

October 2010 Board Meeting Minutes

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS

6 October 2010

Stearns County SWCD, 110 2nd St. South
Waite Park, MN

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 AM by President Ray Valley.

Present: Ray Valley, Ann Geisen, Ray Norrgard, Dianna Regenscheid, Dan Steward, Paul Stolen, Doug Norris, Nicholas Snavelly and Beau Liddell.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Geisen

- Will add our new address to the accounts, need to bring in today's meeting minutes to do so.
- Has 2 debit cards for accounts in the Association's name, but only the President and Treasurer (Ray V. & Ann) have signing authority; if we want other Board members to be able to use them, they will need to sign a form and provide ID, etc.; decided to limit signing authority to treasurer and president for now.
- Will be ordering new checks with new information.
- Membership Savings (S1) balance of \$1509.14; Free Checking (S7) balance of \$1265.63, for total balance of \$2774.77.
- Ray N. made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Doug; motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report – Beau Liddell

- Minutes from July meeting were presented for approval by board.
- Ray suggested double-checking spelling for Swackhamer and Schottler's names.
- Ann motioned to approve the minutes, 2nd by Paul. Unanimously passed.

Annual Meeting Updates – All

- Bill got a room for 60-70 people at CLC
- We will be trying to get authorization for state paid time; if we succeed we'll probably have more than 70 folks
- Ray V. proposed alternative meeting places; possibly Camp Ripley or Armory in Brainerd; will make final decisions/voting on venue via e-mail in the coming month or so; other options would be Kelly Inn, Holiday Inn, Civic Center or SCSU in Waite park/St. Cloud; Breezy Point
- Ray V. & Ray N. have worked on draft letter to submit to DNR commissioner's office; Paul recommended going to DNR last and go to PCA first, or we can indicate who we are requesting this from, and that we will follow-up to meet with the commissioner; need to provide an agenda and context in letter on why the meeting is relevant for attendance on state time; also send a letter to BWSR; Doug or Ray N. will contact Kramka in advance of sending letter out; if we decide to send a letter it's ready to go; we will consider copying DNR division directors pending feedback from Kramka.
- Registration deadline – need to plan on a 2 week RSVP; deadline will be Feb. 10th; will send out announcement on or around December 20th after early-winter pre-holiday training; follow-up on Monday Jan. 10th; then quick reminder on or about Feb. 3rd.

- The Board decided to re-name the workshop to “Contaminants & Natural Resource Management”.
- A contact list for announcing the workshop / annual meeting was developed; contacts were assigned to Board members (see attached list)

Address & PO Box – Beau

- PO box is paid for; paid for a small box, \$46 per year; address is PO Box 174, Little Falls, MN 56345-0174; Beau will check box periodically; have 2 keys; Beau has agreed to continue checking box when a new secretary takes over.

Newsletter – All

- Initial draft was handed out
- Need to add announcement that we’ll be heading to a website/e-mail newsletter and that we need current member electronic contact information as part of membership registration (include privacy statement)
- Need to get the newsletter out by Oct. 31st; get content to Ray N. by Wed. Oct. 20th
- Ray N. will provide digital copy for board members to provide edits/changes, and will work with Ann to work up the newsletter
- Also need to provide a summary of proposed changes to Bylaw and Articles of Amendment
- Provide photos for newsletter if you have any

Website – All

- Website (www.MnACP.org) is up and running; get a hold of Jack for items to add to website; needs a lot of work; need to add a logo soon to dress up the site; need to find 2008 annual meeting minutes (requested Ann check to see if she still had electronic copies and to forward to Beau or Jack for posting to the site); updated membership form w/ Ann as contact is already on the site; our new address has already been added; need to work up annual meeting notice with registration to mail in w/ check, or to have them e-mail Ann to pre-register and pay at the door;
- Need to contact John Huber to have him post our new website on the old one
- Need a link to board members & officers; contact method will be to send message to website unless individual board members indicate it’s ok to provide their e-mail and/or phone numbers; also provide occupation of board members
- Paul is concerned with lack of reference in our purpose/mission regarding defending scientific decision making, etc.; we’ll make sure this is added to website language; Ray N. moved, 2nd by Paul to edit purpose statement of organization on website to “Support science-based stewardship of fauna, flora & their environments”, passed unanimously.

Logo – All

- Want something eye-catching, but not busy; discussed state w/ eco regions and MnACP acronym as part of logo and then for letterhead have Mn Association of Conservation Professionals and Promoting Science-based management of natural resources; Paul will follow-up on this before next board meeting

“Troubled Waters” & freedom of inquiry concerns – Paul

- “Troubled Waters” is a documentary about the Midwest contribution to the Dead Zone in the Gulf of Mexico; put together at the U of MN; main “villain” of the film was the Farm Bill.

- U of MN public relations director pulled it before its original release date; the documentary was later released.
- Paul is concerned about freedom of inquiry; wants the Board to send a letter expressing concerns about the censoring of scientific information and curbing its distribution.
- Ray N. suggested a different tack – send a “thank you” to the University for releasing the film & preserving scientific integrity; applaud them for making the right decision since we don’t know the details of what happened
- it was suggested to request a full & open inquiry/review – need to know why it happened
- Major points of a letter should be: glad it was released, concerns about how it happened, stress we hope the review process will prevent this in the future
- it was suggested to cc MN Public Radio on the letter for publicity; Paul is unsure about this; Paul will cc the Regents / University System
- Paul will draft a letter and circulate it, getting consent from the Board via email; this was done and motion made by Paul via e-mail during week of October 11th to send the letter, and was subsequently approved by the board via-e-mail.

MACDE joint meeting in 2011? – All

- MACDE is the MN Association of Conservation District Employees; local employee association
- President Elect (Anna) has an interest in working more closely with them, would like to consider a joint meeting in 2011
- Possible theme – water management in MN
- Board decided to address the idea of a joint meeting in the newsletter & get feedback

Next Meeting: Friday, Dec. 17th, 2010, 9:30-2:00. Having no more business, Doug made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Diana seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

MnACP 2011 Annual Meeting Tentative Agenda

Start Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: TBD/Tentatively Central Lakes College in Brainerd

When: Friday, February 25th

Theme: “Hidden Threats: Contaminants and Natural Resource Management”

1st speaker 30 minutes

Rest of speakers 45 minutes, including Q&A

Registration 8:30-9am; Meeting 9am-3:00 pm; Business meeting thereafter

Speakers, 6 hrs

Intro-Welcome 10-15 min.

Lunch 1 hr. 15 min.

2-15 min. breaks

1-2 hrs business meeting

Morning Session:

9:15-9:45 Keynote – Deb Swackhamer

9:45-10:30 Hardrock mining contaminants – Bruce Johnson (contaminants specialist – retired)

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-11:30 Endocrine disrupters & pharmaceuticals – Mark Ferry (PCA)

11:30-12:15 Mercury in forested wetlands – Randy Kolka (USFS)

Lunch 12:15-1:30 – Deb Swackhamer will speak

Afternoon Session:

1:30-2:15 Sediment fingerprinting in MN & Mississippi River -- Shawn Shottler w/ St. Croix Watershed Research Station

2:15-3:00 Lead issues – Molly Tranel

3:00-3:15 Break

Business Meeting 3:15-4:30 p.m.

Contact Assignments for the Contaminant Workshop / annual meeting

Ann
MWA

Anna
CCM

Beau
TWS, including newsletter

Dan
BWSR
MACDE
MDA
NRCS
SWCDs & watershed districts

Dean
TU

Diana
MDHA
TPL

Doug
ACOE
MDH
MnDOT
WPA

Nicholas
FWS

Paul
U of MN – Water Resource Centers @ Mankato & Twin Cities
universities

Ray N.
Delta
DU
PF
TNC

Ray V.
AFS
EPA
DNR, including employee newsletter
MLT
MN Waters
PCA
USFS
USGS