

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

**12 August 2011
Brainerd Area DNR Office**

Present: Anna, Willis, Bill, Beau, Dan, Todd, Jesse and Ray V. (via Skype).

Anna called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Electronic Actions by Board since last meeting

Date: 7/6/11

Issue: June Board meeting minutes finalized with suggested revisions.

Motion by Jack & 2nd by Bill to accept minutes and post to website. Passed unanimously.

Date: 8/5/11

Issue: Annual Meeting Date. After much discussion and confirmation on March 2nd availability with key speakers, Anna made decision to lock-in March 2nd for the meeting. Requested that Beau work on the lease with Camp Ripley.

No other formal remote actions taken by board. Members have been following through with contacts associated with speakers and scheduling venue for annual meeting, and Bill has been working on ordering fleece jackets with MNACP logo on it.

Secretary's Report – Minutes were approved electronically (see above)

Approved minutes from last meeting have been posted on our website.

Treasurer's Report

Ann was not present; \$2,510.72 (savings); \$660.03 (free checking); 2 expenses - lunch last month and website domain renewal.

Website Issues

New platform is live and looks good. No requests for changes. Contact Jack if you have any recommendations or items to post to the website.

Vision, direction, and mission of MNACP

Is an issue that Todd wanted to get up to speed on since he's new to the organization. This is more for clarification of new board members.

How do we expand membership? Anna still feels good annual meeting & workshop is best way to do that.

Politically, should advocacy be a focus, compared to adhering to our main mission of upholding professionalism? How can we be advocates and should we be more politically engaged?

We do have guidance. Is contained within our Articles of Incorporation.

But we could perhaps use a code of ethics or code of conduct like other organizations have (e.g. The Wildlife Society) to help us stay on a “professional” course with what we do.

Some members cannot be party to an organization if we are only or mostly political, because most of us need to work with all organizations, entities and individuals.

There is also concern if all we do is respond to “correct” misinformation and inaccuracies. If that is all we do, since we don’t have collective shared expertise, it puts us or individual board members in a difficult spot, and may not be sure our messages are on target & accurate. Can’t always complain or criticize; may also want to provide responses to that are supportive of policy and agencies when they good things are being done.

Newsletter – Ray

When do we want to get it out? Contents? Newsletter is the past-president’s job. Ray needs story ideas. Also is the first announcement for the annual meeting, so we need to have the agenda finalized, listing speakers, etc. Also need to have a new section for President-elect. Include summary of actions over this past year, including links to letters on our website, as well as a section on bylaw changes and referral to website for details if necessary. Special thanks to Matt Lauer as webmaster, and to Paul’s niece for work on logo. Will shoot for October timeframe.

Dedicated Funding Working Group (DFWG) Update - Ray

Ray is standing representative. Attended the July meeting and MN Environmental Partnership is funding an audit, and the legislative auditor is doing an audit on what has been appropriated, what has been spent, and determining the proportion allocated to fee title acquisition, easements, and so on,.....apparently close to 30% of LSOHC funding was acquisition vs. other expenditures (enhancements and restorations).

Zentner has drafted a letter to the Governor to suggest the overarching strategy of expenditure of legacy funds (requesting integration of all legacy funding sources). Was suggesting the commissioners of DNR, PCA and MDA to collaborate on developing an overarching strategy in using these funds, and should be an executive branch task, even though the driving force behind these funds at the grass roots level was not to give the money to agencies. Apparently there will be a PR campaign related to this request.

Invoice for white paper on the intent and history surrounding the Legacy amendment should be coming through shortly (\$300) and will include copies.

Government Agency & U of MN Dept. Head letter follow up - no response to MNACP yet

Got one letter from BWSR on 8/8/11. We didn't ask for a response, but some were expecting more of a reception to letter. Anna also got a call from MN Geological Survey, who were supportive of our letter. Is the expectation of a response unreasonable? In future we should discuss our expectations and integrate them into letters if a response or action is requested. So what should we do? Would it be appropriate in our letters to include a standard end-note as to our expectations. Beau moved that Paul and Willis discuss and provide suggestion for action, if any. to the board. Jesse 2nd, passed unanimously.

Jackets

Full zip, quarter zip, color doesn't matter for cost, 365 gram polar fleece LS, up to size 6XL. Will cost \$24-26 w/ embroidery. Based on discussion, Beau moved to go with dark green, full-zip, with light lettering (get recommendations from vendor on actual color), and request to see a digital proof; Jesse 2nd. Passed. Bill will follow-up and we will vote to approve remotely.

Annual Meeting Planning

Beau inquired with Camp Ripley on availability of Feb. 24th and March 2nd. Various issues with earlier dates and with 24th, and board decided to opt for March 2nd. Beau recently confirmed with Camp Ripley and they are sending us the lease for that date.

Beau will check with catering possibilities again and costs. Anna would have liked better vegetarian options.

Goal is to finalize the annual meeting agenda – see below

Next meeting: Do we need one? Last year we had one in early October, and was the last one prior to the annual meeting. Do we need another meeting to discuss catering, etc.? Decided we will schedule a fall meeting as needed.

Tentative 2012 Annual Meeting Updated Agenda

Topic: Resilient lands and waters: effectively coping with demographic, economic and environmental change

Location: Camp Ripley

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| 8:30 am | Registration |
| 9:00-10:00 am | Stephen Polasky, U of MN, Dept. of Applied Economics - Ecosystems Services/Return on Investment (Value) – include Q&A, etc.; if talks only 30-45 min., then more time for discussion & Questions |
| 10:00-10:30 am | Networking |
| 10:30-11:30 am | Changing MN Demographics, populations, land use, urban/rural (Change) Exact title to be determined.....2010 Census – who’s going where; demographics; link between where people are going and cost/value of resources of where they’re going under the umbrella of managing for resilience for MN aquatic systems |
| 11:30 am - 12:00 pm | Roundtable, more networking, or Q&A |
| 12:00-1:00 pm | Lunch |
| 1:00-1:30 pm | Mike Duval and/or Pete Jacobson – strategic conservation opportunities associated with identification of high integrity lakes in watersheds – Anna or Bill will approach Mike. |
| 1:30-2:00 pm | Rural case study (conservation tileage – Scott Sparland) - Dan also indicated there are some other projects in the SW if Scott falls through |
| 2:00-2:30 pm | Urban case study – (What about urban storm water and corridors as potential topics – would be more urban oriented. Dan and Ray think they can find some case stories and speakers from metro area. Minnehaha creek watershed story is a good one. 9-mile creek). |
| 2:30-3:30 pm | Julie Westerlund (Mn DNR) – Interactive discussion regarding stormwater management |
| 3:30-3:45 pm | Networking & final silent auction bids |
| 3:45-4:45 pm | Business Meeting – tentative (issues we should be focused on in the upcoming year; planned action items; elections; change to bylaws (changes to what constitutes quorum on matters when board members fail to respond; also when we have inactive board members, we need option for president to appoint new members to serve the roll temporarily until next election). |
| 4:45 pm | Announce Silent Auction & Adjourn - tentative |