

Agency Purpose

The purpose of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) is to make funding recommendations to the legislature for special natural resource projects primarily funded from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and to develop a long-term strategy for continuing trust fund appropriations.

M.S. 116P and an adopted strategic plan guide LCCMR expenditure recommendations made to the Minnesota legislature for natural resource projects.

Core Functions

- ⇒ **Review Process:** The Commission will solicit project proposals and evaluate them based on funding priorities set forth in its strategic plan. Funding priorities are currently being developed. Technical advisory committees appointed by the LCCMR will provide advice on project feasibility, costs, and impacts. The Commission will also hold public hearings to solicit additional information. All proposed research projects selected for funding would also undergo scientific peer review. Once projects are funded, the Commission oversees and evaluates project progress and completion through work program review.
- ⇒ **Recommendations:** Proposals are reviewed and ranked according to priorities and technical feasibility. Recommendations to the legislature for Trust Fund expenditures will be made annually.

History

The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) was created in 1963 to make funding recommendations to the legislature for special environment and natural resource projects every two years. Over its history, the LCMR has recommended over \$525 million in funding for 1,214 projects.

The 2006 legislature restructured the LCMR to more fully involve citizens in determining funding priorities and application processes. Appointed citizens have been added to the new Legislative-Citizen Commission on MN Resources and the process for developing a statewide, long-range plan to guide investments has begun.

Operations

The LCCMR is comprised of 17 members consisting of seven citizen members (five appointed by the governor and one member each appointed by the house and senate), and five senators and five representatives including the chairs of the house and senate committees on environment and natural resources finance. The members elect their officers, rotating the chair between legislative and citizen members of the Commission.

The LCCMR employs a full-time professional and support staff of four full-time employees. In 2006-07 there also was an allocation of \$150,000 to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to administer the contracts of all pass through non-state agency appropriations.

Budget

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund provides the major source of funding for this program. The state constitution specifies that the amount appropriated from the Trust fund each year of a biennium may be up to 5 1/2 percent of its market value on June 30 one year before the start of the biennium. A small amount of funding is also received from federal Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) receipts, Oil Overcharge money and Great Lakes Protection funds. Estimated total funding available for funding the program in FY 2008 will be approximately \$22.688 million.

Contact

Projects approved since 1991 are available on the LCMR web site:
<http://www.lccmr.leg.mn>

Contact: John Velin, Director
Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources
Room 65 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155
(651) 296-2406

Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2008-09
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
Environment & Natural Resource					
Current Appropriation	469	550	22,688	22,688	45,376
Forecast Base	469	550	22,688	22,688	45,376
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2006-07					4353%
 <u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
Environment & Natural Resource	392	552	22,688	22,688	45,376
Total	392	552	22,688	22,688	45,376
 <u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	320	441	441	441	882
Other Operating Expenses	72	111	109	109	218
Local Assistance	0	0	22,138	22,138	44,276
Total	392	552	22,688	22,688	45,376
 <u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Minn Resources Leg-Citizen Com	392	552	22,688	22,688	45,376
Total	392	552	22,688	22,688	45,376
 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	 3.4	 3.9	 3.9	 3.9	