

# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Community Grant Program

## Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

**Thursday, September 10, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

**Format:** Hybrid: Microsoft Teams, St. Paul, and Bemidji

**Facilitator:** Connor Horton, advisory council member

**DNR lead:** Gwendolyn Tweed, Community Grants Supervisor

**Meeting purpose:** Close the loop on the written RFP review; seek advisory recommendations on remaining program-design questions and the funding-round name; preview applicant resources; gather statewide outreach input; and identify first-round learning priorities.

**Meeting materials:** September 8 pre-meeting brief and July 21, 2026 meeting notes for approval. Additional presentation materials may be used during the meeting as appropriate for public discussion.

## Agenda

**10:00–10:05    Welcome and meeting approach**

Confirm meeting purpose, advisory role, participation approach and desired outputs

**10:05–10:10    Approval of July 21, 2026 meeting notes**

Advisory council approval of the prior meeting notes

**10:10–10:20    Program and RFP review update**

What the DNR heard, what has changed, what is constrained and where council advice can still add value

**10:20–11:10    RFP discussion: Stage 1 and Stage 2**

Discuss the Stage 1 access/scoring question and Stage 2 technical-application question; capture recommendations, caveats, differing perspectives and unintended effects to monitor

**11:10–11:20    Break**

**11:20–11:35    Advisory council vote: recommended name for the first funding round**

Review co-creation survey options and write-ins; vote on a recommended public name

**11:35–11:50    Applicant resources and launch preparation**

Preview resources ready for public sharing and how the RFP, guidance, language access and applicant support will work together

**11:50–12:20    Statewide outreach strategy: advisory council input**

Identify audiences the DNR may be missing, trusted messengers and networks, barriers and outreach approaches that could improve statewide access

**12:20–12:45    First-round learning and future funding outlook**

Discuss what the DNR should monitor, what early learning may inform January 2027 and what must be learned later through Stage 2 and grant implementation

**12:45–12:55    Confirm recommendations and DNR follow-up**

Confirm recommendations, caveats, differing perspectives, outreach input, naming recommendation and follow-up items

**12:55–1:00    Next steps and close**

Review the September 11–15 RFP closure path and how council input will be carried forward

## Advisory council discussion questions

1. **Stage 1 access and scoring.** Does the proposed balance reflect the Community Grant Program's access purpose while preserving a real pathway for strong eligible projects across Minnesota? What unintended effects should the DNR monitor during the first funding round?
2. **Stage 2 technical application.** Do the four Stage 2 questions focus the full application on the right information after access and priority have been addressed in Stage 1? What unintended burden or technical blind spot should the DNR watch for?
3. **First-round learning.** As the DNR implements the first funding round, what outcomes or unintended effects should we watch most closely so we can improve the next round?

## Meeting record

**The September 10 meeting will not be audio or video recorded by the DNR.** The DNR will prepare meeting notes documenting the advisory council's discussion, recommendations, decisions and follow-up actions. Public access to meeting materials and records is governed by applicable State law and DNR requirements.

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