

B. Request for Proposal (RFP)

- **Funding Priorities adopted December 7, 2011 for FY2014**
- **Application Process**

The LCCMR identifies funding priorities based on its Six Year Strategic Plan and publishes an Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Request for Proposals (RFP). A summary of the 2012-2013 RFP (for FY 2014) funding priorities, project criteria, and background information is included here.

2012-2013 RFP Funding Priorities (for FY 2014)

Projects were sought that provide multiple ecological and other public benefits, are consistent with the LCCMR Six-Year Strategic Plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/StrategicPlan/2009/LCCMR_Strategic_Plan.pdf), and address at least one of the adopted funding priorities detailed below. Funding priorities were directly from Minnesota Statute 116P.08, Subd. 1, which pertains to allowable expenditures for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Projects should be innovative and must accelerate or supplement, not supplant, existing efforts.

Proposals must address one of the six funding priorities detailed below; proposals may respond to more than one priority.

1. The Reinvest in Minnesota program as provided in M.S. 84.95, Subd. 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.

NOTE: Per M.S. 116P.02, Subd. 5: "Natural resources' includes the outdoor recreation system under section 86A.04 [i.e., state recreation system] and regional recreation open space systems as defined under section 473.351, subdivision 1 [i.e., metropolitan regional park system]."

UPDATE (02/15/12): On February 10, 2012, the LCCMR took action to provide additional guidance to applicants seeking funds through the RFP. In considering proposals received in response to the RFP and making funding recommendations to the 2013 legislature, the LCCMR intends to place a strong emphasis on invasive species, particularly Asian carp species and other aquatic invasive species. LCCMR will allocate a significant portion of the funds available for efforts that will effectively assist in the prevention, reduction, or control of invasive species within the state. This additional guidance does not change the funding priorities previously listed in the RFP issued in December and is only intended to inform potential proposers about one area of planned emphasis.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA for 2012-2013 RFP

Project Requirements

- Expenditures must strictly adhere to Article XI, Section 14 of the Minnesota Constitution and M.S. 116P.08, the laws governing the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (pg. 12).
- Funds requested are generally expected to be expended and activities completed within 36 months or less. If additional time is needed, please explain in the "Timeline Requirements" section (section III-B) of the main proposal.
- Fee-title and conservation easement acquisition projects have the following additional requirements:
 1. First priority must be given to lands with high quality natural resources that provide multiple benefits and that provide natural buffers to water resources;
 2. Targeted lands must be identified in an adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plan;
 3. Conservation easements must be perpetual and include stewardship provisions to perpetually monitor and enforce the conditions of the conservation easements;
 4. Explanation must be provided for how a restoration/enhancement or management plan for the site will be developed, implemented, and funded (through this funding request or other funds);
 5. A list must be provided that identifies proposed acquisitions by parcel name; acquisition type (fee-title or conservation easement); county; ecological significance; estimated number of acres and, if applicable, shoreline miles; and proposed title/easement holder. A template is available at www.lccmr.leg.mn.
- Restoration projects should refer to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" - http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/native_vegetation/seeding_guidelines.pdf - for guidance.
- All projects are subject to additional requirements including accessibility, data availability, land acquisition requirements, energy conservation and sustainability guidelines, and recyclable material requirements. Information located at www.lccmr.leg.mn titled "Additional Proposal Requirements".

Evaluation Criteria

All Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund proposals should strive to maximize efficiency and return on investment for the proposed expenditures. Additionally the following criteria, as applicable, will be considered in evaluating proposals (additional explanation of evaluation criteria is available at www.lccmr.leg.mn titled "Additional Explanation of Evaluation Criteria"):

1. **FUNDING PRIORITIES:** Responds to RFP funding priorities and LCCMR Six-Year Strategic Plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund articulated and adopted by the LCCMR.
2. **MULTIPLE BENEFITS:** Delivers multiple benefits to Minnesota's environment and natural resources.
3. **OUTCOMES:** Identifies clear objectives likely to result in measurable, demonstrated, and meaningful outcomes.
4. **KNOWLEDGE BASE:** Contributes to the knowledge base or disseminates information that will benefit other related efforts.
5. **EXTENT OF IMPACTS:** Results in broad, long-term impacts of statewide or regional significance.
6. **INNOVATION:** Employs or demonstrates innovative approaches to more effectively and efficiently solve specific environment and natural resources issues.
7. **SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL BASIS:** Reflects current scientific and technical knowledge, standards, and best practices.
8. **URGENCY:** Addresses an issue for which immediate future action is necessary and urgent to avoid undesirable consequences.
9. **CAPACITY AND READINESS:** Demonstrates capacity and readiness for efforts to be managed and completed in a timely, accountable, and effective manner.
10. **LEVERAGE:** Leverages collaborative partnerships and additional efforts, resources, and non-state funds.
11. **RESULTING ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT:** Employs a significant number of additional or new employees or students in natural resources jobs that are direct to the funding request.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION REQUESTED

SUBMIT PROPOSAL:

WEB-BASED SUBMISSION

Go to: www.lccmr.leg.mn

Save a copy of your submission for your records. **All submitted proposals and budgets will be posted on the web upon receipt for the public to view.**

If unable to use the web-based proposal submit form, please contact LCCMR staff.

ELIGIBILITY

The spirit and intent of the LCCMR is to provide access to EVERYONE who has innovative ideas for environment and natural resource projects that could provide multiple ecological and other public benefits to Minnesota, are consistent with the LCCMR's Six-Year Strategic Plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

(http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/documents/strategic_plan/2009/lccmr_strategic_plan.pdf), and address the adopted funding priorities described in this RFP.

LCCMR staff are available to assist in proposal development. Lobbying or professional grant-writing experience is not necessary for success.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES:

For a complete list of eligible and non-eligible expenses see

http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/pm_info/2013/2013_eligible_ineligible_costs.pdf.

PROPOSAL ASSISTANCE:

LCCMR staff are available to assist proposers, answer questions, or review and provide feedback on drafts of proposals. **Proposers are encouraged to submit proposal drafts to help ensure proposals are focused, clear, and contain all necessary information.** Drafts must be received by Monday, April 2, 2012, to allow adequate time for staff review. Early submission of drafts is recommended to receive the most detailed guidance.

If you have questions or would like proposal assistance, contact LCCMR staff:

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