

Summary of Member Comments
by Proposal ID#

ID#	Program Title	Suzanne Baird	Rep. John Burkelt	Kristin Eggerling	David Hartwell	Sen. Fong Hawij	Matt Kucharski	Darrel Palmer	Ron Schara	Ted Suss	Rep. Samantha Vang
PA 01	2026 RIM Grasslands Reserve, Phase 7		1.98% - scalable 11.92% DSS (BSWR)		Not sure I understand how "these sometimes rocky , isolated pockets of grass" are under threat of conversion. How could food plots possibly make sense on areas of degraded native but restorable prairie? Seems like a large ask when 2023 fund and 2025 funds of apx \$6M have not been spent. The cost of DU staff per person per year is \$128,571 while BWSR's staff is \$37,308 per person per year - something does not make sense. Apx 4 staff to do 22 easements over 4 years - that is just one easement per person per year which seems not like much.		High dollar request given use since 2023 -- higher than historical	Easements , not open to public use, 2% matching funds, \$7K/acre	Need to explain unspent money	any possibility for public access hiking trails along edges of grasslands?	
PA 02	Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program, Phase 18		0,0% - scalable 5.92% DSS (PF)		Status of Federal funds match given the Big Beautiful Bill?? Restoration of just \$42K does not seem logical.		\$ request higher than historical. Land acquisitions for public use - good use of past funds	Purchase, Open to public use, 13% matching funds, \$10K/acre	Need to explain unspent money	any possibility for public access hiking trails along edges of grasslands?	
PA 03	DNR WMA & SNA Acquisition, Phase 18	Contradiction in acres - 900 acres in Scope - 1000 acres in the climate section - explain	0.0% - scalable 1.01% DSS (DNR)	unspent funds	Why only 62% of fund from 2020, 25% from 2021, 4% from 2022 are expended? Is there really a need for additional funds?		CPA over 10k - historical amounts much smaller. Past \$ spent?	Purchase, adds to existitng WMA open to public, No matching funds, \$10k/acre	Need to explain unspent money		
PA 04	Martin County WMA Acquisition, Phase 10	How much land are you acquiring vs restoring? Output tables only reflect acquisition - no restoration. Budget accounts for restoring - very confusing	7.31% - scalable 7.14% DSS (Fox Lake)		Asking for \$6M when that amount from previous appropriations are unspent is troublesome. Federal funding update is needed given the "Big Beautiful Bill." DU's staff cost is \$675,000 over 3 years with .8 FTE working on the project. That equates to an annual payment per person of \$281,250 which does not seem reasonable. Question about scalability is not answered - what would the personnel cost be at 50% and 30% of requested funding?		Why such a high CPA? More than 10k. Good use of past funds	Purchase, Open to public use, 7% matching fund, \$17K/acre,	Cost per acrrre excessive? \$16,000 for prairie; \$18,000 for wetlands????		
PA 05	ML 2026 Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Phase 16		7.25% - scalable 13.73% DSS (NC)	unspent funds			Will easements be open to public or only acquired lands. CPA is lower than most proposals. Request 3-4x higher than previous grants	Mostly Easements/some purchase, most acres not open to public use, 7% matchng funds, \$6K/acre but mostly restoration on easments?		federal funds still available? State money to USFWS Acquisition?	
PA 06	MN Prairie Recovery Program, Phase 15	Personel cost are extremely high - some are needed but some in excess. Over 25% of the proposal is personnel and DSS. Would like to see those costs reduced in proportion to the work being complet	10.89% - scalable 26.17% DSS (NC)	unspent funds	Explain overlap with Roving crews. \$3.8M left from 2022 appropriation (86%) and \$3.9M from 2023 appropriation (100%) with an additional \$2.2M in the 2025 appropriation. Scaling answer of keeping all staffing at proposed levels but shorting the time period does not sit will with me. Just because DOI has an approved indirect rate does not make that relevant to our situation and therefore the DSS contribution from TNC seems exaggerated to me.		Confused - can't reconcile whethre it's enhancement or acquisition and how it connects with past funds granted.	Purchase/mostly enhance, open to public, 11% matching funds, funds mostly for restoration at \$7K/acre	Need to explain unspent money	Maintenance of existing lands is a plus	
PA 07	Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley, Phase 12		6.46% - scalable 4.9% DSS (PF)		I don't understand why there would be food plots on land specifically protected for Prairie Chickens. 2024 funding is virtually unspent 96%) plus 2025 just became available. Whey the need for additional dollars 4 times what the past appropriations are? What is the situation with your Federal funding?		12m ask - historical amounts lower. Acreage unclear	Purchase, open to public use, 6% matching funds, \$7k/acre purchase			
PA 08	RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water		120.56% ??? - scalable 4.77% DSS (BSWR)	unspent funds	\$9M of prior appropriations still available. Is the federal match solid?		Cost per acre track record is hard to understand -- 13.3k in 2025, 8.5k in 2015-18. Why different. Comparsion to historical amounts?	Easements. Not open to public use, 120% matching funds, \$28K/acre- WHY WOULD WE PAY THAT PER ACRE????	Need to explain unspent money	Does this include any wetlands restoration? water storage for drainage possible?	
PRE 01	2026 Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program		11.36% - scalable 11.74% DSS (DU)	unspent funds	2023 and 2025 appropriations are mostly unspent (2023 85%, 2025 100%)		Sig higher than historical amounts. Private lands?	Enhance CURRENT easements. Not open to public use, 11% matchng fund, \$4K/acre		federal funds still available? state funds for USFWS	

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PRE 02	DNR Grassland Enhancement, Phase 17		0.0% - scalable 15.14% DSS (DNR)	unspent funds	Where is the overlap with the roving crews? Past appropriations are mostly unspent - 2021 - 22%, 2023 - 4%, 2024 - 0%) so what is the need for additional dollars? Three full time people to oversee contracts seems high. And no scaling of that personal if the proposal does not receive full funding - seems like the request is for baseline staff.		Very small amounts in the past and not fully spent. Why not?	Enhance 22,000 acres of WMA's, Open to public use. No matching funds, \$400/acre	Lots of unspent money???	space for hiking trails built with other funds	
PRE 03	Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands, Phase 9		1.74% - scalable 6.96% DSS (PF)	unspent funds	What is the interaction with the Roving Crews? Explain the economics of conservation grazing - cost of fencing that lasts 30 years is only expense? What is the income from conservation grazing and who gets this - and what is it spent on? It is reasonable to expect federal funds in 3 years?		Why such small amounts in the past and why not spent? Seems like a good way to leverage dollars for habitat.	Enhance 6,000 acres of WMA's, Open t o public use. 2% matching funds, \$1200/acre		space for hiking trails built with other funds	
FA 01	Northern Forests Legacy Project		2.07% - not scalable .27%% DSS (DNR)		Funding over 2 years possible? What happens to the funds generated from timber sales on this property after acquisition? Where did the funding for Phase 1 come from? Professional services costs seem very high - almost \$800,000. The include paying property taxes to the county who is acquiring the property which seems unreasonable. Given the exact amount per acre is determined and different for the county and state, are the appraisals that funding is being asked for already done?		Huge project, urgency, cost per acre?	Purchase. Open to public use. 2% matching funds. \$1K/acre	Needs a full council discussion; \$25 million is a big chunk		
FA 02	Sand Lake/7 Beavers Acquisition & Enhancement		3.2% - not scalable 4.97% DSS (NC)		What is the bare minimum for the acquisition (without any restoration/enhancement) - eliminating all personnel related expense and contracts other than acquisition cost? Who is the current owner of the property? Where else are you seeking funding for this project?		Unique property, low cost per acre?	Purchase. Open to public use. 3% matching funds. \$1K/acre	Need to know more;		
FRE 01	DNR Forest Restoration and Enhancement, Phase 6	Travel and personnel expenses seem high. What are you spending the \$223,100 on in the splies line?	0.0% - scalable 12.53% DSS (NC)		I do not understand how this project would improve water quality or maintain wet forest ecosystems by increasing tree species diversity ahead of emerald ash borer. How would this proposal effect the prairie, metro/urban, southeast sections outlined in the proposal. Prescribed foresters - 1/4 time for 4 years or one full time person ebullient but they are then being paid \$380,000 per year which does not make sense. And does it really take one person full time to oversee the contracts? - seems excessive.		Request way higher than past allocation	Enhance 22,000 acres of public lands, Open t o public use. No matching funds, \$350/acre			
FRE 02	Enhancing Critical Wildlife Forest Habitats and Watersheds on Superior National Forest		2.8% - scalable 9.4% DSS (Patriot Restoration Ops) 990???		Explain how work on just over 2600 acres can effect 643,000 acres - this seems like a gross exaggeration. LSOHF funds should not be used for public outreach - only habitat protection/enhancement and restoration. This proposal starts saying it provides employment for returning veterans but the majority of the funding goes to contracts which would be providers who bid on this project on a competitive basis - not veterans.	new request - hasn't received OHF funding; note: the org is based out of CA	High cost per acre, track record?	Enhance 2,600 acres of public lands, Open t o public use. 3% matching funds, \$1800/acre	Need more details		
WA 01	Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program, Phase 18		28.79% scalable 6.11% DSS (PF)		Can you explain how you overspent the appropriation in 2020? Status of federal match?		2+X histori amount, cost per acre?	Purchase 1500 acres. Open to public use. 29% matching funds. \$10K/acre. Phase 18???????			

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WA 02	RIM Wetlands - Restoring the most productive habitat in Minnesota	1,320 acres of easements acquired with \$27,591,400 is a very high cost per acre.	106.95% - scalable 6.8% DSS (BSWR)		Scaling answer gives me heartburn - staff would not be scaled but projects would be. Seems like this is just a request for permanent staff and not a grant. Please explain the way crep payments are part of a match. Will the easement payments be market rate in addition to the CREP payments?		Cost per acre? Money spent so far? 3x historic amt	Easements. Not open to public use, 107% matching funds, \$22K/acre. WHY WOULD WE PAY THAT PER ACRE???? Phase 16			
WA 03	Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program		10% - scalable 7.15% DSS (DU)				2x historic amount, good money use	Purchase, adds to existng WMA open to public, 10% matching funds, \$10k/acre. Phase 15			
WA 04	Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program, Phase 11		4.74% - scalable 7.53% DSS (MLT)	unspent funds	What of the outstanding appropriations are committed since there is significant amounts that have not been spent in the 2022, 2023 and 2024 appropriations?		Easements, cost per acre, how much private?	Abstract does not match funding backup. Says purchase 1400 acres but no costs for acquired lands listed. Need explanation			
WRE 01	DNR Wetland Habitat Team	Proposal is misleading since it is a new proposal for staffing not the continuation of ongoing work. This investment is more about staffing than work on the ground. I do not recall any recommendation from the Council to go in this direction.	0.0% - scalable 78.53% DSS (DNR) Wetland Habitat Teams	unspent funds/LSOHC rec?	Lots of outstanding funds from prior appropriations. Seems like this is a funding of core staff and not a grant for projects.		Personnel	DNR staff costs. \$181K/person/yr.	unspent money??		
WRE 02	Howard Lake Habitat Restoration		23.89% - not scalable 9.84% DSS (Wright SWCD/Howard Lake)	not scalable	Are there solid commitments for follow up after grant fund would be utilized? Federal funds secure? Non scalable and no local match other than a vague reference to future funding are concerning.		One lake, low leverage	Restore 745 acre lake. Open to Public. 24% matching funds, No past funding requests. \$2.2k/acre.	Need to know what chemicals will be applied and when; what steps are taken to protect spawning gamefish.	50% carp removal seems futile, will repopulate. weed removal 90% what is city doing to prevent reoccurance of existing problems?	
WRE 03	Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement & Restoration Initiative		10.02% - scalable 16.16% DSS (DU)		Scaling question on personnel was not answered directly. Need a concrete answer.		3+X historic amounts, easement? Public access?	Enhance/Restore. Looks to be all land open to public. Main \$\$ for water control structures. 10% matching funds.\$7k/acre Phase 12		huge money on hand from prior years	
WRE 04	Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements, Phase 18	WRE1 and WRE 4 are the same proposal split in half. The total proposal is \$23,795,000. If combined the % of staffing is extremely high. Overreach??	0,0% - scalable 1.17% DSS (DNR)	unspent funds	Significant amounts of past appropriations are unspent - 2019 - 56%, 2020 - 35%, 2021 - 34%, 2022 - 54%, 2023 - 63%, 2024 - 97%. Hard to see the need for additional funds. How is their DSS with no personnel cost?		Money spent? 5X historical?	Enhance/Restore wetlands. Open to Public. \$for tile removal, ditch plugs, water control & include cattail removal. No matching funds.\$2k/acre Phase 18. Slow in using past funds??			
WRE 05	Talcot Lake	Engineering costs seem a little high but may be appropriate. This sounds like a stand alone project - what other work has been done on this WMA to the tune of \$14M?	0.0% - scalable 1.19% DSS (IDNR/Talcot Lake)	unspent funds	Language of "this could include replacing" indicates this proposal is a concept but not a plan so where does the budget come from? Urgency sees questionable other than as dam failure and not habitat. Not sure how prior appropriations table is relevant as this is a new project. Where else are you looking for funding since if scaled, you are indicating that it would just result in additional requests to do the project.		Past funding? Confusing.	Enhance/Restore. Open to Public. \$\$ for water control structure. No matching funds.\$8k/acre. Phase 6?? Doesn't say. Committed \$11Mill to project in past. Slow spending past \$\$\$. Give them \$1 mill to fund enginerring and get a plan.	Unspent money?? And what if dam removal allows carp to move into Talcot??	huge money on hand prior years	
WRE 06	Roseau Lake Rehabilitation, Phase 3		5.0% - scalable 0.0% DSS (Roseau River Watershed)		Since there are two primary objectives of this project and one is flood control, why is the majority of the cost of this project being requested from funds dedicated to habitat? Only 13% of prior appropriation has been spent.		Scalable	Restoration. Open to public. Levees and water control structures on 4.6 miles of river. 5% matching Funds. \$2K/acre. Phase 3. Slow spending committed \$3Mill in 2020 and only \$400k spent to date???.			
HA 01	2026 Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds		0.0% - scalable 11.12% DSS (Pine County SWCD)		What does long term success look like? Why would program management not be scalable?		\$5m ask, .1.5m historical, 45% spent.	Easements , not open to public use, No matching funds, \$3K/acre. Phase 3		overlap with BWSR rim program request hydrology problems seem worse in other prats of the state	

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HA 02	Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - 15		2.77% - scalable 10.74% DSS (Clean River Partners) 990???		Still quite a bit of prior appropriates available. What is the urgency of need for this funding? Please be specific on what costs are fixed (how much for what) and why program management costs are not scalable and how much they would be under the 2 scaling scenarios.		Building on a lot of past success, public, dollars not fully spent from past	Purchase/restore. Open to public. 3% matching funds. \$10K/acre. Phase 15. Includes restoring 100 acres of City of Owatonna Kaplan Woods for \$1.1 Mil - \$11,400/acre - Is that correct?? What are they doing there?		support acquisition funding, restoration numbers seem very high	
HA 03	DNR AMA Fee-Title and Trout Stream Easement Acquisition		0.0% - scalable .16% DSS (DNR)		Trout stream easements open up the property to hunting?		Hasn't got much funding in past - would like to know why - seems like a good use of dollars	Purchase 195 acres of trout stream/Easements on 330 acres. Open to Public. No matching funds. \$19k/acre to purchase - \$8k/acre for easement (Note - spending \$40k/acre to purchase 30 acres???). Phase 6??	Per acre price of land...Uffdah??Need explanation.	How is the stream opened to the public? Does the esement include access along stream edge?	
HA 04	Washington County Habitat Protection and Restoration Partnership, Phase 2	Very little specifics on what exactly is planned related to "enhancement". This makes it difficult to determine if budget is reasonable. Estimate on donated easement value seems high and no information to support - thus inflating the leverage number.	10.01% - scalable 17.29% DSS (Washington County)		How much of the remaining 2023 appropriation is committed?		Important area for water quality - higher budget requests, easements not open to public	Easements 385 acres(and staff??)/Enhance 970 acres . Not open to public. 10% matching fund. \$1.1 Mil of \$7.6 Mil request is for staff costs). Easements \$14.4K/acre - Enhance \$1400/acre. Phase 2		significant unspent.	
HA 05	Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - ML2026		8.17% - scalable 3.71% DSS (Northern Waters Land Trust) 990???				Much lower past amounts. Leverage unclear. Amount spent so far?	Purchase 933 acres of lakeshore. Protect cold water fisheries. Open to public. 8% matching funds. \$9k/acre of lakeshore. Seems like a good price. At least Phase 11? Good history on spending	Costs per acre don't seem to add up??		
HA 06	Greenbelt, Phase 1		4.55% - scalable 0.0% DSS (Comfort Lake/Forest Lake Watershed)		Seems to be a lot of emphasis on flood mitigation and not habitat protection. Protection of wetlands when I believe they are already not buildable is confusing. Fee and easement cost is the same which is confusing and does not make sense. Also, if it is wetlands that are being acquired that are not therefore buildable, the price seems high.		2023 money not spent, no money 2024. Would like to understand this one.	Purchase 200 acres/Easements 100 acres. Protect wetlands in Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed. Open to public but use decided on site by site basis with hunting & Fishing governed by local municipal - not Mn DNR. 5% matching funds. \$11k/acre purchase/Easements \$11k/acre??? Phase 2. Recvd \$1.9 Mil in 2023 and have spent \$0. ??Let them spend the \$1.9 Mil and then come back for more?		Are wetlands not already protected by state law. What is the per acre value of undevelopable wetlands?	
HA 07	Hardwood Hills Habitat Conservation Program, Phase 3		6.48% - scalable 10.19% DSS (MLT) 990???				Can't understand why the ask is for \$5.5 m when past amounts have been \$1.8 m and not fully spent. Would be good to know whether public lands are prioritized.	Easements- minimal restore/enhance. Hardwood Hills by St. Cloud. Not open to public. 6% matching funds. \$3.4K/acre of Easement Phase 3		Can public access hiking trails be retained on existing field roads?	
HA 08	Integrating Habitat and Clean Water	The proposal discusses leveraging CWF but the proposal has no leverage identified.	0.0% - scalable 6,87% DSS (BSWR)	unspent funds	Proposal states funding is fully committed but then the 2023 funding provided shows only 2% is spent. Explain and identify the time between commitment and completion - and what is being done to shorten this. Scaling answer of "we will keep all staff in place regardless of funding amount is concerning.		Ask is for 10m, past amounts are in 2-3m range. Easements underway.	Easements. One Watershed One Plan with BWSR. Not open to public. No matching funds. \$6.6k/acre. Phase 3??	Unspent money??	This relies heavily on 1W1P which do not have enforceable provisions.	difference in fund spent vs committed...
HA 09	Metro Big Rivers 16	Personnel cost look high as well as land cost -	7.25% - scalable 8.81% DSS (MN Valley Trust)	unspent funds	Prior appropriation chart shows inaccurate totals. How much of prior appropriations is restoration in progress and committed going forward to specific projects? Don't understand the need for .64 fte to oversee contracts for 5 years by GRG or 1 FTE for 4 years for a restoration ecologist to oversee contracts but nothing for land acquisition for MVT		Big ask. Tons of collaboration, high urgency, historic amounts less. Early grants spent.	Purchase 841 acres/Restore & enhance 1392 acres. Open to Public. 7% matching funds. Phase 16. Large grants given each year .\$15 Mil in 2023. Purchase - \$16k/acre/Enhance 7 Restore - \$5800/acre	Unspent money is bothersome	MVT exists with cash onhand to acquire land. Huge unspent funds	
HA 10	Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat Enhancement & Protection	Not a lot of specifics on what the enhancement work entails.	12.67% - scalable 10.94% DSS (MN Trout Unlimited)	unspent funds	This includes easement acquisition and we have a DNR proposal for the same thing - what would make TU experts in this? - lots of unspent funds from prior appropriations. How would stewardship funds be managed?		Important area - \$4m ask much larger than in past. No dollars granted since 2023 and 2022 and 23 dollars not spent. Why?	Enhance 116 acres of trout stream and acquire Easements on 36 acres. Open to public, 13% matching funds. Enhance @\$38k/acre. Easements at \$12k/acre. No costs shown for cost to restore by parcel???	Unspent money??	Is there increased public access along entire stream?	

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HA 11	Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project, Phase 10		.95% - scalable 8.91% DSS (Mississippi Headwaters Board)		Funding remaining in schedule does not add up to what is shown as open.		Current money spent. Can't tell how much will be public and how much will be private easements.	Purchase 800 acres/Easements 2000 acres. 1% Matching Fubds. Open to public.Purchase @ \$6k/acre/Easements @ \$2450/acre. Phase 10			
HA 12	Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota's North Shore, Phase 4		7.42% - scalable 11.0% DSS (MLT)		2022 funds are only 17% sent.		Not an unreasonable budget request for the need. Private easements but direct benefit to public use.	Easements on North Shore trout streams 660 acres. 7% Matching funds. Not open to Public. Easements @ 6K/acre. Phase 4,	Unspent money??	How far along the preservation path for this resource are we?	
HA 13	Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance, Phase 5		9.26% - scalable 8.11% DSS (MLT)				Ask nearly 3x historical spend. Delineation between public acquisition and private easements?	Purchase 533 acres/Easements 750 acres. Preserve lake shore on critical/best fishing lakes in Central MN to protect fisheries. Only the purchased 533 acres is open to public. 9% matching funds. Purchase @ \$9470/acre. Easements @\$5504/acre. Phase 5	Spending \$1 million for 38 acres is more than \$26,000 per acre????	is our goal fighting climate change or offsetting CC effects? Is this the part of the state where these projects have the greatest effect? This is already the wilderness paradise portion of Minnesota.	
HA 14	Protection and Restoration of Money Creek and its Natural Riparian Communities		0.0% - scalable 0.0% DSS (RES, LLC)		No competitive bidding means we have no idea if the proposal is a good deal for the state taxpayers. The entire amount RES is getting if listed as a contract so there is no visibility to staff or any other cost. 69 acres has 2 miles of stream on it - map would be helpful.		I like this project a lot. Would like to see some private landowner leverage.	Easement 69 acres/Restore same 69 acres. Money Creek Trout Stream. Not open to Public. No matching funds. Easement @\$4k/acre. Restore @\$38,649/acre (data not shown in support info)		Do easements provide streamside access?	
HA 15	Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 2		12.96% - scalable 6.13% DSS (Red River Watershed Board)		What would the total budget (dollars, acres vis easement, acres in fee, restoration) be for completion of the watershed protection be and where do you anticipate getting this funding from? Pleases clarify how the staff would be reduced under reduced funding.		Big area, big project, big ask -- \$21m for private easements (5m historical)	Easements 2900 acres. Protect Red River Basin. Not open to public. 13% matching funds. Easements @\$7300/acre. Phase 3			
HA 16	Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program		2.25% - scalable 1.5% DSS (Shell Rock River Watershed District)		The request is for \$5M but there is virtually no spending yet from the 2023 appropriation of \$2M and only 36% of the \$1.5M of 2022 appropriation spent. Seems strange that if the funding is scaled back, the first thing to be taken out is the acquisition which is probably the only thing that cannot be done later.		Ask is big based on past years but specifics spelled out and past money has been spent. Good track record.	Purchase 31 acres/Restore & Enhance 574 acres. Shell Rock River project. Open to Public. 2% matching funds. Purchase @ \$10k/acre. Restore & Enhance @ \$313/acre. Very clear goals! Phase 13?		support 35 acre acquisition	
HA 17	Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration, Phase 14		5.08% - scalable 10.08% DSS (The Trust for Public Land) 990???		2022, 2023 and 2024 funds are mostly unspent? Please explain the need for additional funding. TNC project management at 1.3 FTE seems high.		Confusing -- \$19m ask when historically it hs been less than 5. Lists easements but then says land open for public acces. How much private easment and how much public?	Purchase 1000 acres/Easements 1725 acres/Restore & Enhance 2610 acres. SE MN Driftless area projects. Purchase open to public. Easements are not open to the public. 5% matching funds. Purchase @\$ 11k/acre. Easements at \$ 3k/acre. Restore/Enhance @ \$3210/acre. Phase 14.	449 acres for almost \$14,000 an acre??	scoring is mostly focused on Wacouta Parcel	
HA 18	St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase 7		4.09% - scalable 8.2% DSS (Wild Rivers Conservancy)				Would like to understand funding history - 13m in 2023 but much lower in other years.	Purchase 720 acres/Easements 880 acres. Land protection along St. Croix River. Purchase open to public. Easements are not open to the public. 4% matching funds. Purchase \$6478/acre/Easements \$4943. Phase 7	Some acquisitions almost \$17,000 per acre?		
HA 19	Upper Mississippi Flyway Habitat Conservation Program		7.82% - scalable 12.19% DSS (MLT)			new request - hasn't received OHF funding	Ends up being roughly \$5,000/acre. Not funded in the past. All private?	Easements 856 acres/Restore & Enhance 20 acres. Upper Mississippi River Flyway between St Cloud and Minneapolis. Not open to Public. 8% matching funds. Easements @ \$5443/acre. Restore & Enhance @ \$21,040/acre. Spendy restoration. No prior requests for \$\$.		support acquisition	

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HRE 01	A River of Birds in the Sky: Conserving Minnesota's Flyway	The personnel and DDS costs are over 1/3 of the proposal - would like to see more going to the restroation work itself.	14.9% - scalable 34.79% DSS (Audubon)				Good leverage, reasonable budget - but it hasn't been spent in past years. Why	Resstore and Enhance 468 acres. Habitat projects along the St. Croix and Mississippi River Valleys on both private and public lands. 15% matching funds. Restore/Enhance at \$3083/acre. Phase 5??	Unspent money???		
HRE 02	Bone Lake South, Phase 2	\$0 Spent from FY 23 - why?	10% - scalable 0.0% DSS (Comfort Lake/Forest Lake Watershed)		No funds from 2023 spent.		Clearly defined project in metro area - would like to understand progress on Phase I.	Restore/Enhance 236 acres (Cost info shows 152 acres). Habitat for Blanding Turtles in Bone Lake South Wetland Area. ??? No mention of public use?? 10% matching funds.Restore/Enhance @ \$10,700/acre on 152 acres. Phase 2	Unspent money??		
HRE 03	City of Delano - Crow River Restoration and Enhancement	Would like to better understand the use of toe wood in restoration	14.63% - scalable 0.0% DSS (City of Delano-Crow River)		is it really possible to use natural channel design where the stream is so restricted or does it need hardening? Examples of other success in a similar situation would be helpful. It seems like this is a much about local recreational opportunities as habitat - what is the proposed work going to do for fish, animals, birds and insects?	new request - hasn't received OHF funding	Area in pretty dire need of help - appropriate for LSOHC funds? Crow River overall needs help.	Enhance 14 acres. South Fork Crow River in City of Delano. Enhance river banks and improve canoe and fishing access. ??Assume there is public access but doesn't say?? 15% matching funds \$168k/acre with match.		how much stream meander is being restored. is this a city maintenece project?	
HRE 04	DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement, Phase 9	Staffing cost seem high, proposal does not explain what the \$801,000 in supplies and materials is for. Seems high if most work is being contracted out. Overall there are a lot of projects to complete in a 5 year period considering you have unspent funding from previous years to work on as well.	27.26% - scalable 17.97 DSS (DNR)		Significant amounts of prior appropriations are unspent - 2021 - 36%, 2022 - 65%, 2023 - 54%, 2024 - 76%. A good part of the leverage is hoped for money from FEMA - what is the likelihood of this? If the projects are scaled, what is the situation with leverage?		Big punch list of long-term projects. Reconcile with amount spent to date/remaining - seems to be being spent down.	Restore/Enhance 2344 acres. Remove dams, install 4 fish passages, and 3 channel restorations. 27% matching funds.Restore/Enhance at \$7064/acre. Phase 9. GREAT MATCHING FUNDS.		has every previous application included a detailed list of projects and are they being completed on time?	
HRE 05	Little Cannon River Stream Habitat Restoration		5.49 - scalable 7.9% DSS (Minnesota Trout Unlimited)			new request - hasn't received OHF funding	Interesting project with high public and ecological benefit. Hard to tell if budget is adequate or what the work plan is. New project.	Enhance 140 acres. Restore/enhance 5 miles of trout stream habitat on Little Cannon River. Open to Public. 5% matching funds. Enhance @ \$37k/acre.		Funding staff within some partners seems high	
HRE 06	Mission Creek Watershed Connectivity	Very little of the allocated funds from 5 previous awards have been spent so far 16%.	0.0% - scalable 23.28% DSS (DNR)	unspent funds	Lots of funding from previous appropriations available - 2020 - 42%, 2021 - 72%, 2022 - 95%, 2023 - 100%, 2024 - 100% - so what is the urgent need for these funds? Proposal says this will leverage \$25M in other funds but no leverage is shows which is confusing.		Mentions 900 acres and non-state funds but not in the leverage section. Past money spend would be helpful to understand. Wish we could see projgress to date.	Enhance/Restore 202 acres. Mission Creek Watershed - Lake Superior. Replace barriers to fish passage. Not sure on public access?? No matching funds. Enhance/Restore @ \$13,167/acre. Phase 6?? Funding from 2021 and 2022 largely unspent?? 2023 and 2024 no funds spent yet????	Unspent money?	with cash unspent, will this finish the project or simply fund more design work. Why is most money upsent?	
HRE 07	Mud River Enhancement Project		12.84% - not scalable 0.0% DSS (Red Lake Watershed District)	not scalable	Do not understand this - "Floodplain habitat will be enhanced by providing stream access to an additional 700 ac. of wetland during elevated flows." What happens when there is a 50 or 100 year event. Will these improvements just be washed out? How much of this is flood focused vs habitat enhancement? Past appropriations are listed as open but does not show status. Not being scalable is a challenge given the current requests for support.		Really wish this project was scalable. Good leverage dollars and like that it can be executed all on public land. Says \$ received in past but no detail.	Enhance/Restore on 744 acres. Water diversion project to stop sediment and flooding on the Mud River. Open to public access. 13% matching funds. Enhance/Restore @ \$6,855/acre		mostly a habitat project	
HRE 08	Oak Savanna Restoration for Living Landscapes	Need clarification on ownership of land. In one place the proposal refers to projects limited to city and county-owned public lands but in other places it referes to "landowners" as if they in private ownership.	23.89% - scalable 10.1% DSS (BSWR)		How would this proposal deal with the spread of oak diseases that are killing oaks on existing savannas? Proposal says BWSR has secured matching funds for personnel but the budget asks for \$300K in personnel costs.	new request	New project without prior funding. Good amount of leverage. Amount of availability to public vs. tribal lands - any supplemental funding from tribal sources? ENRTF?	Enhance/Restore on 1000 acres. BWSR project to restore oak savannas for pollinator habitat. Projects on public and tribal land. 24% matching funds. Enhance/Restore @ \$3,623/acre		\$3600 per acre to restore already owned public land seems high. Tribal land noted in first paragraph, not later. Why not state parks?	

Summary of Member Comments
by Proposal ID#

ID#	Program Title	Suzanne Baird	Rep. John Burkel	Kristin Eggerling	David Hartwell	Sen. Foung Hawj	Matt Kucharski	Darrel Palmer	Ron Schara	Ted Suss	Rep. Samantha Vang
HRE 09	Swift Coulee Channel Restoration/ Enhancement, Phase 2	The proposal shows none of the previous funding spent but describes some completed work from earlier phases - can you explain this discrepacy.	29.09% - scalable 0.0% DSS (Middle-Snake-Tamarac Watershed District)		Project to control flooding - is it primarily a habitat project? Current situation "does not benefit farmers" - please explain this. No money spent yet from prior appropriations - is the strategy to keep asking until the entire budget of \$??? is appropriated and then do the project? Am I understanding that if there is not at least a 50% grant of the request, the project will be abandoned?		Phase II of multi-phase project. Strong leverage.	Restore/Enhance on 492 acres. Swift Coulee channel restoration on Easements. Expect no Public Access??? 29% matching funds. Restore/Ehance @ \$7,244/acre. Phase 2.		IS match from previous LSOHC funding from BWSR and RRB? All previous money unspent! Why? does the meander follow the original stream route or is it within the channelized area.	
HRE 10	Woods Creek Restoration	Proposal talks about work starting on design but no funding from previous allocations has been spent - can you explain this discrepancy? This project sounds like a stand alone project -please explain what the previous funding was allocated to do.	94.99% - not scalable 0.0% DSS (Cook County)	not scalable	Prior appropriations completely unspent.	95% of amount requested will be leveraged by county levy/tax	Good self-contained project - would like to understand the amount requested (750k) in context of previous amounts granted (and not yet spent)	Restore 1 acre. Woods Creek. Remove/replace 2 undersized crossings.95% matching funds. Restore @ \$750k/acre. GREAT MATCHING FUNDS!		is this really more than a road maintenance proejct current narrow widths of crossings are a road issue too	
CPL	Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program ML26/FY27	Fully fund			Don't really like the 2 years of staff cost request.		Scored high based on established practice and historic use. Does not fit other grants so cannot be scored in same manner.	CPL grants	\$12,000,000	money for smaller projects	
O 1	Contract Management	Fund at nomore than \$400,000					Staff	Not enough info for me to make a good judgement. Includes 1 new staff add.	\$450,000	necessary	
O 2	DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions	Fully fund request					Staff	Not enough info for me to make a good judgement	\$129,000	necessary	
O 3	Restoration Evaluations - ML 2026	Fully fund					Staff	Need this evaluation done. Need to review prior years reports.	\$204,000	necessary	