The LCMR will be accepting proposals for projects in the issue areas of:

- Fish, Wildlife and Native Plant Habitat
- Recreational and Natural Systems
- Water
- Children’s Environmental Health

Applications must be received at the LCMR office or postmarked by March, 28, 2002.
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
Hard copies must be received or postmarked no later than March 28, 2002. Final proposals sent by e-mail or fax cannot be accepted.

SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO:
Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources
Room 65, State Office Building
100 Constitution Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55155

ELIGIBILITY:
Application is open to everyone, as long as there is a demonstrated public benefit. The LCMR is an ADA/equal opportunity employer.

Noneligible costs include: Indirect costs, Directors or Officers Salary, Office Rental fees. For a complete list of eligible and noneligible costs see page 15.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:
Projects are intended for a two-year duration (July 2003 to June 2005), however, LCMR will consider requests for multiple biennium funding.
The spirit and intent of the LCMR is to provide access to EVERYONE who has ideas for innovation and acceleration in environment and natural resource issues, as directed by the Commission’s adopted Funding Priorities and having a distinct public benefit.

No grant-making or lobbying assistance is necessary for success. The LCMR staff will assist in proposal development.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE TRUST FUND (CAC)

Appointed by the Governor

District 5, Nancy Gibson, Chair
District 1, John Kvasnicka
District 2, Marvin Tinklenberg
District 3, Janet McMillan
District 4, Greta Hesse Gauthier
District 4, William Oemichen
District 6, Guy Glover
District 7, Kristin Eggerling
District 8, Ann Glumac
Two Vacancies

If interested in serving on the CAC contact
Laura Van Tassel, Office of the Governor,
(651) 296-0094
FUNDING BACKGROUND

• Funding Priorities are reviewed and adopted every two years.

• The priorities are for projects to begin July 2003.

• The order of the Funding Priorities does not reflect any prioritization.

• Although other proposals may be considered, adopted priorities will be given first consideration.

• The priorities apply to all funding sources.

• Proposers are requested to respond to a funding priority not a funding source.

• Reinvest in Minnesota: RIM related activities are eligible and may be recommended for funding by the LCMR. (M.S. 84.95)

• If land acquisition is part of the priority it includes both conservation easements and purchase of development rights.

FUNDING SOURCES:

$35 Million*:
Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

$15 Million*:
Minnesota Future Resources Fund and Great Lakes Protection Account

* dollar amounts are estimates.
The LCMR has identified the following issues and as a result is seeking proposals in the 11 funding priorities listed on pages 6-7.

**Fish, Wildlife and Native Plant Habitat**

Issue: The health, diversity, and survivability of our fish, wildlife and native plant species are threatened by landscape fragmentation, indifferent land use policies, pollution, and exotic species.

**Recreational and Natural Systems**

Issue: Increased demand on our parks and trails is jeopardizing the integrity of natural systems and recreational facilities.

**Water**

Issue: The quality and quantity of ground and surface waters are threatened by pollution, poor land use practices, and inadequate understanding of watersheds.

**Children’s Environmental Health**

Issue: Children, because of their small body size, are impacted more by air and water pollution than adults.
FUNDING PRIORITIES

The proposal should address one or more of the 11 funding priorities within the Issue Areas of Fish, Wildlife and Native Plant Habitat, Recreational and Natural Systems, Water, and Children’s Environmental Health.

The funding priority number, e.g. A-2, does not reflect a priority rank – all priorities are equal.

Issue Area: Fish, Wildlife and Native Plant Habitat

Funding Priorities: Conserve and enhance fish, wildlife and native plant habitat and corridors by:

· (A-1) Identifying, acquiring, restoring, or protecting habitat and corridors of sufficient quantity and quality to enhance survival of fish, wildlife and native plants.

· (A-2) Providing assistance to public and private landowners to accelerate farming, forestry, tourism, and mining practices that protect the environment, human health, and area economic vitality, and that enhance fish, and wildlife, and native plant habitat.

· (A-3) Educating local land use decision-makers on protection and improvement of fish, wildlife, and native plant habitat.

· (A-4) Research or implementation of research of toxic substances adversely affecting fish, wildlife or native plants.

Issue Area: Recreational and Natural Systems

Funding Priority: Improve Recreation and natural systems by:

· (B-1) Restoring, developing or acquiring State, regional, metro, or local parks, recreation areas and trails with an emphasis on connecting recreational systems.

Issue Area: Water

Funding Priorities: Conserve and promote healthy waters by:

· (C-1) Accelerating the implementation of best management practices through delivery of technical information/resources at the local level.

· (C-2) Collecting, evaluating and disseminating natural resource data on a watershed basis to increase awareness of watersheds and how land use affects water quality and quantity.

· (C-3) Encouraging control of erosion and reduction of pollutants on riparian areas and bluffs.

· (C-4) Identifying and reducing pollution impacts on humans, fish, wildlife and native plants through research on known and emerging contaminant sources.

· (C-5) Accelerating farming, forestry, tourism, energy and mining practices that protect the environment, human health, and area economic vitality, and that enhance fish, wildlife, and native plant habitat.

Issue Area: Children’s Environmental Health

Funding Priority: Address health concerns in children by:

· (D-1) Increasing the implementation of research relating to air and water, in order to address children’s health concerns such as asthma, allergies, endocrine disrupters, lead and susceptibility to pesticides.
FUNDING PRIORITIES NOTES

The LCMR intends to recommend money to support the matching grant programs listed on pages 8-9 during the biennium beginning July 2003. Read below before submitting a proposal to the LCMR.

For those projects responding to the Issue Area: Fish, Wildlife, and Native Plant Habitat
• Conservation Partners and Environmental Partners Programs: Projects qualifying for the small grants for conservation and environmental projects MUST APPLY to those programs.

The programs are for matching grants through the Local Initiative Grants Program at the Department of Natural Resources. See page 8 for details and contact information.

For those projects responding to the Issue Area: Recreational and Natural Systems
• Local Initiative Grants Program: Projects qualifying for the Local Initiative Grants Program and the Local and Regional Trails Grant Program MUST APPLY to those programs.

The programs are matching grant programs through the Department of Natural Resources. See pages 8 and 9 for details and contact information.
• State and Metropolitan Parks and Trails: Projects qualifying for the State and Metropolitan Parks, Recreation Areas and Trails MUST APPLY to those programs. See page 9 for details and contact information.

For those responding to the Issue Area: Water
• Local Water Planning Matching Challenge Grant: Projects qualifying for the Local Water Planning Matching Challenge Grant program MUST APPLY to that program.

The program is a matching grant program through the Board of Water and Soil Resources. See page 8 for details and contact information.

For those responding to the Issue Area: Water
• Conservation Partners and Environmental Partners Programs: Projects qualifying for the small grants for conservation and environmental projects MUST APPLY to those programs.

The programs are for matching grants through the Local Initiative Grants Program at the Department of Natural Resources. See page 8 for details and contact information.
Local Water Planning

Matching Challenge Grant:
The LCMR intends to recommend money to support the implementation of priority activities identified in state approved local water plans via the Board of Water and Soil Resources Local Water Planning Challenge Grant Program during the biennium beginning July 2003.

Eligible applicants are counties, watershed management organizations, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts partnered with counties

Potentially fundable implementation categories and some example activities include:

- **Land and Water Treatment** includes activities applied to the land or a water resource such as erosion control structures, shoreline protection measures, in-lake restoration projects.

- **Planning and Environmental Controls** includes the development of lake management plans, official controls relating to water, linking comprehensive plans to land use plans.

- **Monitoring and Modeling** includes activities such as citizen monitoring networks, modeling ground water flow or surface water runoff.

- **Inventory and Mapping** includes conducting detailed inventories of drainage systems, wetlands, or feedlots.

- **Education and Information** includes workshops and seminars.

For further information about the Local Water Planning Challenge grant Program and submitting a proposal contact: Marybeth Block, (651) 297-7965, or e-mail: marybeth.block@bwsr.state.mn.us

Do not submit proposals to the LCMR, submit directly to the Local Water Planning Challenge Grant Program.

__________________________________________________________

Local Initiative Grants Program:
The LCMR intends to recommend money to support the matching grants program in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for Local Initiative Grants for the following types of projects:

- **Outdoor Recreation Matching Grant Program** (for counties, cities and townships). For acquisition, development and/or redevelopment costs of local parks and recreation areas.

- **Regional Park Matching Grant Program**: provides grants to public regional park organizations located outside the seven county metropolitan area for acquisition, development and/or redevelopment costs of regional parks.

- **Natural and Scenic Area Matching Grant Program** (for cities, counties, townships and school districts) for acquisition of natural and scenic areas (up to $500,000).

- **Conservation Partners Matching Grant Program** (for private/nonprofit organizations and local governments, including cooperative projects involving local governments) provides assistance (up to $20,000) for projects that enhance fish, wildlife and native plant habitat or for research or survey projects related to habitat enhancement.

- **Environmental Partnerships Matching Grant Program** (for private/nonprofit organizations) to help carry out a variety of projects to help protect and enhance our natural environment (up to $20,000).

For further information about the Local Initiative Grants Program and submitting a proposal contact: Wayne Sames, (651) 296-1567, or e-mail: wayne.sames@dnr.state.mn.us

Do not submit proposals to the LCMR, submit directly to the Local Initiative Grants Program.
Local and Regional Trails:
The LCMR intends to recommend money to support the Local and Regional Trails program during the biennium beginning July 2003.

- **Local Trail Connections Matching Grant Program** (for cities, counties, and townships) to develop trail connections between communities and existing park and trail facilities (up to $100,000).

- **Regional Trail Matching Grant Program** (for cities, counties, and townships) to develop new long distance trails of regional significance (up to $250,000).

For further information about the Local and Regional Trails Grants and submitting a proposal contact: Tim Mitchell, (651) 297-1718, or e-mail: tim.mitchell@dnr.state.mn.us

**Do not submit proposals to the LCMR, submit directly to the Local and Regional Trails program.**

State and Metropolitan Parks, Recreation Areas and Trails:
The LCMR intends to recommend money to support State and Metropolitan Parks, Recreation Areas and Trails programs during the biennium beginning July 2003.

Projects would include: State and Metropolitan regional parks, recreation area and trail needs for acceleration of acquisition, development, rehabilitation and enhancement as described in MS 116P.02, Subd. 5 (includes in the definition of natural resources, the state recreation system and the metro regional recreation system).

Projects eligible for funding through the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space program will only be considered as part of the Metropolitan Council and Parks Open Space Commission Capital Improvement (CIP) Program.

**Do not submit proposals to the LCMR, submit directly to the Metropolitan Council and Parks Open Space Commission Capital Improvement (CIP) Program.**
EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR PROPOSALS

- LCMR members will review all of the proposals for consideration.
- No proposals will be eliminated by the LCMR staff or the CAC.
- LCMR staff will sort all proposals by Funding Priorities and rank them according to the criteria for use by the LCMR members during their initial selection process.
- Trust Fund expenditures must conform to the Trust Fund law (MS 116P.08).

In addition to the weighted criteria, consideration will be given to:

Proposals demonstrating the leveraging of nonstate money toward project implementation and an ability to meet more than one funding priority.

LEVERAGING
Leveraging is encouraged and will be reviewed as part of the Past and Concurrent Spending section of the proposals.

MULTIPLE PRIORITIES
Meeting multiple priorities is encouraged and will be considered in evaluating proposals.

Project Managers and partners must be accountable and able to complete project objectives.

The following criteria will be applied as one part of the proposal evaluation and recommendation process.

The total potential score for each criterion is written in parentheses. All points will be awarded on a sliding scale.

(50 points total)
Criteria will be applied as one of the screening tools by LCMR members in selecting projects for a hearing.

- **Addresses Funding Priority (up to 10)**
- **Focus of Sustainability (up to 10):**
The LCMR is interested in projects that promote a sustainable approach.

To be sustainable, a project should protect the ecosystem and balance the benefits to the environment with the community and economy.

- **Results (up to 10):**
Provide for a critical assessment of the project and clear, demonstrated results.

- **Partnerships (up to 10):**
Demonstrates a cooperative and coordinated approach including the sharing of costs and/or workload.

- **Information Base and Dissemination (up to 5):**
Provides data, reports, materials, etc. to the public and other potential users in a readily useable form.

Provides a significant, demonstrated addition to the public environmental and natural resource information base.

- **Project Readiness (up to 5):**
Demonstrated ability to begin and complete the project in the funding time period.
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please Submit:

3 Items - 3 Copies of Each

1.) Proposal- 3 page limit.
2.) Map- showing project site(s) - 1 page limit.
3.) Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description - 1 page limit.

Proposal

• Send 3 copies of proposal (maximum of three 8 1/2 x 11 sheets - single sided).
• Leave a blank one inch page margin at the bottom.
• The proposal must be in the format explained on pages 12-13 and is limited to three single sided pages.
• Minimum font-type size is 12. This page is typeset on 12 points.
• Project title should be clearly marked on the top of each page.
• Plastic covers, plastic bindings, and staples will NOT be accepted.
• The proposal format is designed to provide concise information. It begins with a brief project summary of intended results, followed by a description of specific project results and budgets associated with completion of the activities of the project.

Map

Send 3 copies of a map (maximum of one 8 1/2 x 11 sheet - single sided). Should be easy to duplicate, NO COLOR MAPS.

Be site specific to the project. Maps should be clearly legible, with enough orientation to bring a reader to a quick understanding of the location of the project within the region and state.

Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

Send 3 copies of Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description (maximum of one 8 1/2 x 11 sheet - single sided).

In this document include the project manager description of qualifications and responsibilities pertaining to this specific project proposal, does not need to be a complete resume.

The organization description should be a simple, brief explanation of the organization. One to two sentences. e.g. Local Government Unit, 501 (c)(3) etc.

Proposal Template

A template of the proposal format is available on the LCMR web page at:

http://www.lcmr.leg.state.mn

Only proposals received by the deadline March 28, 2002 in the proper format specified in this RFP will qualify for consideration.

LCMR staff are available to assist proposers, answer questions and review draft proposals.

The format is designed to be simple and does NOT require professional grantsmaking assistance or lobbying efforts.
PROPOSAL FORMAT

Maximum length: Three 8 1/2 x 11 sheets single sided.

The proposal is composed of the following sections: (Italics are instructions and not to be repeated in the proposal. The bold text should be included in your proposal.)

LCMR Proposal 2003 (repeat this phrase in the upper left hand corner)

Title: (limit 8 words) -repeat on the top of each page submitted, including submissions of map and of project manager qualifications and organization description.

Total Biennial Project Budget: (requested from LCMR) $

Funding Priority: (state the title of the funding priority responding to, e.g. Water (C-1)

Project Manager: (One name only. Note: list team members under IV. C. Project Partners)

Affiliation:

Mailing Address:

Telephone Number: (be sure to provide a reliable phone number in case of questions)

E-Mail: (if available)

Fax: (if available)

Web Address: (if available)

Location: (Where will the work impact? Be as specific as possible e.g. county, city, township, stream or lake name, and map coordinates.)

I. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS: The summary is LIMITED TO 30 WORDS and must be a free standing summation of the project. Be specific. Provide a clear, concise summary of the proposed project and its results. It is important that the summary be able to stand on its own as a description of the proposal because it will be used with the project title as the project description during the proposal review.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS: Begin this section with a brief explanation as to WHY this project needs to be done and the specific outcomes of the project.

Break the project into specific results. Indicate the budget for each result. FOR EXAMPLE:

Result 1 “Title of Activity” Budget: $ Assign a lump sum cost (budget) to each discrete result.

Give a detailed description of the activity you are proposing to do and the outcomes. Be specific. For example, indicate miles of trail acquired and developed, acres impacted, number of people reached.

Further break down the Result budget dollar amount into these categories. ONLY LIST THE CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO THE RESULT LISTED:

Personnel: $

Equipment: $

Development : $

Acquisition : $

Other (Specify): $
Result 2 “Title of Activity” **Budget:** $ Assign a lump sum cost (budget) to each discrete result. Give a detailed description of the activity you are proposing to do and the outcomes. Be specific. For example, indicate miles of trail acquired and developed, acres impacted, number of people reached.

Further break down the Result budget dollar amount into these categories. ONLY LIST THE CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO THE RESULT LISTED:

- **Personnel:** $
- **Equipment:** $
- **Development:** $
- **Acquisition:** $
- **Other:** *(Specify)*$

ADD ADDITIONAL RESULTS AS NEEDED: SAME FORMAT AS ABOVE

III. **TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET:** *(In this section describe the details of your budget)*

**All Results: Personnel** *(who is getting paid to do what, their % of full time employment for the project period)*: $

**All Results: Equipment** *(what equipment, to be rented or purchased – a general description and cost)*: $

**All Results: Development** *(improvement to land or building)*: $

**All Results: Acquisition** *(how many acres, also who will hold the title to the land)*: $

**All Results: Other** *(Describe the specific activity and cost, e.g. Communications)*: $

**TOTAL BUDGET:** $ *(requested from LCMR)*

IV. **PAST AND CONCURRENT SPENDING:**

What other money (and its source) will be spent on the proposed project?

**A. Past Spending:**

List the money spent or to be spent on this specific project, cash or inkind and the time frame prior to July 1, 2003.

**B. Concurrent Spending for the Project Period:**

What additional money will be spent on the project during the funding period, cash or inkind?

**C. Project Partners:** *If the project has cooperators (project team), list names and agency/entity affiliate.*

Specifically state the percent time of each cooperator to be spent on the project and the money which will be contributed, cash or inkind from the project partners during the project. What additional money is anticipated to be spent after the project completion, cash or inkind?

**D. Time:** *If the proposed project will exceed two years: Explain completely the additional time and funding requirements.*
EVALUATION & RECOMMENDATION PROCESS

2001

AUGUST - OCTOBER
· Resource Evaluation and state-wide site visits.

NOVEMBER
· Citizen Natural Resource Forums held in: Anoka, Winona, Little Falls and Grand Rapids.

DECEMBER
· Citizen Advisory Committee for the Trust Fund (CAC) meets to develop a draft strategic plan for the Trust Fund to propose to the LCMR.
· LCMR holds an Issues Seminar to gather more information.

2002

JANUARY
· The CAC presents recommended strategic plan for the Trust Fund to the LCMR.

FEBRUARY
· LCMR adopts strategic plan for the Trust Fund and MN Future Resources Fund.
· The Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued.

MARCH
· March 28th Proposals are due.

APRIL
· Proposal scoring and review.

MAY
· Scored proposals are delivered to the LCMR and CAC members.
· The CAC meets to determine preliminary recommendations to the LCMR for projects to receive a hearing for the Trust Fund.
· LCMR selects proposals for hearing.
· A limited number of proposals will be chosen for hearings. All proposers will be notified (first cut).

JUNE
· Hearings on Proposals.

JULY
· Hearings Continued.
· CAC meets to determine its recommended priorities and analysis to the LCMR for Trust Fund funding.
· LCMR meets to determine final recommendations and allocations to the 2003 Legislature for all funds.

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER
· Work programs are due to the LCMR on recommended projects.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER
· Research Projects are reviewed by an outside scientific panel.

DECEMBER

2003

JANUARY
· LCMR recommendations presented to the Legislature

FEBRUARY - APRIL
· Legislative Review and appropriation.

MAY
· Final Legislative actions on proposals, signed by governor

JUNE
· LCMR meets to adopt work programs

JULY
ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Eligible costs may include the following and are eligible only if specified in the approved Work Program:

a) Expenditures incurred only after the effective date in the approved Work Program. No expenditures will be allowed after June 30, 2005 unless approved by specific law;

b) Advertising costs solely for (1) Recruitment of personnel; (2) Solicitation of bids; (3) Disposal of scrap materials; (4) Other purposes specifically provided for in the approved Work Program;

c) Capital expenditures for facilities, equipment and other capital assets as expressly approved in the Work Program. For expenditures greater than $3,500, the Recipient must include in the Work Program an explanation as to how all the equipment purchased with the appropriation will continue to be used for the same program through its useful life, or, if the use changes, a commitment to pay back to the Fund an amount equal to either the cash value received or a residual value approved by the director of the LCMR if it is not sold;

d) Communication costs incurred for telephone calls, postage, and similar services;

e) Materials and supplies and incoming freight charges for them;

f) Publication and printing costs (including the processes of composition, plate-making, press work, & binding, and the end products produced) necessary for contract administration; work products production; and biennial reports relating to Work Program accomplishments;

g) Transportation and travel expenses such as lodging, meals, and mileage of personnel involved in the Project in the same manner and in no greater amount than provided for in the current "Commissioner’s Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Employee Relations; found at : http://www.doer.state.mn.us/lr-cmrpl/lr-cmrpl/lr-cmrpl.htm or for U of M projects the University of Minnesota plan found at: http://www.fpd.finop.umn.edu/groups/ppd/documents/policy/travel.cfm

Allowable meal and lodging expenses are for employees only, purchasing meals for others is not an allowable expense. All out of state travel must be explicitly approved in the Work Program;

h) Wages and expenses of salaried Recipient employees if specified in the Work Program;

i) Fringe benefit costs limited to salary, FICA/Medicare, retirement, and health insurance of Recipient’s employees if specified in the Work Program; For State Agencies: use of unclassified staff only OR request approval for the use of classified staff accompanied by an explanation of how the agency will backfill that part of the classified staff salary proposed to be paid for with these appropriation. This is subject to specific discussion and approval by the LCMR.

j) Professional services specified in the approved Work Program that are rendered by individuals or organizations not a part of the Recipient;

k) Expenditures incurred after the effective date of the approved Work Program and before the effective date of the Agreement.

NONELIGIBLE COSTS

a) Any costs incurred before the project is authorized, July 1, 2003, or Work Program approval, whichever is the later

b) Fund raising

c) Taxes, except sales tax on goods and services

d) Insurance, except title insurance

e) Attorney fees; except for acquisition and clearing title to land

f) Loans, grants, or subsidies to persons or entities for development

g) Bad debts or contingency funds

h) Interest

i) Lobbyists

j) Political contributions;

k) Investment Management Fees

l) Memberships

m) Indirect costs

n) Directors or Officers salary unless expressly approved in the Work Program together with a plan of activities and actual work products.

o) Office Rental fees

Additional Proposal Requirements

In addition, all projects are subject to the requirements located at:

http://www.lcmr.leg.mn

• Accessibility

• Data Availability

• Energy Conservation

• Land Acquisition

• Purchase of Recycled and Recyclable Material Requirements
For a more complete review of the LCMR activities go to the new web address:
http://www.lcmr.leg.mn

• Past Publications.
• Funding Source Information.
• Trust Fund Constitutional Amendment.
• Trust Fund Law MS 116P.
• 2002-2003 Meeting Schedule.
• Additional Proposal Information.

LCMR
100 Constitution Avenue
Room 65, State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

CONTACT INFO

LCMR STAFF:
John Velin, Director
Susan Thornton
Susan Von Mosch
Yvonne Forsythe
Sandy Smith

Information from this RFP may be copied and distributed to others. This publication can be made available in alternate formats, such as large print or cassette tape, upon request.

Any suggestions or questions can be addressed to:

LCMR
100 Constitution Avenue,
Room 65, State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (651)296-2406
TDD: (651)296-9896 or 1-800-657-3550
Relay: (651)297-5353 or 1-800-627-3529
Fax: (651)296-1321
E-Mail: lcmr@commissions.leg.state.mn.us
Web Address:
http://www.lcmr.leg.mn