



**ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
TRUST FUND**

**LCCMR Subcommittee on Strategic Planning
Vision and Mission Statement**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Discussion Outline

- Review constitutional and statutory context.
- Members communicate their individual thoughts on the vision and mission for the ENRTF.
- Review current vision and mission statement.
- Member brainstorming and discussion.

Next Step:

- Staff will synthesize member statements and discussion and draft a revised vision and mission statement for review and discussion at the next meeting.

Constitution

Minnesota Constitution Art. XI, Sec. 14

A permanent environment and natural resources trust fund is established in the state treasury. Loans may be made of up to five percent of the principal of the fund for water system improvements as provided by law. The assets of the fund shall be appropriated by law for the *public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.*

The amount appropriated each year of a biennium, commencing on July 1 in each odd-numbered year and ending on and including June 30 in the next odd-numbered year, may be up to 5-1/2 percent of the market value of the fund on June 30 one year before the start of the biennium.

Not less than 40 percent of the net proceeds from any state-operated lottery must be credited to the fund until the year 2025.

Proposed Constitutional Change

An amendment to the Minnesota Constitution is proposed to the people. If the amendment is adopted, article XI, section 14, will read:

Sec. 14.

A permanent environment and natural resources trust fund is established in the state treasury. ~~Loans may be made of up to five percent of the principal of the fund for water system improvements as provided by law.~~ The assets of the fund shall be appropriated by law for the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. The assets of the fund shall not be used to pay the principal or interest of any bonds. The assets of the fund shall not be used to pay for any costs related to the construction, repair, improvement, or operation of any facility or system that processes wastewater, but may be used to pay for research related to wastewater.

The amount appropriated each year of a biennium, commencing on July 1 in each odd-numbered year and ending on and including June 30 in the next odd-numbered year, may be up to ~~5-1/2~~ seven percent of the market value of the fund on June 30 one year before the start of the biennium. Not less than 40 percent of the net proceeds from any state-operated lottery must be credited to the fund ~~until the year 2025~~ through December 31, 2050.

Legislative Findings

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 116P. Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

116P.01 FINDINGS

The legislature finds that all Minnesotans share the responsibility to ensure wise stewardship of the state's environment and natural resources for the benefit of current citizens and future generations. Proper management of the state's environment and natural resources includes and requires foresight, planning, and long-term activities that allow the state to preserve its high quality environment and provides for wise use of its natural resources. The legislature also finds that to undertake such activities properly, a long-term, consistent, and stable source of funding must be provided.

Definitions

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 116P. Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

116P.02 DEFINITIONS.

Subd. 5. "Natural resources" includes the outdoor recreation system under section [86A.04](#) and regional recreation open space systems as defined under section [473.351, subdivision 1](#)

Statutory Conditions

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 116P. Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

116P.03 TRUST FUND NOT TO SUPPLANT EXISTING FUNDING; APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) The trust fund may not be used as a substitute for traditional sources of funding environmental and natural resources activities, but the trust fund shall supplement the traditional sources...The trust fund must be used primarily to support activities whose benefits become available only over an extended period of time.

...

(d) The amount appropriated from the environment and natural resources trust fund may be spent only for the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.

Authorized Expenditures

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 116P. Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

116P.08 TRUST FUND EXPENDITURES.

Subdivision 1. Expenditures.

- (a) Money in the trust fund may be spent only for:
- (1) the reinvest in Minnesota program as provided in section 84.95, subdivision 2;
 - (2) research that contributes to increasing the effectiveness of protecting or managing the state's environment or natural resources;
 - (3) collection and analysis of information that assists in developing the state's environmental and natural resources policies;
 - (4) enhancement of public education, awareness, and understanding necessary for the protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancement of air, land, water, forests, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources;
 - (5) capital projects for the preservation and protection of unique natural resources;
 - (6) activities that preserve or enhance fish, wildlife, land, air, water, and other natural resources that otherwise may be substantially impaired or destroyed in any area of the state;
 - (7) administrative and investment expenses incurred by the State Board of Investment in investing deposits to the trust fund; and
 - (8) administrative expenses subject to the limits in section 116P.09.

Reinvest in Minnesota Program

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 84. Department of Natural Resources

84.95 REINVEST IN MINNESOTA RESOURCES FUND.

Subd. 2. Purposes and expenditures.

Money from the reinvest in Minnesota resources fund may only be spent for the following fish and wildlife conservation enhancement purposes:

- (1) development and implementation of the fish and wildlife management plans under section 84.942;
- (2) implementation of the reinvest in Minnesota reserve program established by section 103F.515;
- (3) soil and water conservation practices to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion and crop surpluses;
- (4) enhancement or restoration of fish and wildlife habitat on lakes, streams, wetlands, and public and private forest lands;
- (5) acquisition and development of public access sites and recreation easements to lakes, streams, and rivers for fish and wildlife oriented recreation;
- (6) matching funds with government agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes and bands, and the private sector for acquisition and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat;
- (7) research and surveys of fish and wildlife species and habitat;
- (8) enforcement of natural resource laws and rules;
- (9) information and education;
- (10) implementing the aspen recycling program under section 88.80 and for other forest wildlife management projects; and
- (11) necessary support services to carry out these purposes.

Restricted Expenditures

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 116P. Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

116P.08 TRUST FUND EXPENDITURES.

Subdivision 2. Exceptions.

Money from the trust fund may not be spent for:

- (1) purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response actions under chapter 115C;
- (2) purposes of municipal water pollution control in municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more under the authority of chapters 115 and 116;
- (3) costs associated with the decommissioning of nuclear power plants;
- (4) hazardous waste disposal facilities;
- (5) solid waste disposal facilities;
- (6) projects or purposes inconsistent with the strategic plan; or
- (7) acquiring property by eminent domain, unless the owner requests that the owner's property be acquired by eminent domain.

What Is a Vision?

An aspirational statement/description of what the future will look like because of the work of the organization.

Examples:

- We envision a nation that marshals its resources to assure that all children have an equitable and promising future – a nation in which all children thrive. (W.K. Kellogg Foundation)
- A world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives. (The Nature Conservancy)
- The vision of Ducks Unlimited is wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. (Ducks Unlimited)
- WCS envisions a world where wildlife thrives in healthy lands and seas, valued by societies that embrace and benefit from the diversity and integrity of life on earth. (Wildlife Conservation Society)

What Is a Mission Statement?

A general statement of the purpose of the organization and what it does to achieve the vision.

Examples:

- The Minnesota Land Trust protects and restores Minnesota's most vital natural lands in order to provide wildlife habitat, clean water, outdoor experiences and scenic beauty for generations to come. (Minnesota Land Trust)
- To develop research-based solutions that can reduce the impacts of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota by preventing spread, controlling populations, and managing ecosystems; and to advance knowledge to inspire action by others. (Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center)
- To instill a connection and commitment to the environment in people of all communities through experiential learning. (Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center)
- Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. (Ducks Unlimited)
- WCS saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature. (Wildlife Conservation Society)

Member Statements

- What is your vision for the ENRTF over the next 6 years and beyond?
- What do you believe is the mission of the ENRTF?
- How do you envision Minnesota's environment and natural resources in 10, 20, 30 years, or more because the ENRTF existed?
- What core concepts do you think should be included in the vision and mission statement?

Current ENRTF Vision

All Minnesotans have an obligation to use and manage our natural resources in a manner that promotes wise stewardship and enhancement of the state's resources for ourselves and future generations. The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund is a perpetual fund that provides a legacy from one generation of Minnesotans to the many generations to follow. It shall be used to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance all of the bountiful, rare, and threatened natural resources that are the collective heritage of every Minnesotan. It shall also be used to nurture a sense of responsibility by all and to further our understanding of Minnesota's resource base and the consequences of human interaction with the environment.

Current ENRTF Mission Statement

The mission of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund is to ensure a long-term secure source of funding for environmental and natural resource activities whose benefits are realized only over an extended period of time.

Member Discussion Questions

- What do you like about the current vision and mission statement?
- What do you think is missing from the current vision and mission statement?
- Is there anything in the current vision and mission statement that you think shouldn't be included?
- How does the current vision and mission statement align with your previously stated viewpoint?