

Agency Purpose

The purpose of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) is to make funding recommendations to the legislature for expenditures made from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (Trust Fund). The state constitutional amendment that created the Trust Fund requires that projects funded from its resources must be "for the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources". The Commission also is governed by M.S. 116P, which outlines its authorities and duties.

In addition to constitutional and statutory requirements, the Commission also has adopted a 6-year strategic plan to help further guide LCCMR expenditure recommendations made to the legislature.

Core Functions

- ◆ **Review Process:** Based on an adopted Strategic Plan, the Commission issues an annual Request for Proposal (RFP) for project proposals and evaluates them according to the funding priorities and evaluation criteria published in the RFP. The Commission reviews all proposals received, seeks technical advice as needed, and requests additional information in the form of presentations on projects determined to meet the funding priorities and evaluation criteria. Research proposals undergo scientific peer review once the Commission has determined an interest in providing funding. The Commission oversees and evaluates project progress and completion through work program review.
- ◆ **Recommendations:** The LCCMR's recommendations for funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund are made annually to the legislature through an appropriations bill. For FY 2010 projects, the LCCMR will be making its recommendations by December 2008 for bill introduction in January 2009. For FY 2011, a new RFP will be issued and proposals will be reviewed in the summer of 2009 for consideration by the 2010 legislature.

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. During its history, the LCMR has recommended over \$525 million in funding for 1,214 projects.

The 2006 legislature restructured the LCMR into the LCCMR. The funding cycle was changed from biennial to annual and the membership structure of the Commission was changed to incorporate citizen members. To date, the LCCMR has recommended two annual funding cycles, \$22,366,000 in FY 2008 appropriations and \$22,952,000 for FY 2009.

In 2006, the LCCMR was requested by the legislature and the Governor to issue an RFP for a Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan to help further guide expenditures from the Trust Fund. This long-term plan was finalized in June 2008 and is being used by the Commission to complete its strategic plan and expenditure recommendations.

Operations

The LCCMR is comprised of 17 members consisting of five representatives, five senators and seven citizen members (five appointed by the governor and one member each appointed by the house and senate). The chairs of the house and senate divisions on environment and natural resources finance are designated members. The Commission has adopted operating procedures, including a structure for election of co-chairs and an executive committee. The LCCMR seeks public input and pursues fact-finding on natural resource issues through public forums, web based citizen input, site visits throughout the state, and issue seminars.

The LCCMR employs a full-time professional and support staff of five full-time employees. In addition, it is anticipated that there will be an allocation of approximately \$150,000 to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to administer the contracts for recipients of many of the appropriations to non-state agency entities.

Budget

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust fund provides the major source of funding. The state constitution specifies that the amount appropriated from the Trust fund each year of a biennium may be up to 5.5% of its

market value on June 30 one year before the start of the biennium. On June 30, 2008, the Trust Fund market value was approximately \$465 million. The estimated total funding available for FY 2010 and FY 2011 projects is approximately \$25.6 million each year. A small amount of funding may also become available from federal Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) receipts, Oil Overcharge money and the Great Lakes Protection Account.

Contact

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

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2010-11
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
Environment & Natural Resource					
Current Appropriation	1,487	155	155	155	310
Forecast Base	1,487	155	0	0	0
Change		0	(155)	(155)	(310)
% Biennial Change from 2008-09					-100%
 <u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
Environment & Natural Resource	798	1,347	0	0	0
Total	798	1,347	0	0	0
 <u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	456	516	0	0	0
Other Operating Expenses	342	831	0	0	0
Total	798	1,347	0	0	0
 <u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Leg-Citizen Comm. Mn Resources	798	1,347	0	0	0
Total	798	1,347	0	0	0
 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)	 4.7	 4.7	 0.0	 0.0	

Dollars in Thousands

	Actual FY2008	Budgeted FY2009	Current Law		Biennium 2010-11
			FY2010	FY2011	
<u>Non Dedicated Revenue:</u>					
Other Revenues:					
Environment & Natural Resource	1,334	0	0	0	0
Minnesota Resources	17	0	0	0	0
Total Non-Dedicated Receipts	1,351	0	0	0	0
<u>Dedicated Receipts:</u>					
Total Dedicated Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Total Revenue					
	1,351	0	0	0	0