M.L. 2025 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
LCCMR Recommendations for FY 2026

As of July 31, 2024, the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) has selected 124 projects totaling $103,326,000 to recommend to the 2025 Minnesota Legislature for funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). In response to LCCMR's 2025 Request for Proposal (RFP), 214 proposals requesting a total of approximately $183 million were received and considered through a competitive, multi-stage evaluation. The following recommendations range from funding the full proposal and dollar amount requested to partial funding for specific proposal elements.

Topic Area	$ Recommended	Percentage of Total Recommendation
Subd. 03 Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information 36 Recommendations	$22,084,000	21.37%
Subd. 04 Water Resources 23 Recommendations	$11,812,000	11.43%
Subd. 05 Environmental Education 19 Recommendations	$11,965,000	11.58%
Subd. 06 Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species 2 Recommendations	$6,713,000	6.50%
Subd. 07 Air Quality, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy 7 Recommendations	$11,744,000	11.37%
Subd. 08 Methods to Protect or Restore Land, Water, and Habitat 19 Recommendations	$12,188,000	11.80%
Subd. 09 Land Acquisition, Habitat, and Recreation 14 Recommendations	$19,553,000	18.92%
Subd. 10 Administration, Emerging Issues, and Contract Agreement Reimbursement 4 Recommendations	$7,267,000	7.03%
Total Recommendations	**$103,326,000**	**100.00%**

Fund Source	$ Amount
FY 2026 - Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)	**$103,326,000**
Total $	**$103,326,000**

Subd.	Proposal ID	Title	LCCMR Total Recommended Amount (FY26)	30 Word Summary	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
Subd. 03 Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information (36 Recommendations = $22,084,000)							
03a	2025-009	Fond du Lac Deer Study - Phase 1	$1,441,000	Deer are important to the FDL Band and elk reestablishment could alter deer population dynamics. Baseline data will better inform future deer management by the RMD and Minnesota DNR.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Bemidji State University	Jacob Haus	NE
03b	2025-046	Are All Walleye Created Equal? Probably Not.	$298,000	Given that walleye are vulnerable to climate change, we will investigate Minnesota walleye strain physiology and disease responses to warming water, and build a tool to guide adaptive management strategies.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Nicholas Phelps	Statewide
03c	2025-053	Deer Survival Within Minnesota's Densest Wolf Population	$809,000	Deer are highly valued by Minnesotans, especially in the Northwoods. We'll assess causes of deer survival and habitat needs amidst high wolf density to inform the deer/wolf management debate.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Joseph Bump	Central, NE, NW
03d	2025-063	Evaluating Anticoagulant Rodenticide Exposure in Minnesota's Carnivores	$247,000	We will determine anticoagulant rodenticide exposure rates and concentrations in bobcats and fishers, evaluate factors influencing exposure risk, and evaluate negative effects of rodenticide exposure on carnivore health.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	Michael Joyce	Statewide
03e	2025-070	Digitizing the Science Museum of Minnesota's Mollusk Specimens	$386,000	This project will make the Minnesota mollusk specimens in our collection available for research and education by organizing all relevant specimens and digitizing their data.	Science Museum of Minnesota	Catherine Early	Statewide
03f	2025-075	Integrating Wildlife Objectives in Long-Term Forest Management Planning	$316,000	Strategic forest planning helps identify how and when management activities should be scheduled. We integrate wildlife objectives with timber production into the forest planning process to create more sustainable forests.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Irene De Pellegrin Llorente	Statewide
03g	2025-092	Surveying Minnesota's Secretive Marsh Birds	$413,000	Audubon will conduct a statewide secretive marsh bird survey to provide state and federal agencies with an assessment of marsh bird population status and useful information on wetland habitat health.	Audubon Minnesota	Dale Gentry	Statewide
03h	2025-093	Improving Conservation Outcomes for Imperiled Wood Turtles	$242,000	We will help to restore imperiled wood turtles by leveraging our strengths in animal care, veterinary sciences, and field conservation, to bolster populations and inform conservation actions.	Minnesota Zoological Garden	Tricia Markle	Statewide
03i	2025-111	Maximizing the Impact of Wildlife Movement Data	$216,000	We will create a centralized database of movement data from LCCMR-funded studies and develop tools for visualizing movement of species through their environments with biologists working to conserve Minnesota wildlife.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	John Fieberg	Statewide
03j	2025-113	Expanding the Statewide Motus Wildlife Tracking Network	$234,000	We will expand the statewide Motus wildlife tracking system network to fill in critical gaps, guiding the conservation of imperiled grassland and boreal migratory birds, their habitats, and other wildlife.	Minnesota Zoological Garden	Mary Mallinger	Statewide
03k	2025-115	Updating and Sharing Information on Minnesota's Tick Biodiversity	$186,000	This project will update information on the biodiversity and distribution of ticks in Minnesota, and create a publicly accessible GIS dashboard integrating these data with citizen science-sourced tick records.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Benjamin Cull	Statewide
03l	2025-123	Small-Mammals and Hunter Participation: Expanded Offal Wildlife Watching	$563,000	This project creates a comprehensive picture of the offal community from scavengers and disease to hunters themselves, through hunter participation and experiments.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Joseph Bump	Statewide
03m	2025-127	Green Heron as an Indicator of Wetland-Dependent Species	$424,000	Green Herons have declined across much of their range. Information on their annual cycle habitat use and migratory movements is needed to understand and address conservation concerns for wetland-dependent birds.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Elena West	Statewide
03n	2025-130	Visualizing Minnesota's Natural Resources with CT-Scanning	$955,000	This project will provide a new and innovative way to obtain and disseminate internal morphology data from the Bell Museum's organismal collections.	U of MN, Bell Museum of Natural History	Kassandra Ford	Statewide

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03o	2025-151	Mapping Human-Carnivore Conflicts in Human-Dominated Landscapes	$563,000	We will evaluate bear, bobcat, and coyote habitat use, activity, and diet in Duluth and surrounding areas to map hotspots for human-carnivore conflicts and fill knowledge gaps to reduce conflicts.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	Michael Joyce	NE, NW
03p	2025-160	Geologic Atlases for Water Resource Management	$1,260,000	Geologic atlases provide maps/databases essential for improved management of ground and surface water. This proposal will complete current projects and start new projects to equal about 4 complete atlases.	U of MN, MN Geological Survey	Barbara Lusardi	Statewide
03q	2025-178	Leveraging Statewide Datasets for Native Rough Fish	$250,000	To support future conservation and research efforts and enhance knowledge of Minnesota's native rough fish, we propose species distribution models to predict their presence and abundance across Minnesota streams.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Grant Vagle	Statewide
03r	2025-180	The Impacts of Climate Change on Northeastern Minnesota	$772,000	We will aggregate research, data, and other information regarding the impacts of climate change on the habitat and wildlife of northeastern Minnesota into a publicly available, web-based database.	Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness	Chris Knopf	NE
03s	2025-188	Health and Disease Monitoring in Minnesota Wildlife	$750,000	The project will enhance a. knowledge of wildlife health and disease and b. diagnostic capacity by significantly increasing the number of postmortem examinations of free-ranging animals and training wildlife pathologists.	U of MN, Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory	Arno Wuenschmann	Statewide
03t	2025-215	Affordable Statewide Tracking of Forestry Fragmentation and Degradation	$331,000	To support forest management, the project provides interactive real-time business-ready information about forest fragmentation and degradation due to human activities and natural disasters by merging aircraft and satellite LiDAR data.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Rui Cheng	Statewide
03u	2025-217	Safeguarding Bees While Monitoring Pollinators and Nesting Habitats	$590,000	We will pioneer low-mortality methods for tracking bee populations and nesting materials, partnering with community science. Empowering Minnesotans to protect bees will help conserve these vital pollinators for future generations.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	Colleen Satyshur	Statewide
03v	2025-222	Expanding the Application of Minnesota's Wetland Monitoring Data	$312,000	We will use recurring aerial photographs, collected 2006 to present, to produce new information and tools that enhance statewide grassland and wetland monitoring.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Amy Kendig	Statewide
03w	2025-239	Enhancing the Value of Minnesota Public Grasslands	$390,000	Evaluate prescribed fire, brush mowing and targeted conservation grazing to develop ready-to-use management strategies for public lands managers to mitigate woody species encroachment in public grasslands.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Eric Mousel	Statewide
03x	2025-241	Foundational Precision Agriculture Data to Reduce Environmental Impacts	$1,255,000	Foundational data from sentinel farms, BMPs, and training will be developed to support adoption of precision agricultural technologies. These optimize fertilizer and chemical input use, improving water and air quality.	U of MN, WCROC	Joel Tallaksen	Statewide
03y	2025-244	Continued Aggregate Resource Mapping	$621,000	DNR aggregate resource datasets provide vital information to local governments to support informed land-use decisions and resource conservation. This proposal will complete and start projects to equal about 4-6 counties.	MN DNR, Lands and Minerals Division	Heather Arends	Statewide
03z	2025-247	Advancing Collaborative Wild Rice Monitoring Program Technologies	$900,000	Collaborate with tribal and Non Government Organizations in advancing wild rice monitoring tools (aerial imagery and remote sensing) to improve statewide coverage maps, and conduct trend analysis of distribution.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Josh Knopik	Statewide
03aa	2025-250	Conserving Natural Resources by Advancing Forever Green Agriculture	$2,146,000	The Forever Green Initiative will fund research projects focused on protecting water, wildlife, soil, the climate, and other natural resources by developing new perennial and winter-annual crops.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Mitchell Hunter	Statewide

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03bb	2025-260	Minnesota's Priority Native Rough Fish: Gars and Bowfin	$568,000	This study will directly address priority native rough fish knowledge gaps regarding population dynamics and ecology as identified by MNDNR, and directed by the MN legislature.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Solomon David	Statewide
03cc	2025-280	Understanding to Improve Minnesota's Future Lake Water Quality	$595,000	Use decade-long comprehensive real-world data to understand lake-specific drivers of water quality and high-resolution climate models to project the effects of future warming on HABs across Minnesota.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Leif Olmanson	Statewide
03dd	2025-294	Operationalizing State Zooplankton Data to Support Lake Health	$423,000	We will operationalize valuable statewide monitoring data to understand how zooplankton support Minnesota fisheries and water quality. Results will streamline data collection, management, and preservation, and inform on lake health.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Jake Walsh	Statewide
03ee	2025-295	Trialing Climate-Ready Woodland Trees in Urban Areas	$255,000	This project studies climate-adaptive tree species performance across metropolitan areas of Minnesota. This project will recruit volunteers to collect data and will assess volunteers' risk tolerance of climate-adaptive tree species.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Alicia Coleman	Statewide
03ff	2025-304	Superior Shores: Protecting Our Great Lakes Coastal Habitats	$675,000	The "Superior Shores" project aims to map, monitor, and conserve Lake Superior's rock pools, enhancing our North Shore's ecosystem health through scientific research, public engagement, and targeted conservation strategies.	Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station	Hailey Sauer	Statewide
03gg	2025-309	Recruitment and Fecundity of Minnesota Moose	$2,007,000	Through a co-stewardship research project, state and tribal biologists will work collaboratively to estimate survival and fecundity of yearling and 2-year-old moose in northeast Minnesota to inform future management efforts.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Michelle Carstensen	Statewide
03hh	2025-311	Fighting Insect Decline: Minnesota Bumblebees to the Rescue	$249,000	We propose to use Minnesota native bumblebees as model organisms to gauge the effects of human activity on the states' ecosystems and understand the drivers of the global insect decline.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Cristian Beza Beza	Statewide
03ii	2025-312	Trace Metals in Municipal Yard Waste and Compost	$120,000	The project will assess trace metal contamination of compost feedstocks (residential yard waste) and finished compost at municipal yard waste recycling programs in the Twin Cities metro area.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Lucy Rose	Metro
03jj	2025-323	Chronic Wasting Disease Prions in Minnesota Waters	$322,000	Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) environmental detection is combined with watershed knowledge to predict and evaluate how far and how fast CWD might move through watersheds and serve as a source.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Diana Karwan	Statewide
		SubTotal	**$22,084,000**				
Subd. 04 Water Resources (23 Recommendations = $11,812,000)							
04a	2025-010	Enhancing Our Resources-Rural Health and Drinking Water	$994,000	Arsenic in Southern Minnesota drinking water: Linking health risk reduction (education) with well water testing, geology, and arsenic health risks to private well owners through family medicine and hydrology.	Freshwater Society	Jeffrey Broberg	Statewide
04b	2025-025	Restoration and Outreach for Minnesota's Native Mussels	$1,258,000	We will improve the conservation of native mussels by rearing and releasing imperiled species, monitoring restored populations, and inspiring public action, thereby improving the health of aquatic ecosystems in Minnesota.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Kathryn Holcomb	Statewide
04c	2025-059	Pristine to Green: Toxic Blooms Threaten Northern Lakes	$1,362,000	We will uncover drivers beyond watershed nutrient inputs that contribute to the formation of nuisance and toxic algal blooms in relatively pristine and protected lakes across Minnesota.	Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station	Lienne Sethna	Central, Metro, NE, NW
04d	2025-064	Training Lake Communities to Track Chloride and Algae	$274,000	Minnesota Sea Grant and partners will coordinate a network of community-based volunteers to track chloride and harmful algal blooms in lakes to understand these emerging environmental and public health problems.	U of MN, Duluth - Sea Grant	Hilarie Sorensen	Statewide

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04e	2025-077	Clean Sweep Solution to Nonpoint Source Pollution	$386,000	This project will result in long-term reduction of nonpoint source pollution in Minnesota's water resources by identifying opportunities to increase targeted street sweeping practices and removing barriers to implementation.	U of MN, Water Resources Center	Maggie Karschnia	Statewide
04f	2025-084	Cyanotoxins in Minnesota Lakes: The Role of Sunlight	$220,000	The degradation of cyanobacterial toxins by sunlight will be quantified to understand how increasing frequency of cyanobacterial (harmful algal) blooms and changing environmental conditions influence toxin persistence in natural waters.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	William Arnold	Statewide
04g	2025-087	Enhancing Degradation of Emerging Contaminants via Microbial Starvation	$390,000	Our research will provide concrete data to inexpensively improve the design of wastewater systems to biodegrade mixtures of pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and other contaminants of emerging concern, protecting our water resources.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	Paige Novak	Statewide
04h	2025-107	Soil Health Management for Water Storage	$454,000	We will create guidance for watershed managers using in-field and near-riparian soil health practices to reduce streamflow. We will complete essential research and modeling connecting soil management to watershed impacts.	U of MN, Water Resources Center	Marcelle Lewandowski	Statewide
04i	2025-110	Predicting Contaminant Movement in Minnesota's Fractured Aquifers	$650,000	We develop and demonstrate an easy-to-use software program that predicts the fate and movement of contaminants such as PFAS, chloride, nitrate, and pathogens in Minnesota's fractured aquifers.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	Peter Kang	Statewide
04j	2025-112	Documentation and Toxicity of Microplastics in Urban Ecosystems	$300,000	Researching how land use drives differences in the suites of microplastics and associated contaminants of concern found in ponds and the subsequent transfer of those pollutants into wildlife.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	Lea Pollack	Statewide
04k	2025-136	Terminating PFAS-Type Pesticides via Enzyme Cocktails	$297,000	This project will examine selected enzymes and cocktails for biodegradation of pesticide-type PFAS, and will design a biofilter for effective elimination of pesticide PFAS from water samples collected near farmlands.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Hua Zhao	Statewide
04l	2025-144	Addressing 21st Century Challenges for the St. Croix	$243,000	A St. Croix River watershed model will be developed to identify potential hydrologic and water quality impacts to the Lower St. Croix River over the next 75 years.	Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station	Jason Ulrich	Central, Metro
04m	2025-150	Impact of Statewide Conservation Practices on Stream Biodiversity	$300,000	Evaluate the effects of wetlands and riparian buffers on stream and river biodiversity and biological condition statewide, to inform stream management decisions.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	Christine Dolph	Statewide
04n	2025-169	Modeling the Future Mississippi River Gorge	$427,000	A reduced-scale physical model of Mississippi River Pool 1 and Lock & Dam 1 will be constructed to study water flow and sediment movement under various pool management strategies.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	Jeffrey Marr	Metro
04o	2025-181	Highly Efficient Nutrient Removal Technology for Agricultural Drainage	$453,000	This project will apply our novel highly efficient nutrient removal technology for the treatment of agricultural drainage in the field.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	Satoshi Ishii	Statewide
04p	2025-191	Citizen Scientists Capture Microplastic Pollution Around State	$419,000	This project would develop adaptable methodologies and leverage citizen scientists to survey microplastic pollution throughout the state to allow for data-driven risk management decisions and solutions.	U of MN, Duluth	Melissa Maurer-Jones	Statewide
04q	2025-193	Healthy Native Prairie Microbiomes for Cleaner Water	$468,000	We will characterize and identify important microbes of the prairie microbiome that provide fixed-nitrogen through natural processes, and apply these to replace industrial fertilizers and prevent water contamination from nitrates.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Brett Barney	Statewide
04r	2025-211	Wastewater Chloride Reduction through Industrial Source Reduction Assistance	$247,000	Project seeks to reduce chloride effluent in communities with high chloride concentrations by providing technical assistance to identify cost-effective ways to reduce industrial/commercial chloride use.	U of MN, School of Public Health	Kelsey Klucas	Statewide
04s	2025-233	Pilot Water Budget Framework for Managing Water Withdrawals	$198,000	This project will develop a pilot water budget framework to identify sensitive areas in Minnesota where net water withdrawals have a significant impact on surface and ground water.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	John Nieber	Statewide

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04t	2025-258	Biofilm Mediated Destruction of PFAS in Groundwater	$1,336,000	Microbes control the attenuation and destruction of environmental contaminants. Biofilms form structures to facilitate biodegradation of contaminated groundwater. We design, develop, and grow biofilms capable of destroying PFAS.	Bay West LLC	Keith Rapp	Statewide
04u	2025-265	Impact of Microplastics on Wastewater Treatment in Minnesota	$506,000	Research will focus on the fate of microplastics in wastewater treatment plants in Minnesota with emphasis on the impacts of weathered plastics on biological nutrient and contaminant removal processes.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	Sebastian Behrens	Statewide
04v	2025-275	Portable Arsenic and Nitrate Detector for Well Water	$358,000	We propose to develop a tiny, cheap and easy-to-use detector for arsenic and nitrate. It can be used for well water to determine if the water is safe to drink.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	Tianhong Cui	Statewide
04w	2025-278	Recovering Salts from Highly Saline Wastewater	$272,000	We aim to develop a method of recovering useful salts from concentrated saline waste, increasing the economic sustainability of high water-recovery softening, sulfate removal, and industrial wastewater treatment.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	Natasha Wright	Statewide
		SubTotal	**$11,812,000**				
Subd. 05 Environmental Education (19 Recommendations = $11,965,000)							
05a	2025-012	Eagle's Nest: Where the World Becomes Your Classroom	$130,000	Creating an innovative approach to improve people's mental health and wellbeing while developing an appreciation for, conservation of, and preservation of nature!	Glacial Hills Elementary School	Jodee Lund	Central
05b	2025-016	Advancing Equity in Environmental Education	$700,000	Scholarships will provide inclusive Environmental Education for 7,900 Minnesota youth, addressing gaps in both classroom and outdoor learning. Aligned with state standards, the project supports ENRTF goals for equitable access.	Camp Fire Minnesota	Sara Lemke	Statewide
05c	2025-019	Teacher Field School - Phase 2: Increasing Impact	$712,000	Building on our successful LCCMR-funded, immersive, research-backed Teacher Field School, we expand the network of nature-based educators and pilot a train-the-trainer model to increase student learning and stewardship habits.	Hamline University	Patty Born	Statewide
05d	2025-034	Creating Future Leaders in Outdoor and Environmental Leadership	$330,000	Creating Future Outdoor & Environmental Leaders is a collaboration between K-12, higher education & outdoor organizations to increase environmental education, leadership, internship and career opportunities for underrepresented college and high school .	North Hennepin Community College	Ana Munro	Statewide
05e	2025-054	Engaging our Diverse Public in Environmental Stewardship - Phase 2	$249,000	Through outreach, education, internships and hands-on restoration activities, we will engage Minnesota’s diverse population in community-based conservation work and learning that strengthens connection to and restores our natural areas.	Great River Greening	Brennan Blue	Central, Metro, SE, SW
05f	2025-065	Outdoor School for Minnesota K-12 Students	$3,992,000	Minnesota's five accredited outdoor schools will provide life-changing, immersive multi-day outdoor learning experiences at their campuses to a minimum statewide distribution of 20,000 K-12 students, achieving ENRTF's goals.	Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center	Bryan Wood	Statewide
05g	2025-073	Statewide Environmental Education via PBS Outdoor Series	$415,000	Pioneer PBS will produce 26 new episodes of a statewide television series designed to inspire Minnesotans to connect with the outdoors and to restore and protect our valuable natural resources.	Pioneer PBS	Cindy Dorn	Statewide
05h	2025-103	Maajii-akii-gikenjigewin Conservation Crew Program	$678,000	The Maajii-akii-gikenjigewin Conservation Crew Program, developed in partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, provides environmental education and workforce development opportunities for Indigenous young adults.	Conservation Corps Minnesota	Brian Miller	NE
05i	2025-120	Reuse for the Future: Youth Education and Engagement	$225,000	To offer curriculum-based opportunities for students to learn about reuse and engage in hands-on activities to cultivate excitement for adopting reuse behaviors into their lives, now and in the future.	Reuse Minnesota	Emily Barker	Statewide

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05j	2025-125	River Bend Nature Center Outdoor Diversity Initiative	$247,000	River Bend Nature Center will lead a coalition of educational partners and culturally specific organizations to expand recognized environmental education curriculum into East African and Latinx communities in Southern Minnesota.	River Bend Nature Center	Brad Bourn	SE
05k	2025-134	Camp Parsons Mississippi Summer	$225,000	Phyllis Wheatley Community Center (PWCC) will provide environmental education to Minneapolis youth through Camp Parsons Mississippi Summer, a program that fosters connections to nature and encourages responsible stewardship.	Phyllis Wheatley Community Center	Katy Nelson	Metro
05l	2025-135	Adult Outdoor Education for Minnesota's Underrepresented Communities	$247,000	Baztec Fishing & Outdoors is committed to creating fishing and hunting opportunities for underserved and underrepresented communities in the great state of Minnesota.	Baztec Fishing & Outdoors	Ray Ruiz	Central, Metro
05m	2025-143	Minnesota's Roadmap for Sustainability and Climate Education	$491,000	The Roadmap for Sustainability and Climate Education will mobilize stakeholders and align Minnesota's education sector to the state's goals for equitable and accessible sustainability and climate education.	Climate Generation	Lindsey Kirkland	Statewide
05n	2025-149	ESTEP 2.0: Earth Science Teacher Education Project	$643,000	The Earth Science Teacher Education Project (ESTEP) will provide statewide professional development for Minnesota science teachers in Environmental and Earth Science content and pedagogy to strengthen environmental education in schools.	Minnesota Science Teachers Association	Lee Schmitt	Statewide
05o	2025-198	Engaging Latine Communities in Conservation and Preservation	$400,000	COPAL will utilize community-based partnerships and communications platforms to host outdoor events educating 15,550 Latine and BIPOC participants about the need to protect Minnesota's air, water, and natural resources.	Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Accion Latina (COPAL)	Carolina Ortiz	Statewide
05p	2025-212	Inclusive Wildlife Engagement in Classrooms and Communities	$712,000	DNR will provide educational, hands-on, outdoor experiences for diverse demographics; leading students and the public to conservation ethics and action through three programs: Bird by Bird, EPIC, and Community Science.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Jessica Ruthenberg	Statewide
05q	2025-254	Activating Youth and Family Environmental Stewardship through Raptors	$228,000	The Raptor Center proposes to provide holistic student and community engagement in environmental education, inspiring and activating both youth in under-resourced schools and their families through community events.	U of MN, Raptor Center	Lori Arent	Statewide
05r	2025-296	Moving Minnesota towards a Lead-Free Sporting Future	$250,000	We will use educational outreach to increase awareness of lead-free options for big game hunting, small game hunting, and fishing as a means of reducing wildlife exposure to lead.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Bemidji State University	Brian Hiller	Statewide
05s	2025-301	Science Centers Supporting Northern Boys and Girls Clubs	$1,091,000	This proposal will expand access to environmental science education in Northern Minnesota by leveraging partnerships between rural and urban organizations to deliver culturally relevant, hands-on learning experiences to underserved students.	Headwaters Science Center	Lee Furuseth	NW
		SubTotal	**$11,965,000**				
Subd. 06 Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species (2 Recommendations = $6,713,000)							
06a	2025-126	Aquatic Invasive Species: From Problems to Real-World Solutions	$5,771,000	MAISRC will launch 20-24 high-priority projects aimed at solving Minnesota's AIS problems using a rigorous, prioritized, and collaborative process. Results will be delivered to end-users through strategic communication and outreach.	U of MN, MAISRC	Cori Mattke	Statewide
06b	2025-196	Optimizing Non-Native Cattail Treatment Effectiveness in Prairie Wetlands	$942,000	We propose research to compare effectiveness of several invasive cattail treatment methods. Outcomes will include practical recommendations for managers to maximize benefits of conservation dollars for native plants and wildlife.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Megan Fitzpatrick	Central, NW, SW
		SubTotal	**$6,713,000**				
Subd. 07 Air Quality, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy (7 Recommendations = $11,744,000)							

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07a	2025-049	Protecting Coldwater Fish Habitat in Minnesota Lakes	$561,000	Identify lake-specific watershed protection targets and management practices needed to maintain coldwater fish habitat given warming temperatures and increasing extreme rain events, and integrate this information into conservation planning tools.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Gretchen Hansen	Statewide
07b	2025-078	Agrivoltaics 2.0 Building a Resilient E-Farm	$535,000	The project team at the WCROC will evaluateemerging solar system designs that will maximize energy production as well as provide maximal benefits to farmers.	U of MN, WCROC	Bradley Heins	Statewide
07c	2025-080	Pine Needles Reveal Past and Present Airborne PFAS	$550,000	Pine needles are great passive air samplers because their waxy outer layer attracts airborne pollutants. Pine needles will be used to assess airborne PFAS in current and historic pine needles.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Summer Streets	Statewide
07d	2025-257	Facilitated Transport Hybrid Membranes for CO2 Separation	$1,050,000	To capture CO2, we will develop advanced polymeric membranes infused with metal-organic framework nanoparticles. These membranes facilitate the passage and collection of CO2 while blocking the permeation of other gases.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	Jun Li	Statewide
07e	2025-290	Renewable Energy Conversion for Farm Diesel and Ammonia	$726,000	To develop a novel charge-swing reactor that can convert water to hydrogen at lower cost (<$1 / kg-H2) for on-the-farm energy storage or as reductant for diesel or ammonia fertilizer.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	Paul Dauenhauer	Statewide
07f	2025-306	Innovative Solution to Renewable Energy from Food Waste	$5,167,000	A partnership supporting the State climate and renewable energy goals by diverting organic materials from landfills and producing renewable natural gas (RNG) through anaerobic digestion and sequestering carbon into biochar.	Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board	Matt Phillips	Statewide
07g	2025-313	Fueling the Future: Decarbonizing Regional Transportation Project	$3,155,000	Utilizing green hydrogen as a renewable, carbon-free, alternate fuel source: decarbonizing city fleet, public transit, manufacturing and transportation sectors within the community; improving air quality and enhancing energy resiliency.	City of St. Cloud	Tracy Hodel	Statewide
		SubTotal	**$11,744,000**				
Subd. 08 Methods to Protect or Restore Land, Water, and Habitat (19 Recommendations = $12,188,000)							
08a	2025-007	Minnesota PlantWatch: Community Scientists Conserving Rare Plants	$1,086,000	Grow MN PlantWatch to better enhance the conservation of Minnesota's natural resources by supporting community scientist-driven rare plant surveys and seed banking and investing Minnesotans in preserving their natural heritage.	U of MN, Landscape Arboretum	David Remucal	Statewide
08b	2025-030	Grassland Restoration for Pollinator Conservation and Demonstration	$250,000	UMLA will reconstruct a degraded 8.5-acre pasture to serve as a model for climate-resilient pollinator habitat, incorporating community engagement and species monitoring for continued educational opportunities.	U of MN, Landscape Arboretum	Brandon Miller	Statewide
08c	2025-066	Planning for Long-Term Natural Resources Protection, Hennepin County	$250,000	We will implement a vision to protect, connect, and manage natural systems through a collaboratively sourced interactive mapping mechanism, centralized clearinghouse for data and best practices, and strategic training program.	Hennepin County	Kristine Maurer	Metro
08d	2025-069	Native Forages: Growing Drought and Climate Resiliency	$2,254,000	Increasing ecosystem function and landscape resiliency by collaborating with the grazing community to establish and enhance native forages on working lands to improve ecological, economical, and climate resiliency.	Ducks Unlimited Inc	Sabrina Claeys	Central, NW
08e	2025-097	Accelerated Genetic Migration of Bur Oak-10yr Data	$223,000	Collect the 8-10yr data on growth and survival, of three bur oak ecotypes previously planted in four restoration sites under ML2015 "Enhancing Restoration Techniques for Improved Climate Resilience". Disseminate results.	Great River Greening	Wiley Buck	Metro
08f	2025-116	SHT Bridge, Boardwalk and Trailhead Renewal	$532,000	The Superior Hiking Trail seeks to renew bridges, boardwalk and trailheads to increase user safety, improve the user experience, and protect adjacent land and water.	Superior Hiking Trail Association	Lisa Luokkala	Statewide

Subd.	Proposal ID	Title	LCCMR Total Recommended Amount (FY26)	30 Word Summary	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
08g	2025-118	Mississippi Gateway Shoreline Stabilization and Fishing Improvements	$735,000	The project will improve water quality and shoreline fishing access through the stabilization of the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Shoreline Area within Mississippi Gateway Regional Park, Brooklyn Park.	Three Rivers Park District	Brian Vlach	Metro
08h	2025-152	Phytoremediation of PFAS from Soil	$1,066,000	This collaborative project will use interdisciplinary research at the interface of biology, nanotechnology, chemistry, and genetic engineering to remediate soils contaminated with PFAS.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	Michael Smanski	Statewide
08i	2025-154	Removing Mercury from Minnesota Waters	$247,000	We will test and refine a biotechnology approach to removing mercury from the food chain in Minnesota's lakes and rivers. If successful, this will make fish consumption in Minnesota safer.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	Michael Smanski	Statewide
08j	2025-176	Evaluating Native Seed Mixes for Grazing	$208,000	Assess the use of native hay and pasture mixes to benefit biodiversity, soil health, and Minnesota farmers.	Restoravore	Joshua Lallaman	Statewide
08k	2025-219	Improving Minnesota Forest Health via Post-Duff-Burning Soil Analysis	$646,000	Study forest-bed duff-fire effects on soil, earthworms, nutrient cycles, tree regeneration seedbed characteristics, root systems, invasive shrub spread (buckthorn, honeysuckle), and hydrophobicity, to improve fire management for resilient ecosystems.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	Sayan Biswas	Statewide
08l	2025-228	Minnesota Riverbank Protection and Parks Improvements	$1,400,000	Integrate Minnesota Riverbank Protection with Huber Park and Historic Marina improvements to protect cultural resources, river corridor fish and wildlife habitat, public infrastructure, and encourage river access for parks users.	City of Shakopee	Alex Jordan	Metro
08m	2025-232	Restoration at Wakan Tipi and Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary	$669,000	Restoration and management of Wakan Tipi (aka Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary), including invasive species removal, disposal and management, prescription burns, site monitoring and data collection, and native seeding & plantings.	Lower Phalen Creek Project	Gabriele Menomin	Metro
08n	2025-266	Promoting Pollinators on Corporate Campuses	$547,000	We will use experimental “bee lawn” installations on corporate campuses, combined with landscape modeling and employee surveys, to determine potential ecological, economic, and societal benefits of widespread lawn habitat transformation.	University of St. Thomas	Adam Kay	Statewide
08o	2025-270	A Riparian Area Adaptation Strategy for Southeast Minnesota	$243,000	We will conduct research on a riparian climate change adaptation strategy involving floodplain reconnection and shrub planting in Southeast Minnesota in partnership between TNC and the University of Minnesota.	The Nature Conservancy	Christian Lenhart	Statewide
08p	2025-282	Minnehaha Park South Plateau Oak Savanna Restoration	$242,000	This project will restore approximately 5.5 acres of urban parkland in the heavily visited and historically significant Minnehaha Park to an oak savanna ecosystem.	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Adam Arvidson	Metro
08q	2025-283	Tree Protection for Minnesota’s Tamarack Against Larch Beetle	$321,000	Eastern larch beetle, native to Minnesota, has decimated one million acres of Minnesota’s tamarack forests since 2001. This proposal evaluates new insect management techniques to protect and preserve trees.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Brian Aukema	Central, NE, NW
08r	2025-288	Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement at Minneapolis Lakes	$819,000	This project will restore and enhance approximately 2.75 miles of turf-dominated, eroding, low habitat value lakeshore around Minneapolis's famous Chain of Lakes.	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Adam Arvidson	Metro
08s	2025-317	Developing Markets for CLC Crops	$450,000	Grants to organizations in Minnesota to develop enterprises, supply chains, and markets for continuous living cover crops and cropping systems in the early stage of commercial development.	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Margaret Wagner	Statewide
		SubTotal	**$12,188,000**				
Subd. 09 Land Acquisition, Habitat, and Recreation (14 Recommendations = $19,553,000)							
09a	2025-055	Cannon River Preservation and Access	$2,717,000	The project includes rehabilitating the historic Waterford Bridge for the Mill Towns State Trail, protecting and restoring land for habitat and improving recreational access to the Cannon River.	Dakota County	Lisa West	Metro

Subd.	Proposal ID	Title	LCCMR Total Recommended Amount (FY26)	30 Word Summary	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
09b	2025-081	Mesabi Trail Aurora to Hoyt Lakes	$1,325,000	The construction of an approximately 4.5 mile-long segment of the Mesabi Trail beginning at the intersection of Main Street (CR 100) and Forestry Road in Aurora toward Hoyt Lakes.	St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority	Sarah Ciochetto	NE
09c	2025-114	RTA Maintenance Trail Stabilization Project	$500,000	Retaining wall construction along the maintenance trail at Richard T. Anderson Conservation Area (RTA) to mitigate ongoing erosion, to restore adjacent remnant prairie, and protect native habitat & plant communities.	City of Eden Prairie	Karli Wittner	Statewide
09d	2025-122	Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Grant Programs	$4,769,000	Provide approximately 18 matching grants for local parks, trails, acquisition of natural areas and trails to connect people safely to desirable community locations and regional or state facilities.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Jenni Bubke	Statewide
09e	2025-173	Boardwalk Over Boggy Land for Recreational Purposes	$148,000	Construct a 400-ft long, 5-ft wide boardwalk over undevelopable city land giving walkers and hikers access to a boggy wildlife habitat while maintaining drainage considerations for low areas.	City of Battle Lake	Val Martin	NW
09f	2025-182	Lake Zumbro Park Water Access and Site Improvements	$1,978,000	Objectives of the project are to enhance the park's water access and ADA accessibility while creating new amenities that are more user-friendly and accessible to individuals and families.	Olmsted County	Karlin Ziegler	SE
09g	2025-197	Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) Biodiversity Protection	$1,104,000	Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) strategic acquisition (~100 acres) will conserve Minnesota's most unique places and rare species for everyone's benefit.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Judy Elbert	Statewide
09h	2025-201	Scandia Gateway Trail Connection: Recreation, Wetlands, Environmental Education	$907,000	Bike/pedestrian connection via a wetland trail connecting the state Gateway Trail to recreational/cultural/environmental resources in Scandia - - Gammelgården Museum, playgrounds, athletic facilities, amphitheater, splash pad, and.	City of Scandia	Kyle Morell	Metro
09i	2025-213	Lake Byllesby Regional Park Restoration and Recreation	$1,120,000	Improvements in Lake Byllesby Regional Park will involve natural resource restoration, new natural surface trails, birding and picnic areas; in three areas to enhance the visitor experience and stewardship.	Dakota County	Niki Geisler	Metro
09j	2025-216	Thompson County Park Restoration and Accessibility Improvements	$867,000	Through a "Pollinator Promenade," stream restoration, and an accessible paddle launch, this project will incorporate accessibility improvements and natural resource restoration to enhance access to nature within an urban setting.	Dakota County	Niki Geisler	Metro
09k	2025-236	Thom Storm Chalet and Outdoor Recreation Center	$2,312,000	Reconstruct the Thom Storm Chalet and Outdoor Recreation Center to expand high-quality outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities to preserve and protect the unique natural resources of Chester Park.	City of Duluth	Katie Bennett	NE
09l	2025-268	Enhancing Preservation and Accessibility at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve	$155,000	Enhance outdoor recreation and education opportunities that promote conservation of raptors and preservation of natural resources through development of an accessible trail and removal of invasive species at Hawk Ridge.	City of Duluth	Katie Bennett	Statewide
09m	2025-293	Echo Bay County Park - Phase 1 Construction	$1,122,000	Construction of access roads, access trails, parking and bathroom facilities within the County's recently acquired 165-acre, Echo Bay County Park.	Otter Tail County	Kevin Fellbaum	Central
09n	2025-319	Chaska Big Woods Property Acquisition	$529,000	The City of Chaska wishes to acquire property that contains remnant Big Woods for the preservation of its natural resources, including mature stands of trees and wetlands, in perpetuity.	City of Chaska	Ashley Cauley	Metro
		SubTotal	**$19,553,000**				
Subd. 10 Administration, Emerging Issues, and Contract Agreement Reimbursement (4 Recommendations = $7,267,000)							
10a	2025-001	Emerging Issues Account 2025	$2,984,000	Emerging Issues Account FY2025	Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources	Becca Nash	Statewide

M.L. 2025 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
LCCMR Recommendations for FY 2026 with Summary

Subd.	Proposal ID	Title	LCCMR Total Recommended Amount (FY26)	30 Word Summary	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
10b	2025-166	2025 Contract Agreement Reimbursement	$280,000	Provide contract management to ENRTF pass-through appropriation recipients for approximately 115 open grants. Ensure funds are expended in compliance with appropriation law, state statute, grants policies, and approved work plans.	MN DNR, Grants Unit	Katherine Sherman-Hoehn	Statewide
10c	2025-321	LCCMR Administrative Budget	$4,000,000		Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources	Becca Nash	Statewide
10d	2025-322	Legislative Coordinating Commission Legacy Website	$3,000		Legislative Coordinating Commission	Becca Nash	Statewide
		SubTotal	**$7,267,000**				
		Total	**$103,326,000**				

* Metro region includes the 11 counties of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington, and Wright.