

## MINNESOTA'S LAKE SUPERIOR COASTAL PROGRAM

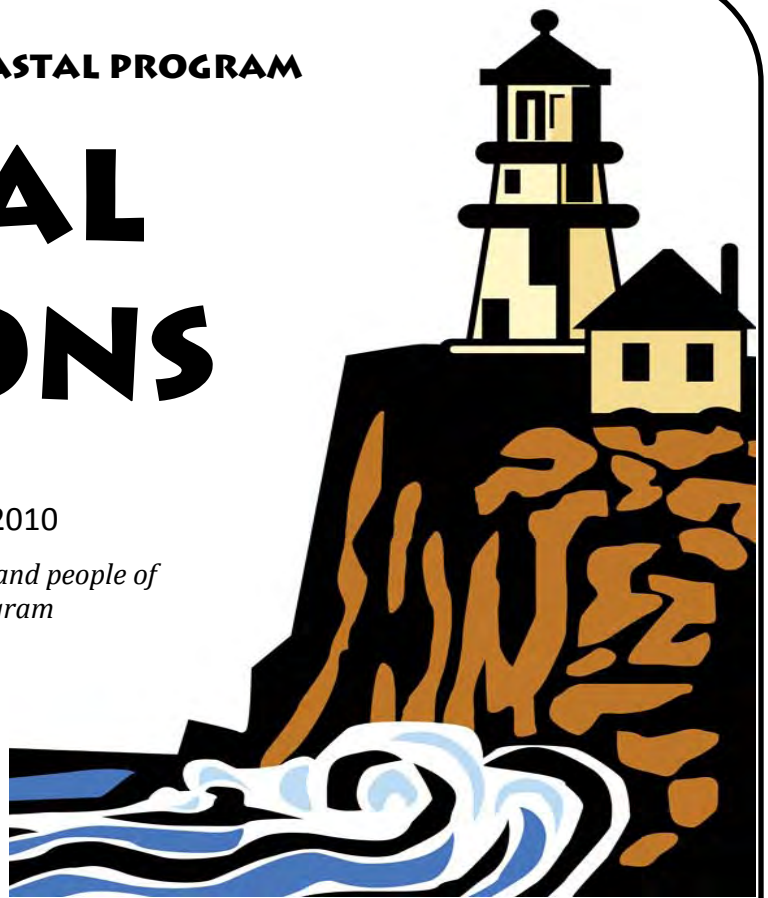
# COASTAL HORIZONS

VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 2 • WINTER 2009-2010

*A seasonal newsletter highlighting the projects and people of Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program*

### In This Issue:

This Just In (page 2) • Partly Sunny Today with a Chance for Responsible Community Growth (page 2) • Officials Get an Earful about Erosion (page 3) • Fly through the Coastal Boundary with Google Earth (page 3)



## FAMED NORTH SHORE OVERLOOK RESTORED

The Split Rock Lighthouse Overlook recently got a bit of a face lift.

Over the years, the historic landmark along Highway 61 had fallen into a state of disrepair – stones were missing, iron railings were rusted, and the view to the iconic lighthouse was almost entirely blocked by overgrown trees.

Today, it is a different story. With funding from Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program and others, the Minnesota Department of Transportation was able to restore the overlook. Stone piers and markers were reconstructed and the wall was cleaned and tuck pointed. Wooden "Parking Overlook" signs, replicas of the originals, were



fabricated and installed and a new interpretive sign was added.

"It really has it all," shared Vera Westrum Ostrom, landscape architect with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. "The Overlook offers motorists a safe place to pull off the road, take in the scenic views of Lake Superior, and learn about the history of the Lighthouse, North Shore Scenic

Drive, and the Overlook itself."

Already visitors are flocking in from near and far to take advantage of the overlook.

"The newly restored Split Rock Lighthouse Overlook could serve area visitors for another 60 years," said Westrum Ostrom.

For more information about the project, contact Vera Westrum Ostrom at 651-366-4695 or [vera.westrum-ostrom@state.mn.us](mailto:vera.westrum-ostrom@state.mn.us).

*Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program offers annual grants for projects that benefit coastal resources and local communities. For more information about the grant program and grant-related projects like the one above, visit Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program's website at <http://mndnr.gov/waters/lakesuperior>*

**WANTED...** Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program is looking for eight, highly-motivated individuals to serve on the Governor's Council on Minnesota's Coastal Program. Could you be one of them?

*Story continues on Page 2*

## COASTAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Dan Belden (Carlton Co.)
- Dick Brenner (Carlton Co.)
- Rick Goutermont (Lake Co.)
- JoEllen Hurr (At-Large)
- Jim Johnson (Cook Co.)
- Al Katz (St. Louis Co.)
- Jim Linscheid (Lake Co.)
- Bonnie MacLean (Cook Co.)
- Carroll "Keck" Melby (Cook Co.)
- Stacy Radosevich (At-Large)
- Tim Rogers (At-Large)
- Mary Ann Sironen (St. Louis Co.)

As a Coastal Council member, you would be responsible for recommending grant priorities; recommending projects for funding; reviewing the Coastal Program's annual administrative budget; and evaluating the Coastal Program's performance.

With this in mind, we are looking for someone who is:

- **Analytical** - The grant review process takes time, and Coastal Council members must be willing to read, review, evaluate and objectively draw conclusions on upwards of 40 applications per year.
- **Decisive** - It is imperative that Coastal Council members be able to make clear, reasoned decisions.
- **Passionate** - All our Coastal Council members, both past and present, are dedicated to Lake Superior and committed to helping the Coastal Program further its mission.

In addition, the ideal candidate needs to be open to traveling the coastal area, from Cloquet to Grand Marais, nine times a year for meetings that last from four to eight hours.

If this sounds like you or someone you know, please contact Pat Collins at [pat.collins@state.mn.us](mailto:pat.collins@state.mn.us) or 218-834-1443 for application instructions.

*The Governor's Council on Minnesota's Coastal Program was created by Executive Order in 1999. The "Coastal Council," working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, helps establish Coastal Program priorities, recommends projects for funding, reviews the budget, and conducts a biennial review of the state's Coastal Program. The Council consists of 15 members appointed by the Governor.*

## THIS JUST IN

Grant applications came pouring in up to the December 7 deadline. In the end, the Coastal Program received 37 applications requesting nearly \$1.5 million in funding.

This year's applicant pool is quite diverse. It includes:

- 12 local units of government
- 10 nonprofit organizations
- 9 public schools and universities
- 6 state and local planning agencies

Stay tuned for more information in the next edition of "Coastal Horizons."



## PARTLY SUNNY TODAY WITH A CHANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY GROWTH

We may be able to forecast the weather pretty well, but is it realistic to hope that we can forecast the potential effects of future growth in our communities? Researchers at the University of Minnesota think it is.

Recently, researchers there completed a series of 50-year build-out scenarios for three communities along the North Shore. In each community, they mapped out how the land would look and calculated the amount of stormwater runoff under current zoning standards. They did the same using two alternative design principles.

And now the forecast for 2060 is a bit clearer.

"We're finding that it is relatively easy to come up with alternative designs that would allow the same number of dwellings to be added, but would also protect valuable natural resources and reduce stormwater runoff," said Jesse Schomberg, coastal communities extension educator with Minnesota Sea Grant.

For more information about the study or to learn how its principles could be applied in your area, contact Jesse Schomberg or Valerie Brady at 218-726-8106.

*Minnesota's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program coordinates and supports local implementation projects to reduce and control nonpoint source pollution.*

## OFFICIALS GET AN EARFUL ABOUT EROSION

Local elected officials asked for a forum to discuss and see, first-hand, the shoreline erosion issues causing problems on the North Shore. On June 18, the North Shore Management Board delivered.

What they delivered was a full day of speakers and tours. Three local experts shared their perspectives on



Participants at this year's Erosion Forum discuss stormwater control alternatives at an undeveloped site.

the challenges of dealing with coastal erosion as well as success stories from along the entire coast. Participants also visited a total of six sites throughout the Two Harbors area; each site was chosen because it has an efficient and cost-effective erosion and stormwater control measure in place.

"It was everything we had hoped it would be," said Ben VanTassel, spokesperson for the North Shore Management Board. "I believe we were able to raise awareness about erosion hazards and encourage local governments to plan with erosion concerns in mind."

*Since 1999, Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program has awarded over \$9.3 million in grant funds for some 350 projects, including many events like the one highlighted above.*

## FLY THROUGH THE COASTAL BOUNDARY WITH GOOGLE EARTH

Google Earth fans can now get an up-close, aerial look at the entire coastal area with just a click of their mouse.

The journey begins on the "Maps" page of Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program's website: <http://mndnr.gov/waters/lakesuperior/maps.html>. There, users can click on the link under "Program Boundary Data" to open the file. Once launched, the land and water that falls within the boundary will appear in pink.

The file requires that users have Google Earth. Google Earth is a virtual globe, map, and geographic information program all-in-one. It displays high-resolution aerial and satellite images of the Earth's surface. Users can visually see things like cities, houses, roads and street, and business listings with relative ease. They can also find places and directions, mark points of interest, and print maps.

Google Earth is free and available for download at <http://earth.google.com/intl/en/download-earth.html>.

*Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program maintains a web presence at <http://mndnr.gov/waters/lakesuperior>. The website contains useful information about past grant projects and how to apply for new grant projects. Visitors can also view Coastal Council meeting minutes as well as access coastal GIS data.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February 20, 2010**  
"Candlelight Ski, Snowshoe, and Walk" at Gooseberry Falls State Park  
[www.mndnr.gov/events](http://www.mndnr.gov/events)
- **February 27, 2010:**  
Living Green Conference at Lake Superior College, Duluth
- **March 11 - 12, 2010:**  
22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Conference & Trade Show at the Holiday Inn & Suites, St. Cloud  
<http://www.mnerosion.org>

## NEW GRANT-FUNDED WORK PRODUCTS

### Erosion Forum Summary and Resources

(North Shore Management Board)  
[www.arrowheadplanning.org/Default.asp?PageID=659](http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/Default.asp?PageID=659)

### Grand Marais Park Area Master Plan (City of Grand Marais)

[www.grandmaraisrvparkandcampground.com](http://www.grandmaraisrvparkandcampground.com)

### City of Duluth Unified Development Code Modules

(City of Duluth)  
[www.duluthmn.gov/planning/udc/index.cfm](http://www.duluthmn.gov/planning/udc/index.cfm)

### Wetland Information Guide

(St. Louis County)  
[www.co.st-louis.mn.us/planning](http://www.co.st-louis.mn.us/planning)  
[Guide listed under "What's New" in the right hand column]

## ABOUT US



Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, through the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Waters administers the Program from its office in Two Harbors, Minnesota.

## COASTAL PROGRAM STAFF

Cliff Bentley  
Federal Consistency  
Coordinator  
[cliff.bentley@state.mn.us](mailto:cliff.bentley@state.mn.us)  
218-834-1441

Pat Collins  
Program Manager  
[pat.collins@state.mn.us](mailto:pat.collins@state.mn.us)  
218- 834-1443

Clinton Little  
GIS Support Specialist  
[clinton.little@state.mn.us](mailto:clinton.little@state.mn.us)  
218-834-1446

Marcia Nieman  
Administrative Specialist  
[marcia.nieman@state.mn.us](mailto:marcia.nieman@state.mn.us)  
218-834-1440

Karla Sundberg  
Grants Specialist  
[karla.sundberg@state.mn.us](mailto:karla.sundberg@state.mn.us)  
218-834-1447

Amber Westerbur  
Coastal Program Specialist  
[amber.westerbur@state.mn.us](mailto:amber.westerbur@state.mn.us)  
218-834-1445

**WEBSITE** <http://mndnr.gov/waters/lakesuperior>



## GOAL

To preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, restore or enhance coastal resources along Minnesota's North Shore of Lake Superior for present and future generations.

"Coastal Horizons" is written, designed and edited by Amber Westerbur • Photograph Credits: Page 1 – MNDOT; Page 2 – Paul Sundberg; Page 3 – North Shore Management Board



Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program  
1568 Highway 2  
Two Harbors, MN 55616