Falls), Kjersti Duval and Shelley Buck, \$2,800,000**

Kjersti Duval and Shelley Buck, Owámniyomni Okhódayapi (previously Friends of the Falls), provided an update on their project. Members discussed.

**7. Completed Project Presentation(s):**

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- a. **M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09m- Whiskey Creek & Mississippi River Water Quality/Habitat/Recreation, Mississippi River Headwaters Board, Tim Terrill, \$500,000**

Tim Terrill, Mississippi River Headwaters Board, gave a presentation on their completed project. Members discussed.

**8. Action: Proposal Allocation Recommendations for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for 2025 (FY26)**

Director Nash reviewed the memo titled “Results of Members ENRTF 2025 (FY26) Evaluation #2 + Options for Allocation Action”. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Gibson moved to recommend all proposals selected by 8 or more members at the average allocation amount as shown on the attached Initial Agreement spreadsheet dated July 21, 2024, “Members 2025 RFP LCCMR Proposal Allocations Initial Agreement as of July 21, 2024”, and use the remaining \$3,326,000 to make the following adjustments:

1. Increase the average allocation amount to the full request amount for all proposals selected by 14 or 15 members (lines 9-39).
2. Increase the average allocation amount by 9% or to the full request amount, whichever is less, for all proposals selected by 13 members (lines 40-73).
3. Reduce the Emerging Issues Account average allocation (line 74) by \$15,000 from \$2,699,000 to \$2,684,000.

Further, to include the following contingencies in the recommendations:

1. ENRTF funds may not be used to purchase firearms, crossbows, and ammunition (Proposal 2025-135, “Adult Outdoor Education for Minnesota’s Underrepresented Communities”).
2. ENRTF funding may be used to evaluate environmental benefits of crops and cropping systems, such as effects on water quality, biodiversity, and soil health, but may not be used for marketing crops.
  - a. Proposal 2025-317, “Developing Markets for CLC Crops”
  - b. Proposal 2025-239 “Enhancing the Value of Minnesota Public Grasslands”
  - c. Proposal 2025- 250 “Conserving Natural Resources by Advancing Forever Green Agriculture”

Additionally, to request staff develop draft bill language for review by the commission and to allow staff to make small dollar amount and technical changes as needed to correct any errors.

Members continued discussions.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Westrom moved to amend Commissioner Gibson’s motion to include proposals selected by 7 or more members at the average allocation amount as shown on the attached Initial Agreement spreadsheet dated July 21, 2024, “Members 2025 RFP LCCMR Proposal Allocations Initial Agreement as of July 21, 2024” – amendment withdrawn.

Members recessed at 10:35 a.m. and reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Putnam moved to amend Commissioner Gibson’s motion to fund Proposal ID: 2025-241 “Foundational Precision Agriculture Data to Reduce Environmental Impacts” (line 132) at the average allocation amount \$1,255,000 and to fund Proposal ID: 2025-078 “Agrivoltaics 2.0 Building a Resilient E-Farm” (line 135) at the average allocation amount \$535,000, delete item #2, increase the average allocation amount by 9% or to the full request amount, whichever is less, for all proposals selected by 13 members

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(lines 40-73), and change item 3 to reduce the Emerging Issues Account average allocation (line 74) by only \$2,000 from \$2,699,000 to \$2,697,000. The Contingency discussions would occur at the next LCCMR meeting.

- amendment prevailed (12 Yes / 0 No)

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

RENEWED MOTION: Commissioner Gibson renewed her motion as amended to recommend all proposals selected by 8 or more members at the average allocation amount as shown on the attached Initial Agreement spreadsheet dated July 21, 2024, “Members 2025 RFP LCCMR Proposal Allocations Initial Agreement as of July 21, 2024”, and use the remaining \$3,326,000 to make the following adjustments:

1. Increase the average allocation amount to the full request amount for all proposals selected by 14 or 15 members (lines 9-39).
2. Fund 2025-241 “Foundational Precision Agriculture Data to Reduce Environmental Impacts” (line 132) at the average allocation amount of \$1,255,000.
3. Fund 2025-078 “Agrivoltaics 2.0 Building a Resilient E-Farm” (line 135) at the average allocation amount of \$535,000.
4. Reduce the Emerging Issues Account average allocation (line 74) by \$2,000 from \$2,699,000 to \$2,697,000.
5. Contingency discussions would occur at the next LCCMR meeting.

Additionally, to request staff develop draft bill language for review by the commission and to allow staff to make small dollar amount and technical changes as needed to correct any errors.

- motion prevailed (11 Yes / 2 No)

<b>Member</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	X		Commissioner Hollins - Rep	X	
Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Langseth	X	
Commissioner Backer – Rep		X	Commissioner McEwen	X	

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Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner Moore	Excused	
Commissioner Gibson	X		Commissioner Peichel	X	
Commissioner Green – Sen		X	Commissioner Putnam – Sen	X	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	X		Commissioner Reese	Abstained	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	Excused		Commissioner Westrom – Sen	X	
Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	Excused				

**9. LCCMR Other Business**

Director Nash discussed next steps. Chair Hansen requested that members submit potential contingencies to staff by August 20, 2024.

**10. Public Testimony**

Two letters were received and posted on the meeting page as public testimony.

**11. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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