

Minutes of the
50th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS
(formerly the Minnesota Fish & Wildlife Employees Association)

6 March 2009

The Initiative Foundation
Little Falls, MN

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Board Member Ray Norrgard. Ray shared the theme of today's meeting, "Collaboration in Conservation", and shared housekeeping details.

Guest Speakers

Jim Cox, vice-chair of the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council, spoke about dedicated funding and the project proposal process.

- The LOHC only makes recommendations to the Legislature; the Council has no authority to appropriate the dedicated funding themselves.
- The LOHC only makes recommendations for the habitat portion of the dedicated funding (not the Clean Water, Parks & Trails, or Art portions).
- The Council's focus this round was to fund "shovel-ready" projects and to try to reduce the "backlog" of projects ready to go but waiting on funding.
- Part of the dedicated funding amendment directed the LOHC to establish a Conservation Partners Program to provide matching grants to local outdoor groups. The LOHC is still working on the details to make this program a reality, including deciding who should administer the grants.
- Mr. Cox identified some possible "road blocks" regarding dedicated funding:
 1. access issues
 - Many sportsmen & women supported the amendment because of access issues, but amendment funds can only secure access through fee-title purchase.
 - Many parts of the state are against fee-title purchase by the state.
 - Most wildlife habitat is on private land, but many hunters are resistant to funding private land without access.
 2. capacity
 - The dedicated funding greatly increases the amount of the work that can be done.
 - There is a need to increase the work capacity in both the public and private sectors.
 3. local units of government
 - The LOHC has heard more from LUG's than any other group, and LUG's are very concerned about the loss of tax revenue.
 4. have to keep fighting for the amendment
 - Cannot rest on successes.
 - As the demographics change, have to keep the amendment on track
 - Have to bring in the next generation.
- Mr. Cox also addressed questions about how the proposal process will work next year, what entity can keep the legislature from raiding the fund, how the public can know if the

money is being misspent, and how whether amendment funds are “supplementing” or “supplanting” traditional funding sources may be determined.

- For more information, folks can go to the LOHC website: www.lohc.state.mn.us

Dave Zentner, *former national president of the Izaak Walton League and former member of the Governor’s Conservation Legacy Council shared his thoughts on dedicated funding and conservation delivery.*

- The price of victory for the dedicated funding amendment is eternal vigilance.
- People are not long-enough lived to avoid past mistakes.
- Natural resource models need serious review.
- Science is not the deal maker.
- Does this country work as well as it could?
- Conservationists fail to connect with people in the communities.
- Conservation agencies and non-profit groups need to move to outcome-based system.
- Dedicated funding will not be sufficient without fixing the delivery system.
- Zentner’s idea of success of dedicated funding is that it will have modified the behavior of the majority of Minnesotans in how they treat natural resources on a daily basis.

Larry Kramka, *DNR Assistant Commissioner, spoke about dedicated funding and the project recommendation process for non-LOHC funds.*

- By voting for the dedicated funding amendment, the people of Minnesota said they will keep investing in the things that are important to them.
- Need to remember that “our view” (resource professionals) may not be “their view” (citizens).
- Need to remember that the Legislature has the final say with dedicated funding.
- The Clean Water Council (CWC) was created in law to make recommendations on clean water projects.
- The Clean Water Fund will be used to pay for the clean water project recommendations.
- The CWC is ahead of the LOHC in the recommendation process.
- There is no council to make recommendations for Parks & Trails funding, but there are some constituent groups that have taken the lead.
- There have been “holes” in maintenance & upkeep for parks & trails; some of the funding will likely be used to help bridge that gap.
- At the end of the day, it is the outcomes that matter, not how much money is spent.
- The personal side of DNR work is crucially important; we cannot spend our way out of a bad relationship.

John Jaschke, *Executive Director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), spoke about the need to work with people on resource issues.*

- How we touch people is as important as how we manage the resource.
- Conservation professionals have to care about the science, the resource, and the people.
- Need to build connections, because the government cannot do it all.
- It is important for the public to feel ownership in conservation solutions; ownership matters.

Tim Scherkenbach, *Acting Deputy Commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency (PCA), spoke about the work of the PCA.*

- Priorities for the PCA are 1) climate change initiatives, 2) proactive response to new or unanticipated issues, 3) core regulatory programs & services, and 4) water protection and restoration.
- There is a great need to improve assessment and monitoring; only 14% of lakes and 18% of streams have been tested.
- Try to avoid the unmanageable and manage the unavoidable.
- There is a lot of overlap between environmental protection and resource conservation; need to figure out how to leverage the commonalities.
- It is hard to prioritize dollars for restoration vs. preservation.
 - Some waters will never be restored to pre-settlement conditions.
 - There is not enough money to preserve some waters.

Business Meeting

Awards

Jack Enblom (Ecological Resources) received an award for work on MPCA wastewater treatment plant permits.

Mike Loss (Wildlife) received an award for his design of a beaver debris bar.

Paul Munsterteiger and Larry Puchalski received an award for joint DNR & MN DOT project reviews.

Treasurer's Report – Lee Sundmark

We made \$584 on the silent auction, with total annual meeting income (including memberships) of \$1,489.00. Membership Savings (S1) balance of \$1,003.44; Free Checking (S7) balance of \$1,837.98, for total balance of \$2,841.41. This is among the healthiest balance for the organization in some time.

- Tim Brastrup, Dan Swanson, and LeRoy Dahlke volunteered for the audit committee to review the ledger

Logo & Letterhead Contest

- a new logo and letterhead are needed for the new organization
- the deadline for submissions is April 15th
- the designer of the chosen logo & letterhead will win “fame and a fabulous prize”
- see the February newsletter for more information

Elections

- nominations were accepted from the members for the vacant positions

President –	Ray Norrgard	Junior Director –	Paul Stolen
President Elect –	Ray Valley	Junior Director –	Diana Regenschied
Past President –	Jeanine Vorland	Junior Director –	Dean Paron
Secretary –	Beau Liddell	Junior Director –	Doug Norris
Treasurer –	Lee Sundmark		
Senior Director –	Dave Pauly		
Senior Director –	Jim Lilienthal		
Senior Director –	Anna Lipenga		

Senior Director – Dan Steward

- Howard Krosch made a motion to approve the slate of candidates as listed; Gary seconded the motion.
- The motion passed unanimously.

Audit Committee

- the audit committee reported that the account ledger was all in order
- Beau Liddell made a motion to approve the audit report and the treasurer's report; Rob Naplin seconded the motion.
- the motion was passed unanimously

Resolution #1

- Lee Sundmark presented the following resolution to set up a fiscal year for the MACP in for tax, budget, and accounting purposes:
Whereas, a fiscal year for MACP is not clearly defined in organization by-laws; and
Whereas, a fiscal year is needed for tax, budget, and accounting purposes; and
Whereas, the calendar year seems to fit both MACP and IRS schedules.
Now therefore be it resolved, that MACP by-laws set forth a fiscal year that begins January 1 and ends December 31 each year.
- Jay Rendall made a motion to approve the resolution; Tim Brastrup seconded the motion.
- The motion was passed unanimously.

Other Discussion Items

- Ray Valley proposed the idea of MACP acting as an oversight committee for other (non-LOHC) dedicated funding accounts.
- Ray Norrgard pointed out the importance of having discussions across disciplines, agencies, and non-governmental organizations about conservation issues, and to shed light on the issues.
- Rich Staffon proposed that a speaker topic for next year could be a first-year review of the LOHC funding process and projects.
- John Huber pointed out that the more things the group does, the more the membership goes up.
- Beau Liddell suggested using a model similar to TWS, in which there are regional representatives to help communicate news and issues between the members and the Board.

Fundraising

- Winners of the silent auction items were announced.

Having no more business, Howard Krosch made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ray Valley seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.