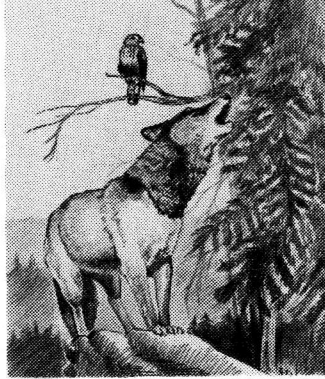


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LCCMR is ^a uniquely qualified fund where diverse natural resource needs can be addressed and where research projects are peer-reviewed and enhanced by national experts. LCCMR addressed invasive carp, white-nosed bat syndrome and precision agriculture long before the headlines.

We take into account- the different categories, geographical areas, their outcomes and the job impact. House File 1265 deleted 140 jobs. 16 of those 25 deleted projects had statewide impact.

We have a long but worthy process. This last round, these deleted projects had high original scores from Commission members. Rearing native mussels ranked 15 out of the 16 members scoring. Native prairies, SNAs, Metro Parks, solar cell manufacturing, Raptor Center and Climate Generation education were close behind. Yet now they are deleted.

I have been on the Commission since 2006 when Governor Pawlenty appointed me. Every year I question and even dislike some of the projects. But I like the process, I respect the Commission and I am sincere in that we do is a great investment for the natural resources of our state. And I don't want our natural resource stakeholders to refrain from applying for funds due to this uncertainty.

I want to ask you to reinstate ALL of the deleted projects. The deleted projects were a way to find funding for CREP. I am a supporter of CREP and I would guess that most of the Commission members feel the same or they would not have approved the original LCCMR package with \$6 million designated for CREP.

SOLUTION

CREP doesn't need to meet the federal dollar match this year. ^{Gov banking} Let's examine whether CREP can adequately begin their work with the \$6 million they will receive on July 1. Ask CREP to give LCCMR that report and then let's see what the Commission can carve out of its budget for the next couple years to reach their goal. This would get LCCMR back on track with Commission approved projects, restore confidence in the process and reinstate those 140 jobs.