



COASTAL HORIZONS



The Coastal Program's goal is to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, restore or enhance coastal resources along Minnesota's North Shore of Lake Superior.

Winter 2007

IN THIS ISSUE...

Coastal Spotlight

FAQ – What is the Coastal Program?

Nonpoint News

A Minute with a Council Member

Grant Applications Increase

New Year, New Council

Been Here Lately?

COASTAL SPOTLIGHT

Looking for snow? Although many areas in the coastal boundary may be suffering from snow withdrawal, the Lake County Demonstration Forest has plenty. The Demo Forest was the vision of long-time Lake County resident and forester, Donald Ferguson. The 400-acre site encompasses the headwaters of the Knife and Stewart rivers, eight miles northwest of Two Harbors along the Drummond Grade. The forest contains a mix of forest types, wetlands, and history (including railroading, gravel mining, logging, and a railroad camp). It is a working forest, which will host educational field days and interdisciplinary programs for K-12 students. Demonstrations of alternative forest management methods, tools, and techniques that maintain or improve water quality and fisheries habitat are planned. Over three miles of trails have been constructed to encourage recreation, including snowshoeing, skiing, hiking, biking, geo-caching, and hunting.

A 2004 Coastal Grant provided the Demo Forest Committee with funds to establish woodland trails, build a kiosk, and print an interpretative hiking guide featuring 21 points of interest along the trails. In addition, a gravel pit was restored and a state-of-the-art forest management plan was produced.

Currently, the Demonstration Forest Committee is working on their second Coastal Grant, which involves constructing two vault toilets, one additional mile



of trail, and "You Are Here" trail signs. Future plans include a pavilion for year-round use by hikers on the Superior Hiking Trail and snowmobilers using the North Shore Trail.

Wayne Seidel, manager for the grant said, "The committee has done a great job on this project and Lake County residents and visitors are beginning to discover what a hidden gem this site has become."

Look for the Hiking Trail Guide at: www.co.lake.mn.us/.

COASTAL FACT

Lake Superior's water level has been hovering near an all-time low. Well-below normal precipitation since last May and very warm surface waters in late summer 2006 contributed greatly to the low level, which negatively impacts the shipping industry. In an average year, almost no water evaporates from Lake Superior from May through July, because the water is cooler than the dew point temperature of the air above it. This didn't hold true for summer 2006.

Source:
Jim Zandlo
State Climatologist
Minnesota DNR

FAQ – WHAT IS THE COASTAL PROGRAM?

Although many people are intimately familiar with our grant applications, they may not realize that the Coastal Program is more than just a granting organization. The Coastal Program is a voluntary federal-state partnership dedicated to the comprehensive management of our coastal resources. As a networked program, we do not add any regulatory authorities, but instead rely on local government units as land use authorities and work to improve coordination between agencies.

Our annual grant program is an important funding source for local communities. However, we also coordinate a Coastal Enhancement Program, which offers periodic assessments to address important coastal

issues, including coastal hazards, cumulative and secondary impacts from development, and special area management planning. The current five-year strategy to enhance coastal management is now available on our website. Our Nonpoint Program offers grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts and local water planners for nonpoint pollution prevention implementation in six nonpoint source categories such as Urban/Rural Development, Forestry, and Wetlands. Coastal Program staff also complete many required tasks such as performance reporting, which summarizes the basin's network of authorities on land use and permitting.

NONPOINT NEWS

Coastal staff thank everyone who helped celebrate the final approval of Minnesota's Coastal Nonpoint Program. At the October 6 party, representatives from our NOAA and EPA federal partners thanked Minnesota for their networked, team-approach effort, which set an example for other states. Local and state agency partners, along with Coastal Council members, enjoyed the fall sunshine along with cake and punch.

Pictured from left to right: Thomas Davenport, EPA; Kent Lokkesmoe, DNR Waters; and John King, NOAA.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

RSPT Watershed Festival

Hermantown, MN
June 2, 2007

Making a Great Lake Superior

Duluth, MN
Oct 29-31, 2007

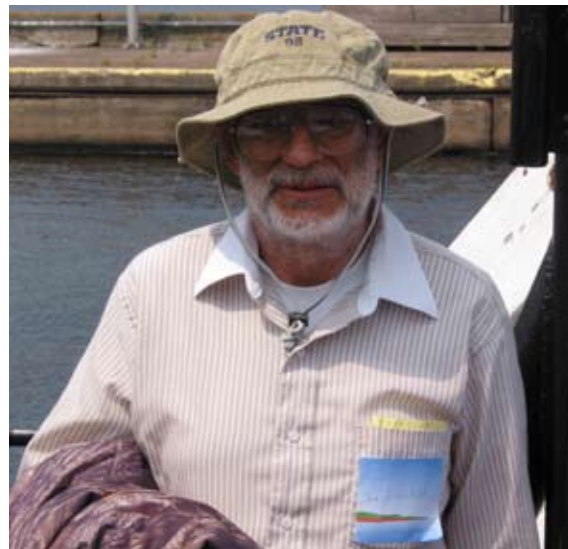
Stream Series (Part III)

Duluth, MN
March 13, 2007

A MINUTE WITH A COUNCIL MEMBER

A key component of our program is the Governor's Council on Minnesota's Coastal Program. The Coastal Council plays an important role in recommending projects for funding in the annual grant program. The council consists of 15 members, appointed by Minnesota's Governor, with at least three representatives from each of the counties along Lake Superior.

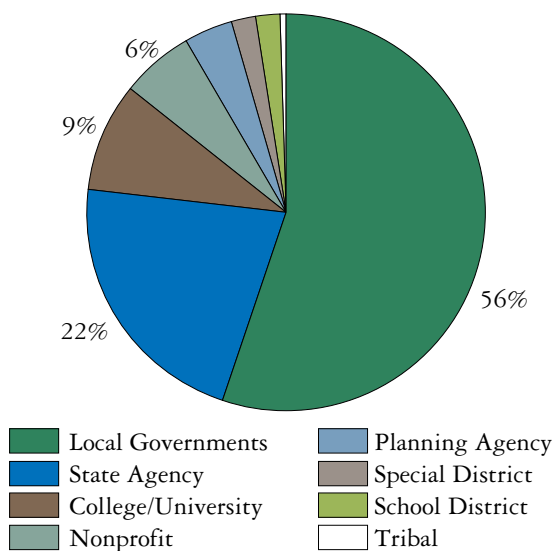
Jim Linscheid took a seat on the Coastal Council in 2004. Jim retired from the Lake Superior School District after teaching fifth grade for 34 years. Residing in rural Silver Bay with his wife, Jacky, Jim is continually impressed by the insight and knowledge he gains from discussions at council meetings. Although he enjoys the range of activities that the Coastal Program funds, Jim concentrates on projects that will make the best use of coastal funds and ones that will benefit Lake Superior the most. After all, as Jim says, "The lake is our constituent."



Council member Jim Linscheid

GRANT APPLICATIONS INCREASE

Grant Recipients From 1999 – 2006



The Coastal Program received 38 grant applications for the 2007-2008 year, totaling \$1,245,385 in requested funding. Requests varied from \$11,231 to \$100,000 and came from 10 local government units, 7 nonprofits, 2 state agencies, 2 colleges/universities, 2 tribal governments, a sanitary sewer district, a Soil and Water Conservation District, a planning agency, and a school district.

The Governor's Council on Minnesota's Coastal Program convened on January 5th to start the grant review process. Decisions on grant awards are expected by mid-March. The program anticipates that approximately \$700,000 will be awarded for the 2007-2008 grant cycle. Since its creation in 1999, the Coastal Program has awarded over 7.5 million dollars toward 275 different projects.

See the pie chart for a break-down of who received grants during the first 8 years of coastal funding.

REPORTING REMINDERS

If your grant expired December 31, 2006, a Final Report, deliverables, and final invoice are due within 60 days.

For continuing grants, progress reports are due on April 16, 2007.

NEW YEAR, NEW COUNCIL

In early January, the Governor released the names of five newly appointed Coastal Council Members: Daniel Belden of Esko, Kelly Cooke of Hermantown, James Johnson of Grand Marais, and Timothy Rogers of St. Paul. New members were quickly initiated at their first meeting and began reviewing grant applications.

Members continuing to serve are: Richard Brenner, John Eaton, Derrick Goutermont, Jo Ellen Hurr, Albert Katz, Carrol "Keck" Melby, Howard Rosted, and Mary Ann Sironen. One vacant position remains open for Cook County; contact Pat Collins for more information at 218-834-6612 or Pat.Collins@dnr.state.mn.us.

BEEN HERE LATELY?

www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/lakesuperior/

Recent updates to MN's Lake Superior Coastal Program website include Coastal Council member profiles,

archived Coastal Council meeting minutes, and the new 5-year Coastal Enhancement Plan. Newsletters will also be archived on the site. Coming soon: information about past projects we've funded.



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