

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

**10 June 2011  
Brainerd Area DNR Office**

Present: Anna Lipenga, Bill Faber, Willis Mattison, Jack Lauer, Beau Liddell, Ray Valley (via Skype) & Todd Holman. Quorum present.

Anna called the meeting to order at 10:20 am.

*Electronic Actions by Board since last meeting*

Date : 5/8/11-5/13/11

Issue: Paul Stolen and Willis Mattison submitted a draft letter regarding response to editorials and PR from agricultural interests claiming that sediment in river systems is natural and that agricultural community is not causing problems. Anna & Todd made suggestions for minor revisions. Motion made and 2nd to accept the draft with proposed revisions. Passed unanimously.

Date 5/8/11

Issue: Acceptance of final logo and letterhead design. Motion made and 2nd to accept the logo as presented, to post to website and begin using immediately. Passed unanimously.

Date 5/13/11

Issue: April Board meeting minutes finalized with suggested revisions.  
Motion by Bill & 2nd by Jack to accept minutes and post to website. Passed unanimously.

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

Approved minutes from last meeting have been posted on our website. It was suggested that when feasible this would be the most efficient way of approving regular board meeting minutes going forward.

*Treasurer's Report – None*

*Website Issues*

Still need to change the homepage now that the workshop is done. Jack & Matt provided an example update via e-mail that board had a chance to look at. Jack also proposed that he formally take over webmaster tasks, and would continue to provide that service when his term expired. However, since webmaster may not have a board position in the future, it was suggested that the Webmaster be formally added to the board membership if a board member does not assume these responsibilities. Beau will work up proposed ByLaw resolution to add webmaster to board for membership approval at next annual meeting.

Jack moved that we activate the new page, Willis 2<sup>nd</sup>; passed unanimously.

Further discussion: Beau suggested that we add board meeting notices to the “news” section of the webpage, and if possible have a link to the meeting agenda. Would be the best way to notify membership about upcoming meetings and topics.. Ray also brought up how to best get information in general to membership rather than via mail/e-mail which can be difficult to keep current. Suggested a discussion forum that folks could subscribe to, or involve some type of e-mail automated notification. Board agreed that such tweaks can be made at discretion of the board and webmaster.

### Dedicated Funding Working Group (DFWG) Involvement

Ray presented update on this group. Dave Zentner would like to see a consistent MNACP standing liaison on DFWG. Ray indicated willingness to accept that role, including after his position with MNACP expires. Ray moved, Beau 2<sup>nd</sup>; passed unanimously.

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

Willis would like to draft another letter to the editor, following up. Okay by Jack and Bill. Todd has concerns about us becoming too anti-Ag and pigeonholed as the naysayers. All farmers consider themselves conservationists. Would like to have further discussion about MNACP’s mission, values, etc.

### Annual Meeting Planning

Proposed Topics (also see below on last page): Environmental management in local communities & LGU’s - appeal to local government (Tom Gillespe – State Demographer possible speaker or can suggest some speakers; some linkage to science and literacy). Useful suggestions for dealing with the legislative environment. Watershed management in municipalities. Where the legacy money is going.

Quite a bit of discussion on role of science in policy making & management.....or growing disregard for science and scientists in environmental and natural resource policy making and how to contend with that. Some recent examples include, slot limits, ATV issues, Minnesota River water quality issues. In general, it has been quite apparent that over the past 1+ years policymakers are ignoring science more than ever.

Step back.....MNACP reaffirmed role of having annual meeting be a workshop/seminar where it invites folks to learn. This has some bearing on what topics we cover or how we will approach it. General “role of science”, etc. can get very political, and may impact agencies’ willingness to authorize employee attendance on company time.

Last year, EDC’s, mining, prior year Conservation Funding status. Funding drives conservation like it or not. Need to continue w/ legacy amendment off on the side for whatever we address and we need to influence outcomes, which for some time ultimately will be done through OHF and involve \$\$.

Pete Jacobson & Mike Duval re: showing where status of watershed/aquatic resources in state and which watersheds are most intact and have highest integrity. Issue of focusing conservation efforts & protection. SGCN work?

Dr. Karen Poiani (TNC) spoke at TWS/AFS conference a few years ago....re: managing for resilience.

Helen McClennan re: on-the-ground success stories (at least one example working at Camp Ripley).

Conservation Drainage- Scott Sparlan (private MN River Advocate), MN Dept of Ag

Geomorphology- David Rosgen, taught by Luther Aadland, Ian Chisholm

Ecosystem services, value of water.....costs of treatment, impacts of basin management, relevancy to where we target policy and funding, etc. Steve Polaski (nat. res. economist at U of MN)....has done work on return on public lands investment and related to ecosystems good & services.

Resiliency in MN Ecoystems (or managing for resilient system) Series of workshops over several years? Start/continue with water resources this year to build on last year's talks, and then in future years address other water resources/wetlands, or terrestrial habitats.....This can be done to maintain relevancy, integrate hot topic issues (e.g. invasive species, etc.), and integrate examples/success stories, landscape scale planning & policy. Can get political, or keep it lower key as well.

Beau will inquire with Camp Ripley on availability of Fridays in Feb. & March. Tentatively plan on Feb. 24th.

Remember we wanted more networking opportunity. Have a longer lunch & breaks? Not sure if we want to do a panel setup or just have separate presentations like last year.

Ray will follow up with Polaski, ask if he would be interested to be keynote, any suggestions on who else would be a good candidate. Todd, follow up with Tim, same thing

See last page of minutes for draft agenda for next annual meeting.

Next meeting: Suggested date, Friday August 12 @ 10am, Brainerd Area DNR Office. Discussion forum possibilities; vision, direction, and mission of organization-full discussion of board; Make sure that we are welcoming to SWCDs, NRCS conservationists.

## 2012 Annual Meeting

Tentative Topic: Managing for Resilience/Threats to Resilience in MN aquatic systems (see also Ray's notes)

Location: Camp Ripley

8:30 am Registration

9:00-10:00 Ecosystems Services/Return on Investment (Value)

10:00-10:20 Break

10:20-11:00 Changing MN Demographics, Populations, land use, urban/rural (Change)

11:00-12:00 (How to deal?) Has Any municipalities said no?

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:00 Speaker

2:00-2:20 Break

2:20-3:00 Panel or Case Studies, Success stories: Army Compatible Use Buffer or DARE

3:00 Business Meeting

Other potential topics:

Ecosystem services

Conservation drainage

Env. Mgmt in local municipalities

Intact watersheds

Success stories

Ravines

Keeping water on the land/Slow the flow