

## Governor's Council on Minnesota's Coastal Program Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: 05/29/2024  
Minutes prepared by: Marcia Cardone-Mohar  
Location: Hybrid Meeting – Teams and In Person at Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet  
Approved:

### Attendance

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- Governor's Council on Minnesota's Coastal Program Members: Janice Erickson (In-Person), Peder Otterson (In-Person), Bill Majewski (In-Person), Dan Belden (In-Person), Sharon Erickson-Ropes (in-Person), Jim Erickson (Virtual), Rick Goutermont (Virtual), and Erik Peterson (In-person).
- Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program Staff: Amber Westerbur (In-Person), Cynthia Poyhonen (In-Person), Marcia Cardone-Mohar (In-Person), and Clinton Little (In-Person).

### Decisions Made

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- MOTION by Dick Brenner to accept the May 29, 2024, agenda, Seconded by Dan Belden. AFFIRMATIVE All. MOTION ADOPTED.
- MOTION by Sharon Erickson-Ropes to accept the March 15, 2024, meeting minutes as written, Seconded by Bill Majewski. AFFIRMATIVE All. MOTION ADOPTED.
- MOTION by Bill Majewski to use the evaluation and review criteria proposed by the Grants Committee for the 2025 annual and the 2024-2025 STAR applications, Seconded by Peder Otterson. AFFIRMATIVE All, but Dick Brenner, who opposed the motion. MOTION ADOPTED.
- MOTION by Bill Majewski to nominate the two existing Chair and Vice-Chair for another year, Seconded by Sharon Erickson-Ropes. AFFIRMATIVE All. MOTION ADOPTED.
- APPOINTMENTS by Janice Erickson to council standing committees:
  - Grants Committee: Bill Majewski, Peder Otterson, Jim Ericson and Janice Erickson (standing member as chair)
  - Finance Committee: Sharon Erickson-Ropes, Dan Belden, Peder Otterson, and Janice Erickson (standing member as chair)
- MOTION by Jim Ericson to adopt the 2024-2025 meeting schedule as presented, but switching Wednesday, October 2, 2024, in Cook County to Carlton County and Friday May 30, 2025 from Carlton County to Cook County, Seconded by Bill Majewski. AFFIRMATIVE ALL. MOTION ADOPTED. Dates are:
  - Wednesday, October 2, 2025, in Carlton County and virtually
  - Wednesday, January 29 and Thursday, January 30, 2025, in St. Louis County and virtually
  - Thursday, March 20, 2025, in Lake County and virtually
  - Friday, May 30, 2025, in Cook County and virtually

- MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm.

## Agenda

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- Optional Pre-meeting Activities – Smudging
- Welcome and Opening
- Finance Committee Report
- Grants Committee Report
- Executive Committee Report
- Carlton County Project Showcase
- Annual Meeting Business Items
- Meeting Wrap-up
- Adjournment

## Meeting Notes

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### Opening

Meeting called to order by Janice Erickson, at 10:05 am.

Janice welcomed everyone with smudging. Janice conducted an ice breaker: “What are you feeling grateful for today?” Everyone participated and gave their thoughts. Amber Westerbur went over the logistics of today’s meeting as well as the MLSCP 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo concepts with the council.

### Finance Committee Reports

Dan Belden gave the report and thanked Amber Westerbur and the Finance Committee, consisting of: Dan Belden, Janice Erickson, Peder Otterson, and Sharon Erickson-Ropes. The Council received in their meeting packets, the Budget Summary for the 2024 (FFY24) Award by Task and the Budget Summary and Comparison for 2024 (FFY24) Awards by Budget Category. Please contact the Coastal Program staff for a copy of the reports if necessary.

- During the finance committee report a discussion was started about the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plans.
  - It was decided to come up with an ad hoc committee to help staff think through opportunities. Committee consists of Janice, Peder, and Sharon.
  - Also, thoughts about getting a Planner from DNR-EWR-St. Paul office to help facilitate.

### Grants Committee Report

Cynthia went over the Grants Committee meeting that was held in early May. It was recommended that the council continue to use the Scoring Criteria and Evaluation that was used the last couple of years. A vote was cast and all but Dick Brenner approved, so the motion carried.

### Executive Committee Report

A draft letter to the Governor was reviewed by the council. After much discussion, it was decided to form a subcommittee to draft a letter to the Governor to make sure all the right things are stated in the letter. The subcommittee will consist of: Peder, Sharon, and Janice.

### Carlton County Project Showcase

Amber shared that the Coastal Program has invested \$904,000 into 56 different projects in Carlton County over the last 25 years. New opportunities are emerging including an initiative led by the Coastal States Organization to

complete design and engineering work on behalf of the Great Lakes states. Minnesota has one such project underway, consisting of culvert replacement and some stream restoration on Hay and Slaughterhouse Creeks. Vidya Balasubramanyam, Research, Science, and Program director, Coastal States Organization, spoke more about the project. Joining her was Natalie White, Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH). Natalie spoke about the engineering support SEH has been providing to the project.

### **Annual Meeting Business Items**

It was voted on and approved to have Janice Erickson and Peder Otterson continue as chair and vice chair respectively, for another year.

Janice Erickson then asked the attending members about the Finance and Grants Committee volunteers. It was decided:

- Grants Committee: Bill Majewski, Peder Otterson, Jim Ericson and Janice Erickson (standing member as chair)
- Finance Committee: Sharon Erickson-Ropes, Dan Belden, Peder Otterson, and Janice Erickson (standing member as chair)
- Anyone not at the meeting today will be asked if they would like to be on any of the committees.

Proposed 2024-2025 Coastal Council Meeting Schedule was voted on and approved as follows:

- Wednesday, October 2, 2025, in Carlton County and virtually
- Wednesday, January 29 and Thursday, January 30, 2025, in St. Louis County and virtually
- Thursday, March 20, 2025, in Lake County and virtually
- Friday, May 30, 2025, in Cook County and virtually

### **Meeting Wrap-up/Adjournment**

Staff asked that the council please review the logo concepts, write comments and hand back to staff.

Janice wrapped up the meeting with wishes of good health and energy – Stay awesome!

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.