

**Board Meeting Minutes of the
MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS**

**10 June 2013
Stearns County SWCD, Waite Park**

Present: Anna Lipenga, Ann Geisen, Beau Liddell, Bill Faber, Paul Stolen, Jack Lauer, Todd Holman, Jeanine Vorland

Meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

Electronic Actions by Board since last meeting

Issue: Records retention action requested by the MNACP secretary. Discard irrelevant and outdated documents and financial information as outlined in 4/7/13 e-mail to the board by Beau.

Action taken: Motion by Beau, 2nd by Willis, to discard all tax forms and bank records from 2004 and earlier (except all treasurer reports and ledgers/books will be retained), and discard all documents (e.g. financial statements, meeting minutes and agendas) from other organizations that don't involve important issue-oriented correspondence between members or partnering groups (e.g. MCF and MFWLA), or that don't involve important background information or reports such as white papers on topics that MNACP/MFWEA was actively involved with. This is being done to retain only relevant documentation to minimize storage needs and prepare MNACP's records for digital archiving. Beau, Paul O., Willis, Jack, Dave, Ann, Paul S. all voting in favor; no votes against, quorum reached.

Secretary's Report – Beau

Obtained update on issues associated with moving MNACP to tax-exempt status.

All agreed that it was premature to move toward tax-exempt status at this time and would be better to take that up as the organization evolves, grows and realizes more potential in obtaining significant donations. There are also significant increases in accountability for the Treasurer and we'd most likely need to seek legal advice and hire a professional accountant and/or tax preparer if we go down that road. Motion by Bill, 2nd by Todd to table the matter for the time being.

Treasurer's Report – Todd

The current total in the account is \$3,500.44. Jack moved to accept the treasurer's report, 2nd by Bill, passed.

Old Business

Record Archiving

Records go back to ~1960. Will organize our records at this fall's board meeting. Will request former officers send in records and invite them to the fall meeting to help organize. Any

current or former members MNACP records should contact Ann or Beau to arrange drop-off if they won't be at the fall board meeting. Beau will send out proposed categories to organize records, and will be done by year within each category. Meeting will be in September.

Filling vacant board member positions

Lee Sundmark will be an active board member if Paul can't find anyone else soon. Jeanine will continue as a board member until we can find a replacement. Thus, with Lee we're only 1 short, but we'll keep looking to replace Lee and Jeannine. We also need to find a replacement for Todd as treasurer as of 12/31/13. Bill will talk to Helen about being a board member and/or treasurer. Jack moved to accept Jeanine's tenure, 2nd by Ann, passed.

Newsletter

Anna has a draft; Beau will send Anna some text for the newsletter associated with the records retention issues and to solicit any records that other members might have.

New Business

Proposal to modify the organization – Paul

We want an organization where people have lot of interest in it. Paul doesn't think we can handle it as a board; he's thinking of a virtual community; none of us can or know how to do it; wants someone with the right experience to talk to us about it.

The other part of this is associated with the sensitivity of leaders to dissent. It has gotten worse (don't tolerate anything other than good company person) – too much politicization and this is why we should have a virtual organization....better capable of thwarting the opposition to dissent within agencies/organizations. Every conservation organization is sensitive to "rocking the boat" and losing their jobs. This could be a new thread/thrust within the organization, expanding how we reach out and communicate.

Doing chat rooms, etc. is a good 1st cut to start heading down this road, but there are risks. This also is more of a long-term change and we can probably do this incrementally and through board action. Jeanine moved, Beau 2nd, to look into starting a chat room and all that it entails such as security, logins, rules/code of conduct, and how/who would moderate....passed.

Question is does this provide satisfaction? Is the intention to create action?
Paul will look to find someone to come in and talk to the board, etc. about his vision with a virtual community.

Annual Meeting Planning - All

Topic: Advocacy

After discussion about various issues associated with advocacy and Climate Change, the board decided to pursue topics associated with the former.

How do we walk the fine line between being a professional scientist, etc. and advocacy?; Possible speakers include someone from U of MN-Morris, Dr. Robert Lackey, Gary Botzek, Lance Ness, someone from MCEA, or someone from Izaak Walton League who have good advocates. What about lobbyists? Perhaps we could get one of the “hired guns” to talk to us. Possibly have a speaker addressing practical tools or techniques on how managers can be better advocates and address how to deal with delicate or otherwise politically sensitive issues. Another related topic or theme is how to be affective with the conservation science message.

Beau will get copy of some of Lackey’s stuff to board for consideration.

Off-shoot: biology via public opinion; human dimensions stuff; representativeness and integrating biology and science into the public-input process.

Speakers: Dr. Robert Lackey (Beau will make inquiry) & if he knows someone who’s advised organizations with practical advice for resource managers and organizations on how to advocate science into policy; MCEA – Allison and/or Steve Morse regarding government relations (strategies; how to effectively advocate – what they do & how it’s done); Paul will contact professor at U of MN Morris; possibly Ron Nargang on lobbying or as backup instead of someone from MCEA; Greg Breining as a backup to Dr. Lackey – but we’d might need someone to counter Breining’s viewpoints. Paul Radomski – inquire about ideas/topics. Paul will talk to Sen. Marty and then as backup will be Baak, Dill, Thiesen as chairs of environmental committees to talk during lunch.

Ask speakers to think about practical things that we as employees or organizations can do to advocate or integrate science into policy, etc. How can employees get what we need without getting in trouble?

Jack will contact Grant Wilson w/ DNR regarding possible group exercises relevant to the topic.

Dates: We will target Feb. 21st, 28th, March 7th in that order of priority.

Venue: CLC Theatre 1st choice (Bill will check into); Camp Ripley 2nd choice (Beau will check into, especially at the hanger conf. center); Atwood center at St. Cloud State University as a back-up; Brainerd Arboretum as 4th backup.

Next Board Meeting

Discussion centered on having a meeting in September to finalize the annual meeting, speakers and make assignments on getting the word out and other tasks.