

Minutes of the
54th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS

6 April 2013
Brainerd Arboretum, Lower Level

Anna called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Willis, Ann, Todd, Beau, Jack, Anna, Paul S., plus two members (Mike Duval & Jeanine Vorland).

Beau made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, 2nd by Willis. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Secretary's Report

Beau handed out the 2012 annual meeting minutes and recent remote actions of the board. Todd made a motion to accept the minutes with minor corrections highlighted by Willis on the 2011 silent auction report, 2nd by Willis. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Todd presented the treasurer's report. Membership Savings (S1) balance of \$212.35; Free Checking (S7) balance of \$3,415.83, for total balance of \$3,628.18.

Beau made motion to accept the treasurer's report with an addition of the 2012 annual meeting financials to be reflected in the final minutes since they weren't presented at the meeting, 2nd by Jack, Passed unanimously.

Anna and Ann volunteered for the audit committee to review the ledger, and reported back that the books balanced. Beau made motion to approve the auditor's report; 2nd by Jack. Motion passed unanimously.

Organization's Status

Beau presented last year's developments that resulted in no annual workshop and necessitated this special meeting. Basically our president and president-elect were unable to follow-through with their leadership commitments. This was apparent throughout the year, but particularly later in the summer as planning for the annual meeting progressed. Due to lack of leadership, we couldn't make decisions and annual meeting planning was compromised with little headway made as of February. This circumstance could not have been foreseen and is unprecedented with the current and former association. Nothing in our Bylaws or organizational structure could have prevented this from happening, and the board can see no changes that would prevent it from happening again, and generally feel a repeat of these circumstances are unlikely to occur in the future.

Remote actions by the board were taken in the absence of any leadership to cancel the 2013 meeting since it could not be planned in less than 6 weeks and there really wasn't enough time to notify and recruit possible attendees by the March 30 deadline as called for in the Bylaws. In lieu of a combined

annual workshop and business meeting, the board agreed to call today's special meeting so that basic business needs could be addressed and planning for next year's event could begin.

New Business

Website Update - Jack

Activity since the summer board meeting has been very quiet, with no contacts or announcements from membership. Only 2 e-mails through our contact link. In January there were a couple inquires on whether or not we'd be having an annual meeting.

During the time of the annual conference we typically get hits in Jan/Feb, but then it tails off. Most hits are random search engine hits.

Overall we're not getting many visits, but in a real sense there isn't a reason for folks, including members, to visit since we've not been very active this past year and have little new material to add to the webpage.

Future of Organization, Purpose/Mission, etc.

Paul presented a vision for furthering the effectiveness of the organization. Paul's proposal doesn't really change our mission or purpose. It's more oriented on how we conduct business, and get information from and to membership and the public. Paul's vision or concept is to get us up-to-date with the times in regards to communication and accessibility via the Internet, including to the public. However, we can edit our purpose and mission on the webpage that might help make it sound less controversial to some. We will take that up at the next board meeting and implement it before we start announcing the next annual meeting.

We do have to be careful how we provide information to protect our members who work for government agencies and groups who partner with them in regards to policy critiques, etc.

We can help fill the void of the separation of government and the public, but we can't, nor shouldn't be confrontational. Whatever we do, we need to maintain our professionalism and integrity. If we do that we shouldn't have issues with lack of support, etc. from agencies, and we should minimize any conflict with agencies and potential consequences to board members and officers who work for those agencies.

Paul felt we might want to investigate tax-exempt status since he envisions a much larger organization in the future and would like to take advantage of larger donations and grants available to non-profits.

Paul will further revise and develop his proposal for organizational upgrades for consideration at the June board meeting. The board may well act on the proposal this summer to begin positioning the association toward a more effective business model, but we will also likely send out the proposal to get feedback from membership on the ideas in the proposal.

2014 Annual Meeting Planning/Web Organization Development – topics, speakers venues, timelines

We will pin down dates and venues at the June board meeting; it was suggested to keep the date around mid-February. This has always worked well in the past and with the least conflicts with other conferences and training events. Weekdays seem to be most preferred, especially on Friday's; might be difficult to get attendance of professionals on weekends.

The MN chapter of the Society of Conservation Biology contacted us to inquire about our interest to have a joint meeting with them as well as TWS, AFS, etc. While those are very good events, we're still too small, with little name recognition. Combined with the lack of activity we had this past year due to leadership breakdown, the board decided we should do a stand-alone 1-day annual meeting/workshop as we've done in the past. Other options in the future may be worthy of pursuing once we get on better footing and have more recognition and improve our membership ranks, which is really the biggest obstacle right now of being able to ramp up the association's activities.

There was some discussion on whether or not we wanted a workshop/conference or just an annual meeting regarding how to better position the organization to be more effective. The reality is that we need something of utility for membership to want to show up and participate, and we need agencies to approve attendance on work time. Jack made motion to have an annual workshop/meeting in 2014, Beau 2nd, passed.

The board would like a high profile speaker & topic to improve attendance, since we might want some good attendance of membership to help us tackle how to better position the organization to be more effective. Do we want to book-end the "future" discussion with another talk or save that primarily for the business meeting? A good topic to cover would be how to get your message out. That could be a separate talk and we could briefly mention that MNACP has been considering how we can alter getting information out as well as foster better networking and discussion, taking advantage of current web-based technologies, and that will be discussed during the business meeting.

Jeanine questioned whether Paul's proposal needed to be aired out in the annual business meeting. She suggested that it is an administrative and logistical issue that the board can tackle. If there are things that can be done with our webpage to improve information dissemination, engagement between professionals and possibly the public, and whether or not that results in some major changes in how we take action or get results doesn't necessarily need to be an issue we tackle at an annual business meeting. The board is and has been empowered historically to act on those matters as needed.

Bill Hanson, recently retired climate change expert from NOAA was brought up as a possible high-profile speaker that could talk about issues related to climate change that members might find interesting. Willis will investigate on his willingness to speak, what he might charge, or recommendations he might have on relevant topics and other speakers. Such a topic wouldn't focus on whether climate change is occurring or what's causing it. Focus would be to highlight what has been done (e.g. case studies) or strategies that both policy makers and field managers might be able to do to contend with the changes. Key in the effectiveness on any topic on climate change to the membership or prospective attendees will be the context of the discussion. If it's relevant, folks will attend, if not, they won't.

In light of the interest and involvement of the DNR Commissioner's Office on climate change issues, Beau will contact Dave Schad and inquire about what topics DNR would recommend be covered if we wanted to address climate change at our meeting, and context or specific topics that the agency would consider relevant for attendance by its staff.

Another possible topic discussed was associated with energy development (e.g. pipeline development, frac-sand mining, energy policy). These are high in the public eye right now with lots of natural resource implications.

Some on the board encouraged board members to think of some topics that might foster agency networking. Some of the topics already mentioned might foster that, but think of others that might be worthy of addressing.

All natural resource agencies have a message to get out, both internally and externally. Communication and outreach is always the first to get cut, and we never are able to invest the time or resources into effective outreach like we should. A good speaker on organization change, leadership effectiveness, and delivery of information, or even simply how to communicate most effectively would be useful for everyone, and would also be a good tie-in for discussion later in the day during the annual business meeting if we decide to discuss some organizational changes that MNACP is considering. A good topic would be one that addresses professional organizations and their communication and how to do so to retain professional integrity, while also getting information out to the public, and how to engage appropriately with stakeholders, politicians and administrators.

Regarding timelines, in addition to regularly scheduled board meetings the rest of the year, we need to target getting our main newsletter and 1st notification of the annual meeting by Thanksgiving at the latest. Anna will be too busy in November, so we will try to get it accomplished by the end of October. After Thanksgiving, we will need to send out periodic follow-up notifications about the annual meeting every 4-6 weeks.

Records retention/scanning

Beau suggested that we look into hiring someone to scan in our historical records if we think they're worthy of retaining so that they can be maintained electronically. There's much more to this than simply performing the scans. They need to be attributed and organized so that they can be easily searched and extracted when needed. Beau will look into this further and get some estimates on what this might cost. Both he, Todd, Paul and Ann have material that needs to be archived. It's time to do this before we lose the records, they get damaged, etc., and it's high time we update to the digital age.

Elections

- Nominations were accepted from the members for the vacant positions

President –	Ann Geisen	Junior Director –	Willis Mattison
President Elect –	Paul Stolen	Junior Director –	Jeanine Vorland
Secretary –	Beau Liddell	Junior Director –	Vacant
		Junior Director –	Vacant

Still have 3 board vacancies. Lee Sundmark & Jeanine said they might be able to fill one of the vacancies if we can't recruit anyone else. Paul has a few ideas, particularly of some who have been involved with conservation organizations and are very adept at upgrading organizational effectiveness. We will try to fill vacancies by June board meeting.

- The following positions comprise the remainder of the board and were not up for election in 2013

Past (Past) President – Anna Lipenga
Treasurer – Todd Holman (thru 12/31)
Webmaster – Jack Lauer

Senior Director – Bill Faber
Senior Director – Nicholas Snavelly
Senior Director – Paul Ojanen
Senior Director – Dave Pauly

Ann moved, Jack 2nd to approve nominations. Passed.

Other Issues for Discussion:

Membership Dues

Beau made a motion, seconded by Paul, that we carry forward current membership to 2014 annual meeting. Failed to pass. Discussion ensued that doing so isn't consistent with what's been done in the past. Anna made a motion, seconded by Willis, that we send out a newsletter within the next month to membership that solicits 2013 membership dues and provides information on upcoming activities that we're working on. Passed unanimously.

Incorporating MNACP

We are an unincorporated nonprofit association, and have been since 2002 (the state involuntarily dissolved our incorporated status in 2002 after failure to annually file the association with the Secretary of State). Most small groups are unincorporated, and we can continue operating as such. Beau said he would delve into our past minutes and documents he has on whether or not we should incorporate. Jeanine mentioned that at one of our last annual meetings the membership voted to allow the board to decide whether or not incorporating the association and filing our articles of incorporation were needed. Beau will report back to the board remotely or at the next board meeting on the matter, with recommendations. This has some bearing on the issue of tax-exempt status (if we want that status we must incorporate).

Having no more business, Anna made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ann seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned @ 1:45 pm.

Ann will send out a doodle poll for June board meeting, which will occur sometime during 1st or 2nd week of month. The meeting will likely be held in the greater St. Cloud or Little Falls area.

Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals

2012 Financial Statement

Checking Account (\$7)

Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union

Date	Transaction	Debit	Deposit	Interest	Balance	Notes
1-Jan-12	balance carry-over from 2011				189.93	
19-Jan-12	debit card #14 - Brainerd Post Office	15.93			174.00	box & postage - shipping 2 fleece jackets to Paul's niece - thank-you for designing the logo
14-Feb-12	deposit		292.00		466.00	board member payments for fleece jackets
27-Feb-12	transfer from savings		2,300.00		2,766.00	transferred funds to cover annual meeting expenses
1-Mar-12	check #2060 - Jodie Provost	100.00			2,666.00	donation to support Jodie Provost's lobbying efforts at the TWW fly-in
1-Mar-12	check #2061 - Greenspire Graphics	1,112.00			1,554.00	MNACP fleece jackets
1-Mar-12	cash withdrawal	200.00			1,354.00	change for the annual workshop
2-Mar-12	debit card #15- Office Max	5.14			1,348.86	nametags for the annual workshop
5-Mar-12	check #2059 - Custom Art Concepts	250.00			1,098.86	silent auction items for the annual meeting/workshop
9-Mar-12	deposit		1,183.00		2,281.86	cash proceeds from the annual meeting/workshop
2-Apr-12	deposit		2,504.00		4,785.86	check proceeds from the annual meeting/workshop
30-Apr-12	check #2062 - HO AAFES	847.54			3,938.32	lunches & snacks for the annual meeting/workshop
18-May-12	check #2063 - Camp Ripley Mess Fund	240.00			3,698.32	rental fee for the auditorium for the annual meeting/workshop
18-Jun-12	debit card #16 Bravo Burrito St. Cloud	65.73			3,632.59	board meeting lunch
9-Jul-12	check #2064 - photo gift	53.45			3,579.14	Payment to Beau Liddell for photo gift for outgoing board member Ray Valley
23-Jul-12	check #2065	61.60			3,517.54	Payment to Jack Lauer for MNACP website renewal fee
25-Sep-12	check #2066	48.00			3,469.54	US Post office box rental fee
2-Nov-12	debit card #17 Chipotle, St. Cloud	68.71			3,400.83	board meeting lunch
27-Nov-12	deposit		15.00		3,415.83	membership dues from Scott Sparlin
	2012 totals =	3,068.10	6,294.00	0.00		
	2012 ending balance =				3,415.83	

Savings Account (\$1)

Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union

Date	Transaction	Debit	Deposit	Interest	Balance	Notes
1-Jan-12	balance carry-over from 2011				2,511.77	
31-Jan-12	dividend credit (#D25)			0.21	2,511.98	
27-Feb-12	transfer to checking	2,300.00			211.98	transferred funds to cover annual meeting expenses
29-Feb-12	dividend credit (#D26)			0.17	212.15	
31-Mar-12	dividend credit (#D27)			0.02	212.17	
30-Apr-12	dividend credit (#D28)			0.02	212.19	
31-May-12	dividend credit (#D29)			0.02	212.21	
30-Jun-12	dividend credit (#D30)			0.02	212.23	
31-Jul-12	dividend credit (#D31)			0.02	212.25	
31-Aug-12	dividend credit (#D32)			0.02	212.27	
30-Sep-12	dividend credit (#D33)			0.02	212.29	
31-Oct-12	dividend credit (#D34)			0.02	212.31	
30-Nov-12	dividend credit (#D35)			0.02	212.33	
31-Dec-12	dividend credit (#D36)			0.02	212.35	
	2012 totals =	2,300.00	0.00	0.58		
	2012 ending balance =				212.35	

Checking / as of April 4, 2013 \$3315.83

Savings Ac as of April 4, 2013 \$212.35

Grand Total \$3,528.18

Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals**Financial Statement for 2012 Annual Workshop**

Friday, 2 March 2012

Annual Workshop Income

	<u>number</u>	<u>amount</u>	<u>total</u>
workshop registrations	60	\$25.00	\$ 1,500.00
memberships	44	\$15.00	\$ 660.00
fleece jackets	13	\$30.00	\$ 390.00
silent auction fundraiser			\$ 911.00
donation			\$ 26.00
total = \$			3,487.00

Annual Workshop Expenses

	<u>total</u>
Camp Ripley - auditorium rental	\$ 240.00
lunches (71 x \$8.79)	\$ 624.09
coffee	\$ 55.00
doughnuts	\$ 42.00
fruit	\$ 24.00
cookies	\$ 27.45
water	\$ 30.00
pop	\$ 45.00
Custom Art Concepts - silent auction items	\$ 250.00
Office Max - nametags	\$ 5.14
total = \$ 1,342.68	

Net Gain = \$ 2,144.32

Fundraising Summary for 2012 MNACP Annual Meeting
Friday, 2 March 2012

Silent Auction

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Object</u>	<u>Winning Bid</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Donor</u>
1	elk print on wood	\$ 30.00	Willis Mattison	
2	wood blue-winged teal decoy	\$ 25.00	Helen McLennan	
3	antique carry-lite mallard decoy pair	\$ 30.00	Sheldon Myerchin	
4	matching antique mirrors	\$ 25.00	Helen McLennan	
5	wood carved loon decoy	\$ 35.00	Dave Pauly	
6	wolf sculpture	\$ 10.00	Sheldon Myerchin	
7	photo & wild rice	\$ 35.00	Ray Valley	
8	mallard sculpture	\$ 35.00	Helen McLennan	
9	duck tray, hand-harvested wild rice, homemade raspberry jam, pure maple syrup	\$ 37.00	Tony Arhart	
10	antique golf clubs	\$ 12.00	Kevin Woizeschke	
11	photo & wild rice	\$ 30.00	Lori Stevenson	
12	deer sculpture	\$ 25.00	Dan Steward	
13	blue bird print	\$ 45.00	Mike Hoppus	
14	wood merganser decoy	\$ 20.00	Lori Stevenson	
15	metal & wood welcome sign	\$ 30.00	Jay Morsching	
16	wood canvasback decoy	\$ 20.00	Mike Carroll	
17	big game knife set	\$ 42.00	Steve Flackey	
18	blaze orange backpack	\$ 22.00	Keith Reeves	
19	duck boat sculpture (hunter is loose)	\$ 30.00	Sheldon Myerchin	
20	framed 25-year pheasant stamp print	\$ 39.00	Heike Lewandowski	
21	Angler's Delight photo, t-shirt, hat, & filet knife	\$ 20.00	Nick Reindl	
22	Duck Hunter's Delight, 1/2 dozen decoys, wild rice, DU hat, trash bag	\$ 30.00	Martha Minchak	
23	Jim Meger pheasant print (signed by the artist on the back)	\$ 15.00	Sheldon Myerchin	
24	antique walking stick	\$ 10.00	Dave Pauly	
25	pintail decoy (right leg damaged, chipped paint)	\$ 20.00	Sheldon Myerchin	
26	bobwhite quail print	\$ 15.00	Mike Carroll	
27	wood wild turkey plaque	\$ 10.00	Kevin Woizeschke	
28	Turkey Hunter's Delight, decoy, shells	\$ 17.00	Tony Arhart	
29	Deer Hunter's Delight photo, antler-handle knife, wild rice	\$ 25.00	Anna Lipenga	
30	clock & wine bottle holder	\$ 15.00	Laura May	
31	bag of duck decoys	\$ 32.00	Ann Geisen	
32	bear paw snow shoes	\$ 45.00	Jay Morsching	
33	duffle bag, dog dish, trash bag, dog print	\$ 25.00	Nik Kadel	
34	lab head sculpture	\$ 10.00	Chaplin Jerome Fehn	
35	Conservation Corps memorabilia	\$ 5.00	Ray Norrgard	
36	moose lamp	\$ 40.00	Willis Mattison	

total = \$ 911.00

"Early Bird" Drawing - Not offered.