



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Walz

75 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Suite 130 ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

April 9, 2020

Becca Nash, Director
Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
65 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Nash,

I approve the request of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for the expenditure of \$270,468 from the LCCMR Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Emerging Issues Account, M.L. 2018, Chapter 214, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 10, for a project at the University of Minnesota to conduct targeted outreach about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) to culturally- diverse hunting communities.

The expenditure will address an urgent need for culturally diverse hunting communities to receive critical information regarding CWD biology, management and potential human health risks. In December 2019, University of Minnesota researchers were informed that a family in southeastern MN consumed a CWD positive deer without being informed of the current science of CWD. In response, the researchers mobilized and performed outreach events for both the southeast Asian and Amish hunting communities within a week of the notification. That team will be able to expand their work by using these funds to broaden their outreach campaign in these communities as well as our Tribal Nations, where CWD surveillance is soon to be launched.

The success of Minnesota's efforts to control this disease hinges on the ability of government agencies, researchers, policy makers and stakeholders to work together, particularly as this issue relates to deer hunting as a CWD management tool.

This funding is approved according to M.S. 116P.08, subdivision 4:, paragraph d, which states:

“The commission may recommend the establishment of an emerging issues account in its legislative bill for funding emerging issues, which come up unexpectedly, but which still adhere to the commission's strategic plan, to be approved by the governor after initiation and recommendation by the commission.”

Please work with staff at Minnesota Management and Budget for the transfer of these funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. J. Walz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a distinct "J." followed by "Walz".

Tim Walz
Governor