



# LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES (LCCMR) 2011-12 Biennial Report Overview

## Overview: January 1, 2011—December 31, 2012

### Special points of interest:

- \$51.4 million was recommended and approved to go toward 75 individual projects around the state (ML 2011-2012).
- For FY 2014-2015, \$38.2 million is being recommended to the 2013 Legislature to fund 46 individual projects around the state. \$29.5 million of FY 2015 funds remain available for recommendation to the 2014 Legislature.
- During 2011-2012, LCCMR provided administration and oversight for 279 individual projects, representing approximately \$154 million in appropriations, in various stages of their timelines, ranging from developing work plans in preparation to begin to reaching completion and submitting final reports.
- LCCMR heard from numerous public and private sector environment and natural resources experts and visited natural resource sites in the Twin Cities metro area.

During the period between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2012 the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR):

- Submitted and received passage of one biennial funding recommendations bill to the 2011 Legislature providing \$51.4 million to 75 natural resources projects around the state.
- Issued one Request for Proposal (RFP) to conduct the selection process for funding recommendations to the 2013 Legislature.
- Received, reviewed, and evaluated 169 proposals requesting a combined \$155 million in response to the 2012-2013 RFP. 46 proposals were selected for recommendation.
- Finalized recommendations to the 2013 Legislature of \$38.2 million to 46 projects around the state (bill introduction after December 31, 2012). These recommendations account for all of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund funds available for FY 2014 and some of the funds available for FY 2015. \$29.5 million of FY 2015 funds remain available for recommendation to the 2014 Legislature.
- Conducted peer review process for 13 research projects recommended to the 2013 Legislature for funding.
- Provided administration and oversight for 279 open projects, representing approxi-



**Net capture of a moose to fit with GPS collar and take biological samples - part of an ENRTF project trying to determine what factors may be responsible for increasing moose mortality in northeastern MN. [ML 2010: Underway]**

mately \$154 million in appropriations in various stages of their timelines, 109 of which reached completion in 2011-12, including projects begun in 2005 (1), 2006 (1), 2008 (19), 2009 (55), and 2010 (33).

- Visited several natural resources sites in the Twin Cities metro area.
- Heard from numerous natural resources experts from both the public and private sector.
- Continued support for activities protecting and enhancing Minnesota's natural resources and providing benefit over an extended period of time.

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## LCCMR Process

The LCCMR makes funding recommendations to the MN legislature for special environment and natural resources projects, primarily from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These recommendations are the product of a competitive, multi-step proposal and selection process.

Each funding cycle a Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued for funding priorities determined by the Commission based on its 6-year strategic plan and ongoing information gathering activities, including expert-led issue seminars and visits to natural resource sites around the state.

The RFP is open to everyone with innovative ideas for environment

and natural resources projects that could provide multiple ecological and other public benefits to Minnesota.

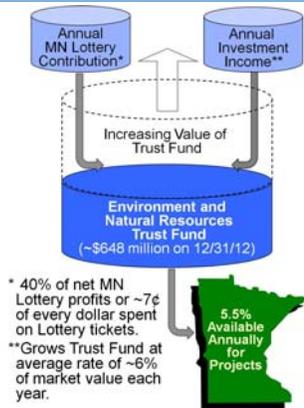
The LCCMR reviews, evaluates, and ranks all proposals submitted. A selection of the highest ranked proposals are invited to present before the LCCMR. Finally, based on the total dollars available, a subset of the proposals are chosen to recommend to the legislature for funding.

The funding recommendations go before the MN House and Senate in the form of a bill, and upon passage the bill goes to the Governor to be signed into law. Funding becomes available to projects beginning July 1 of the next fiscal year.

The LCCMR has oversight over projects funded. Projects must have a work plan approved, provide ongoing project updates, and deliver a final report upon project completion.

For the recommendations to the 2013 Legislature, a total of 169 proposals requesting a combined \$155 million were received in response to the 2012-13 RFP and, from those, a total of 46 proposals were recommended for some portion of the \$38.6 million being recommended.

The LCCMR is made up of 17 members: 5 Senators, 5 Representatives, 5 citizens appointed by the governor, 1 citizen appointed by the House, and 1 citizen appointed by the Senate.



## About MN's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) is a permanent fund in the state treasury established in the Minnesota Constitution through voter approval in 1988.

It holds assets that can 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 ENRTF was created to provide a long-term, consistent, and stable source of funding for innovative activities directed at protecting and enhancing Minnesota's environment and natural resources.

The money in the ENRTF originates from a combination of contributions and investment

income. Forty percent of the net proceeds from the Minnesota State Lottery, or ~7 cents of every dollar spent playing the lottery, are contributed to the ENRTF each year. Once deposited, contributions become part of the principal balance and are invested in a combination of stocks and bonds to further grow the fund.

## ML 2013: Project Recommendations (to begin July 1, 2013)

Approximately \$38.2 million is being recommended to fund 46 individual projects around the state to begin July 1, 2013.

*Natural Resource Inventory, Monitoring, Mapping, and Planning:* ~\$8.4 million to obtain critical information and guide relevant decisions and efforts, including acceleration of the Biological Survey, County Geologic Atlas, Wetlands Inventory, and springshed mapping; expanded monitoring and management of state-owned lands; surveying, monitoring, and modeling of MN lakes, including Lake Superior; and detection and monitoring of invasive species.

*Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat Acquisition:* ~\$2.9 million for acquisition of an estimated 912 acres of habitat in a combination

of fee title (130 acres) and conservation easements (782 acres).

*Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Improvement:* ~\$2.3 million for restoration, enhancement, and improvement activities on ~9,289 acres and 6 miles of shoreline.

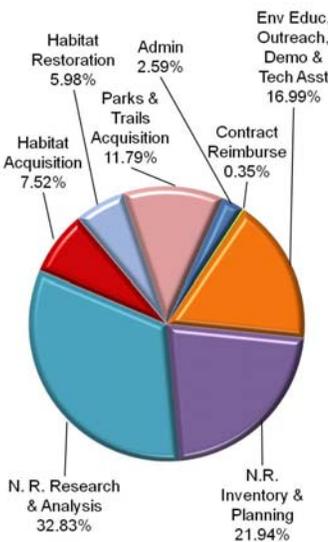
*Parks and Trails Acquisition:* ~\$4.5 million for acquisition of ~287 acres in state parks, state trails, a metropolitan park, and the U of MN Landscape Arboretum.

*Natural Resource Research and Analysis:* ~\$12.5 million to advance our knowledge and provide strategies and recommendations for addressing issues relating to invasive species, water quality and conservation, bioremediation, wastewater treatment, renewable energy,

forestry, species protection, and conservation grazing.

*Environmental Education, Outreach, Demonstration, and Technical Assistance:* ~\$6.5 million for efforts that will educate Minnesotans on topics including ecology, plants and wildlife, land protection, and outdoor recreation; demonstrate options for alternative landscape practices; and provide training and technical assistance on invasive species prevention, detection, and control and natural resource conservation and management tools, practices, and options.

*Other:* ~\$1.1 million for FY 2014-2015 LCCMR administration (\$990,000) and contract agreement reimbursement services for projects by non-state entities (\$135,000).



Capture of a loon to fit with GPS collar and take measurements and biological samples - part of an ENRTF project that is trying to determine if the state's loons or white pelicans have been impacted by the 2010 Gulf oil spill. [ML 2011: Underway]

## ML 2011-2012: Projects Funded & Underway

(MN Laws 2011, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2; MN Laws 2012, Chp. 264, Art. 4, Sec. 3)

Approximately \$51.4 million was appropriated to fund 75 individual projects around the state.

*Natural Resource Inventory, Monitoring, Mapping, and Planning:* ~\$15.6 million to obtain critical information and guide relevant decisions and efforts, including acceleration of Biological Survey; County Geologic Atlas; Statewide Soil Survey; Statewide Wetlands Inventory; springshed mapping; local conservation planning; planning and implementation of improved management for state-owned lands, invasive species, and wildlife disease; and recom-

mended guidelines for prairie management.

*Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat Acquisition:* ~\$11.6 million for acquisition of an estimated 3,782 acres of habitat in a combination of fee title (1,295 acres) and conservation easements (2,487 acres), including donated easements.

*Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Improvement:* ~\$2.4 million for restoration, enhancement, and improvement activities on ~4,898 acres and 4.4 miles of shoreline.

*Parks and Trails Acquisition:*

~\$6.4 million for acquisition of ~1,010 acres in state and regional parks and trails.

*Parks and Trails Operations and Improvements:* ~\$4.9 million for operations and infrastructure improvements in state parks and recreation areas and regional parks and trails.

*Natural Resource Research and Analysis:* ~\$5.3 million to advance our knowledge and provide strategies and recommendations for addressing issues relating to species protection, ecosystem conservation, bio-energy, water quality and conservation, and invasive species.

## ML 2011: Projects Funded & Underway—Continued

*Environmental Education, Outreach, Demonstration, and Technical Assistance:* ~\$4.1 million for efforts that will educate Minnesotans on topics including renewable energy and energy conservation, water qual-

ity and conservation, environmental science and ecology, and outdoor recreation; demonstrate options for energy efficiency; and provide training and technical assistance on renewable energy and natural resource con-

servation and management.

*Other:* ~\$1.1 million for FY 2012-2013 LCCMR administration (\$946,000) and DNR contract management of projects by non-state entities (\$175,000).

*The LCCMR follows a mission of providing long-term secure support for activities whose benefits to Minnesota's environment and natural resources are realized only over an extended period of time.*

## Projects Completed: January 1, 2011—December 31, 2012

Between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2012, a total of 109 projects funded by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund through the LCCMR process reached completion. This includes projects begun in 2005 (1), 2006 (1), 2008 (19), 2009 (55), and 2010 (33).

Major accomplishments resulting from the projects completed include:

- Foundational natural resource data acquired pertaining to conservation planning, shoreline protection, groundwater, watersheds, wetlands, native prairies, infrastructure planning, conservation easements,

soils, alternative landscape practices, invasive species, and ecology and species distribution around the state.

- Expansion of parks, trails, and other outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the state, including nearly 300 acres added to state and regional parks and over 75 total miles of state and regional trails added or improved.
- Protection of approximately 4,780 acres of land and habitat through fee title (1,561 acres) and conservation easement (3,220 acres) acquisition.
- Habitat restoration activities performed on approximately 10,400 acres.
- Research and analysis furthering goals for biofuels, environmental planning, wildlife conservation, ballast water treatment, invasive species control, Lake Superior, sustainable farming practices, emerging water contaminants, and understanding and planning for climate change.
- Education, outreach, and technical assistance efforts on sustainable natural resource uses and practices in the areas of renewable energy and energy conservation, alternative landscape practices, invasive species, conservation programs, outdoor recreation, and water resources.



Aerial view of the new La Salle Lake State Recreation Area in Hubbard County created in part with ENRTF funding in 2011. La Salle is the state's second deepest lake at 213 feet. [ML 2011: Complete]

## Highlights of Projects Completed or Underway: 2011-2012

### Carp Control Research & Aquatic Invasive Species Cooperative Research Center

[ML 2008: Complete; ML 2009, ML 2012: Underway]: Ongoing research into carp control methods and the launch of a new first-of-its-kind aquatic invasive species (AIS) research center at the U of MN to develop new tools to measure, control, and solve AIS problems statewide.

**Ballast Water Technologies** [ML 2009: Complete; ML 2011: Underway]: Various efforts to implement better monitoring and treatment of ballast water used in Great Lakes ships—the single greatest source of non-native and aquatic invasive species in MN.

**MN Biological Survey** [ML 2009: Complete; ML 2011: Underway]: Ongoing, county-by-county effort to identify significant natural areas and collect and interpret data on the distribution and ecology of plants and animals throughout MN. ML 2009 funded and ML 2011 is funding progress on the remaining 6 counties that have not been completed.

**Science and Innovation from Soudan Underground Mine State Park** [ML 2010: Underway]: Research into unique microorganisms discovered a 1/2 mile underground in a former iron mine turned State Park that are showing promise for applications in biocontrol of white nose bat syndrome, bioenergy, and bioremediation.

**Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA)** [ML 2009: Complete; ML 2010, ML 2011: Underway]: Ongoing efforts preserving MN's biodiversity and most unique natural features and resources for scientific study, public education, and outdoor recreation through land protection and restoration. ML 2009 funds established one new SNA and added acres to two others for a total of 106 acres while restoring 563 acres at 27 SNAs around the state.

**Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story** [ML 2008: Complete]: PBS documentary examining the Mississippi River watershed in relation to competing interests for food, fuel, and

environment. The film won three Emmys and has since been seen around the state and country.

**MN's Declining Moose Populations** [ML 2010, ML 2011: Underway]: Research into declining moose populations in NE MN to determine what is responsible for the decline and what can be done to slow or prevent it.

**MN Soil Survey Completion** [ML 2009: Complete; ML 2011: Underway]: County-by-county analysis and mapping of the state's soils providing critical data for protecting and managing MN habitat, wetlands, and water resources. ML 2009 funded and ML 2011 is funding the completion of the survey in the last five counties for the entire state.

**State Parks and Trails Acquisition** [ML 2009: Complete; ML 2010, ML 2011: underway]: Ongoing efforts expanding statewide outdoor recreational opportunities. ML 2009 funded expansion of 3 parks and 2 trails. ML 2010 and 2011 are funding expansion of 6 parks and 1 trail.



Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures — ENRTF funded environmental education and recreation program that provides disadvantaged urban youth and families with hands-on educational and recreational experiences on the Mississippi River. [ML 2010: underway]



New 15-acre Morton Outcrops Scientific and Natural Area established with ENRTF funds near Morton, MN in Renville County. [ML 2009: Complete]



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## About LCCMR

The LCCMR is made up of 17 members (5 Senators, 5 Representatives, 5 citizens appointed by governor, 1 citizen appointed by House, and 1 citizen appointed by Senate). The function of the LCCMR is to make funding recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature for special environment and natural resource projects, primarily from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These projects help maintain and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources. The LCCMR developed from a program initiated in 1963. Since 1963, over \$735 million has been appropriated to more than 1,700 projects recommended by the Commission to protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources.

### Commission Members Serving During 2011-2012

Alfred Berner—Appointed by the Governor

Jeff Broberg (Co-Vice Chair)—Appointed by the House

Tom Cook—Appointed by the Governor

Sen. Al DeKruif

Sen. Gary Dahms [09/11—12/12]

Rep. David Dill

Sen. Kari Dziedzic [06/12—12/12]

Rep. Tom Hackbarth (Co-Chair)

Nancy Gibson (Co-Chair)—Appointed by the Governor

John Herman—Appointed by the Senate

Sen. Linda Higgins (Co-Vice Chair) [01/11—06/12]

Sen Bill Ingebrigtsen [01/11—09/11]

Rep. Denny McNamara [01/11—05/12]

Norman Moody—Appointed by the Governor

Sen. Gen Olson (Co-Chair)

Rep. Tom Rukavina

Rep. Ron Shimanski

Sen. Rod Skoe (Co-Vice Chair)

Rep. Paul Torkelson [05/12—12/12]

Elizabeth Wilkens—Appointed by the Governor

## Information Gathering: Jan 1, 2011—Dec 31, 2012



In-stream testing of a sonic and air bubble based fish barrier for deterring carp at the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory; the barrier was developed with ENRTF funding—LCCMR site visit, 09/27/11 [ML 2009: Underway]

In 2011-12, the LCCMR engaged in several activities that informed its priorities for the projects it recommended for funding to the 2013 MN Legislature.

Natural resources sites in the Twin Cities Metro Area were visited including:

- A 2011 visit to the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory to view the Outdoor Stream Lab and the in-stream testing of a sonic bubble barrier developed with

ENRTF funding to address the movement of carp.

- A 2011 visit to the southwest metro area to examine issues pertaining to aquatic invasive species management; metropolitan parks; wetland, shoreland, and prairie restoration; land acquisition; scientific and natural areas; groundwater-surface water interactions; county geological atlases; and more.

In addition to the presentations heard on site visits and 65 interactive presentations the LCCMR chose to hear from project proposers responding to the RFPs during this period, the LCCMR also heard several presentations and expert-led issue seminars on topics including:

- Minnesota air quality
- Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species

- Minnesota climate data and implications
- Minnesota drainage law
- Ballast water treatment
- Lake and stream water quality
- Updates from current projects



Members of LCCMR hearing from DNR staff at Seminary Fen Scientific and Natural Area near Chaska in Carver County, MN—LCCMR site visit, 09/28/11



New ENRTF-funded 103-acre addition to the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the St. Lawrence Unit near Jordan, MN in Scott County. [ML 2010: Complete]

## 2013-2014 Request for Proposal (RFP)

The LCCMR expects to issue its 2013-2014 Request for Proposal (RFP) for funding in Feb/March 2013.

This is for funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund beginning July 1, 2014.

For FY 2014, approximately \$29.5 million is expected to remain available for project recommendations to the 2014 MN Legislature.

The RFP will be available at <http://www.lccmr.leg.mn>.