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Susan Thornton, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Mike Banker, (651) 296-2668, [mike.banker@lccmr.leg.mn](mailto:mike.banker@lccmr.leg.mn)

## **Proposals sought for \$46.3 million in project funding to benefit Minnesota's environment and natural resources**

(St. Paul, MN, December 16, 2014) – The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) has issued its 2016 Request for Proposal (RFP) for funding from Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund beginning July 1, 2016. The Trust Fund represents the money that, since its inception in 1991, has been generated by the Minnesota State Lottery to provide a constitutionally dedicated funding source for protection of the state's unique natural resources. Approximately \$46.3 million is expected to be available in 2016 for projects being sought in environment and natural resource areas that will provide multiple ecological and other public benefits. Proposals responding to the 2016 RFP are due Monday, May 11, 2015.

Proposals are being requested in the following seven areas:

1. Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information
2. Water Resources
3. Environmental Education
4. Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species
5. Air Quality, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy
6. Methods to Protect or Restore Land, Water, and Habitat
7. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

The 2016 RFP contains detailed instructions for submitting a proposal to the LCCMR as well as additional explanation of the LCCMR's proposal and funding process. Anyone with a project idea consistent with the RFP may submit a proposal for consideration by the LCCMR. LCCMR staff are available to review proposal drafts and assist in proposal development. Lobbying or professional grant-writing experience is not necessary for success.

Issuance of this RFP begins the competitive, multi-step process through which the LCCMR selects projects to recommend to the Minnesota Legislature for funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. During late Summer and early Fall, 2015, the LCCMR will consider all proposals received in response to the 2016 RFP and make final selection of projects to include in its recommendations to the legislature for the 2016 session. Funded projects can begin July 1, 2016.

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund is a permanent dedicated fund in the Minnesota state treasury that was established by 77% voter approval of a constitutional amendment in 1988. The amendment directs forty percent of the net proceeds of the Minnesota State Lottery, or approximately seven cents of every dollar spent on playing the lottery, into the Trust Fund. The Trust Fund is intended to provide a long-term, stable source of funding for innovative and far-sighted activities that protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources for the benefit of current citizens and future generations. Since 1991, the Trust Fund has provided \$428 million in support to approximately 900 projects benefitting every county in the state.

For more information on the LCCMR funding process or the 2016 RFP, please visit <http://www.lccmr.leg.mn>.

### **Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)**

The LCCMR is made up of 17 members (5 Senators, 5 Representatives, 5 citizens appointed by the governor, 1 citizen appointed by the Senate, and 1 citizen appointed by the House). The function of the LCCMR is to make funding recommendations to the Minnesota State Legislature for special environment and natural resource projects, primarily from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The LCCMR developed from a program initiated in 1963. Since then over \$800 million has been appropriated to approximately 1,800 projects recommended to protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources.

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Jeff Broberg, Sen. Gary Dahms, Sen. Kari Dziedzic, William Faber, Rep. Dan Fabian, Nancy Gibson, Bonnie Harper-Lore, Sen. John Hoffman, Gary Lamppa, Rep. Leon Lillie, Norman Moody, Rep. John Persell, Sen. David Tomassoni, Rep. Paul Torkelson, Rep. Jean Wagenius, Sen. Torrey Westrom, Della Young