

May 2010 Board Meeting Minutes

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS

21 May 2010

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by President Ray Valley.

Present: Bill Faber, Ray Valley, Jack Lauer, Paul Stolen, Anna Lipenga, Ann Geisen, Ray Norrgard, and Beau Liddell.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Geisen

- Lee transferred the checking account to Ann, and now the president has signature authority to write checks; statements will be sent to Ann; may have to order checks or look into getting a debit card.
- Membership Savings (S1) balance of \$1,508.28; Free Checking (S7) balance of \$1,286.94, for total balance of \$ 2,795.22.
- Jack made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Ray N.; motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report – Beau Liddell

- Minutes from March meeting have not been finalized. Beau provided a summary, will update and send out the minutes for approval by board via e-mail.
- Discussed whether we should get a PO box to develop some permanency for Association address; Beau will check into getting a PO box at Little Falls post office, what the costs are, etc., and report back to the board.

Update on Reorganization Letter

- Got thank you from legislators. Acknowledged that appropriate expertise on the commission needed but don't want too large of a committee.
- Reorganization commission was still on table as of a couple of weeks ago but do not know what the status of the commission is.
- Bill numbers are SF1657 & HF2084 – according to Paul it didn't pass but may be re-introduced or resurrected in another form next year; if Emmer is elected governor, his priority will be to consolidate and could be dealt with through the legislature next session.
- Will check revisor's website and insert or attach bill language into minutes and get information out to the board.
- Upon follow-up in June, the revisors website did not have any more information after March 23rd; According to website, no action was taken in the house, and senate companion bill was referred to several committees and laid over for possible inclusion in the Omnibus bill, but never passed.

Update on LSOHC & Conservation Funding Letter – All

- Had no impact on bill, etc., at legislature
- Got no response from LSOHC or legislature

Webmaster, domain name & possible revisions to website – All

- John Huber is passing on these responsibilities
- Matt (Jack's son) is willing to manage our web & associated accounts free of charge
- John is in transition and we don't have any access as of yet but he will get it to us within the next few weeks
- Recommended getting a new domain so it matches our new org name; currently MnACP is available; will cost us \$60-100 annually; MACP is already taken.
- Jack will be liaison between Assoc. & Matt
- Problem is that as a college student he's travelling and so won't be able to reach him while travelling; by September he'll be able to crank out a new template and get things up to speed
- Jack can still get access to old domain and get info and letters posted to new site; John may be able to assist with this as well
- Jack will read contacts, etc. and get to appropriate board members
- We also need an association e-mail; should be secretary's responsibility to filter, etc.
- Already passed motion to make these changes via e-mail – Beau made motion, seconded by Bill Faber, with all board members responding in favor.
- FOR THE FUTURE: need to make us more accessible through website/e-mail to have membership input on topics of interest; also lets think about links we want on the website for the next meeting in July;
- Also need to post invites to membership for newsletter & board meeting topics, etc.....

Articles of Incorporation statement, Articles of Ammendment and Annual Corporate Renewal – All

- Beau provided updated Bylaws current through last couple of annual meetings, as well as original AOI and proposed AOA
- Don't need to formally register address, vision/purpose statement or AOI— can just keep them for our records; otherwise, need to update our organization's status with state, pay fees, and start filing tax returns
- Bill makes motion to accept AOA, but not to file with state, just update Association files, accepting Beau's revisions; seconded by Ann; passed unanimously; will add note on effective date, and official address of association will be current secretary until/unless we get a PO address.
- Should include this information in the MnACP newsletter
- Add information regarding e-mail communication to bylaws and needs to be addressed at annual meeting; make copy of bylaws available at or prior to annual meeting

Mission & Purpose Statement - All

- Some grammatical errors with mission statement on most recent letterhead; were changed in the final version sent to legislature.
- Need to make sure our purpose statement in AOI/AOA is agreed to, consistent, etc.
- Let's bring the purpose statement the board agrees to today to membership at annual meeting for approval, especially since it will be on our website.
- Do we need a separate mission/vision statement? No, the purpose & mission are the same and will be so listed in the AOA.
- The proposed purpose statement will read as follows: "The purpose and mission of this organization shall be: 1) to provide a forum for the gathering and exchange of information pertaining to natural resource conservation and management, 2) to develop

and alliance of natural resource conservation professionals, 3) to support professional natural resource conservation employees, and 4) to advocate for environmentally sound science-based decisions concerning natural resource conservation issues.”

Signing MnACP Letters - All

- Does president sign? Or someone signing as “acting for the board”?
- At the minimum, if president doesn’t sign letter due to conflict of interest or fear of retribution by agency, etc., then more elaboration is needed in the letter making it clear that board has discussed or agreed to the letter
 - E.g. “as agreed by board,” or “as agreed by the board of directors”

Logo – All

- We’ve needed a new logo for some time and no one has stepped up to the plate.
- Paul will check into his sister’s ability to provide us with a logo as she has some graphic design expertise.
- Decided we don’t need something that shows natural resources; often most effective logos are generic, abstract, catchy logos that don’t necessarily relate directly to an organization’s purpose.

Next Annual Meeting (Theme & Possible Speakers) - All

- a. Contaminants will be our general theme and discussed the following breakdown of topics and speakers:
 - i. Polymet, copper mining effects
 - ii. Endocrine disrupters & pharmaceuticals
 - iii. Antibacterial residues
 - iv. Lead in the environment – Molly Tranel
 - v. Road salt
 - vi. Pesticide residues
 - vii. Policy & regs
 - viii. Speakers – Deb Swackhammer could talk about a lot of this, or to talk as an introductory, plenary or lunch speaker
 - ix. Can have Old (mercury & lead) vs. new (endocrine disrupters)
 - x. What about dates & venue?
 1. Be flexible on dates, but leaning toward Feb. 25th or March 4th (each Friday)
 2. Initiative Foundation may not be good if we get more than 60 folks showing up – Bill will check with CLC for facilities
 - xi. Need to meet with Larry Kramka and then Denise Legato; also approach PCA and BWSR
 - xii. Will have 6 hrs; 9-3 or 9-4
 - xiii. See below or attached for tentative agenda for meeting

National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (NFHCA) – Jack

- Jack passed out proposed letter to congress.
- Recommending we urge our MN congressman/women to support NFHCA
- This effort will be similar to NAWCA
- Would provide some dedicated funds for fish habitat and enable agencies and organizations to vie for funds for this type of work

- Partnership based
- None of this will happen unless congress acts
- Need to make letter more concise, not same as other organizations will be sending – will send a stronger message than if they see a cookie-cutter letter from everyone.
- Jack proposes we write a similar letter customized for our group & MN; Bill made a motion for Jack to write a customized letter, Anna seconded, passed unanimously
- Can reference miles of impaired waters, and also highlight some good success on habitat restoration in the state to give it the appropriate flavor for our congressional representatives.

MnACP Newsletter - All

- We usually do 2; last year we did only 1 full blown newsletter
- Mail, e-mail & on website
- Maybe consider future bylaws revision on notices & newsletters via e-mail, etc. – with advent of electronic communication we should probably update our bylaws to reflect & allow such communication – however, technically this is allowed via state statutes associated with non-profit organizations.

Letter to editor regarding conservation funding? - All

- Do we want to do this, especially regarding human resource capacity?
- Shelved until more appropriate time – e.g. September perhaps, in preparation for next session

Next Meeting: July 23rd, 2010, Location TBD. Beau will try to get an announcement to current members via e-mail at least a week or two in advance so they can have input on issues they would like the board to take up.

Having no more business, Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Beau seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 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 or March 4th, 2011

Theme: “Contaminants – need to come up with a better title”

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 Swackhammer

9:45-10:30 Hardrock mining contaminants – Bruce Johnson (contaminants specialist – retired); Paul will vet & inform board, and if need be propose alternative speaker

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-11:30 Endocrine disrupters & pharmaceuticals – Heiko Schoenfuss (SCSU) – Bill will contact

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

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

Afternoon Session:

1:30-2:15 Sediment fingerprinting in MN & Mississippi River -- Carrie Jennings & Shawn Shettler (sp?) w/ St. Croix Watershed Research Station – Jack will contact

2:15-3:00 Lead issues – Molly Tranel – Beau will contact

3:00-3:15 Break

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

Get the agenda and date lined up, then contact Kramka (DNR) and other agencies to request staff time; if request expenses for board members, then approach directors