



LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

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Becca Nash, Director

Minutes

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

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

Location: Remote through electronic means ([YouTube](#))

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

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

Members Excused: Sen. Steve Green, Shona Langseth, Sen. Aric Putnam

Members Absent:

Co-Chair: Sen. Foug Hawj

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

1. Roll call attendance

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

2. Approve minutes for July 31, 2024

MOTION: Chair Hawj moved to approve the minutes for July 31, 2024 – motion prevailed.

Agenda Item: 02

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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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

4. Director’s report

Director Nash acknowledged that the ENRTF constitutional amendment passed at 77%, and with the amendment passing, a new statute went into effect creating a Community Grant Program which will be funded from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund but administered by the Department of Natural Resources. Ms. Nash updated members on changes to the prevailing wage law passed last year (and staff efforts to notify project managers. Ms. Nash stated staff is working on the appropriation language, and there will be a peer review and strategic plan update today. Ms. Nash reminded members the biennial report is due to the legislature on January 15, 2025. Ms. Nash provided an update on projects that finished in 2023 and 2024 as presented in the completed projects spreadsheets provided in the meeting materials.

Commissioner Faber joined the meeting remotely.

Members asked about closing out 2023 and 2024 completed projects and the relationship to reimbursement requests and staffing.

5. Completed Project Presentation(s):

M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 03a – Minnesota Biological Survey, MN DNR, Bruce Carlson, \$1,500,000

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Bruce Carlson gave a presentation on his final report titled “Minnesota Biological Survey”. Members discussed.

6. Discussion and Action: LCCMR and ENRTF Strategic Plan 2025-2031

- a. Subcommittee Process**
- b. Vision and Mission Statement**
- c. ENRTF Goals and Strategies**
- d. LCCMR Goals and Strategies**
- e. Evaluation and Selection Criteria**
- f. Measurable Outcomes**

Mike Campana gave a presentation on the draft strategic plan. Members discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Albrecht moved to post the draft strategic plan for public comment – motion prevailed (12 Yes / 0 No).

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

7. Discussion and Action: Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for M.L. 2026 (FY27)

MOTION: Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the 2026 Request for Proposal as presented.

Mike Campana provided an overview of the funding priorities in the draft 2026 Request for Proposal. Members discussed.

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Reese amended Commissioner Hansen’s motion to delete the bullet on page 3 of the draft 2026 Request for Proposal the following text: “Construction of buildings or building infrastructure for environmental education or renewable energy purposes, unless for research or demonstration.” – motion did not prevail (5 Yes / 9 No).

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep		X	Commissioner Hollins - Rep		X
Commissioner Albrecht		X	Commissioner Langseth	Excused	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	X		Commissioner McEwen		X

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

AMENDMENT: Commissioner Westrom amended Commissioner Hansen’s motion to delete on page 4 of the draft 2026 Request for Proposal under Category C the following text: “* Baseball fields, basketball courts, splash pads, playground equipment, and other recreational facilities and infrastructure that do not improve or enhance natural resources or users’ experience with natural resources are generally not eligible.” – motion did not prevail (5 Yes / 9 No).

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

MOTION: Commissioner Reese moved to table Commissioner Hansen’s motion until the LCCMR Meeting on December 11, 2024 – motion did not prevail (6 Yes / 8 No).

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

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Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	X				
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REVISED MOTION: Commissioner Hansen moved to post the draft 2026 Request for Proposal for public comment and consider final adoption of the 2026 Request for Proposal at the LCCMR meeting on December 11, 2024 – motion prevailed (11 Yes / 3 No).

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

8. Discussion and Action: 2025 LCCMR Meeting Calendar

Director Nash presented two options for the 2025 LCCMR meeting calendar. Members discussed. Staff will create a third option for consideration with a later RFP deadline and fall dates for presentations.

9. Update: Peer Review Update for 2025 Recommendations

No discussion held.

10. Discussion and Action: Emerging Issues Request:

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus in Minnesota Wildlife—U of MN Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Dr. Arno Wuenschmann and Dr. Declan Schroeder, \$1,267,000

Dr. Arno Wuenschmann and Dr. Declan Schroeder gave a presentation on their emerging issues proposal titled “Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus in Minnesota”. Members discussed.

Commissioner Hawj asked Commissioner Gibson to chair the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Commissioner Hawj returned to chair at 12:30 p.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Moore moved to approve the Emerging Issues request titled, “Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus in Minnesota Wildlife”, U of MN Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for \$1,267,000 and authority to staff to approve the work plan – motion prevailed (12 Yes / 1 No)

Member	Y	N	Member	Y	N
Commissioner Acomb - Rep	X		Commissioner Hollins - Rep	X	

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Commissioner Albrecht	X		Commissioner Langseth	Excused	
Commissioner Backer – Rep	X		Commissioner McEwen	X	
Commissioner Faber	X		Commissioner Moore	X	
Commissioner Gibson	X		Commissioner Peichel	X	
Commissioner Green – Sen	Excused		Commissioner Putnam – Sen	Excused	
Commissioner Hansen – Rep	X		Commissioner Reese	Excused	
Commissioner Hawj – Sen	X		Commissioner Westrom – Sen		X
Commissioner Heintzeman – Rep	X				

11. LCCMR Other Business

Director Nash announced staff will cancel the LCCMR Meeting on December 4, 2024, and send members a poll for an afternoon meeting on December 11, 2024.

12. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.