

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

Date: 01/18/2024
Minutes prepared by: Marcia Cardone-Mohar
Location: Hybrid Meeting – Teams and In Person at MPCA Building - Duluth
Approved: March 15, 2024

Attendance

- Governor's Council on Minnesota's Coastal Program Members: Janice Erickson (In-Person), Peder Otterson (Virtual), Bill Majewski (In-Person), Dan Belden (In-Person), Don Schreiner (In-Person), Rick Goutermont (Virtual), and Sophia Green (Virtual).
- Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program Staff: Amber Westerbur (In-Person), Clinton Little (In-Person), Cynthia Poyhonen (In-Person), Marcia Cardone-Mohar (In-Person), and Julie McDonnell (In-Person).
- Special Guests: Paul Treur and Willis Mattison

Decisions Made

- MOTION by Bill Majewski to accept the January 18, 2024, agenda, Seconded by Dan Belden. AFFIRMATIVE All. MOTION ADOPTED.
- MOTION by Dan Belden to accept the June 21, 2023, meeting minutes as written, Seconded by Don Schreiner. AFFIRMATIVE All. MOTION ADOPTED.

Agenda

- Welcome/Opening
- Program Update - Celebrating the Coastal Program's Success of 2023
- Looking Ahead to 2024 – The Coastal Program's 25th Anniversary
- Looking Ahead to 2024 – Pass-through Funding (Non-administrative dollars)
- The Coastal Council in 2024 and Beyond
- Closing

Meeting Notes

Opening

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

Janice welcomed and thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication. Janice asked everyone to introduce themselves and give our thoughts on "water."

Program Update - Celebrating the Coastal Program's Success of 2023

For a more in-depth of Staff Successes-2023/Program Report, refer to the email on January 23, 2024 or you can contact staff for a printed copy.

Highlights include:

- Amber discussed hosting the Coastal States Organization's member meeting in Duluth, The Great Lakes Resiliency Study is underway, and We survived the "summer of funding" and are now seeing a piece of it.
- Julie presented a slide show titled, "Understanding Flooding Challenges on Minnesota Point: An Intersection of People, Nature and Our Collective Future."
- Cynthia talked about Coastal Program Grant Funded Project Successes which included: the Miller Creek Restoration project; the Silver Bay Public Access Boat Cleaning Station project; and the Documentary: A Sea Change for Lake Superior project. If you would like to watch the documentary "A Sea of Change" you can find it here: [project's webpage](#)
- Clinton presented a 2023 Recap – a sample of 2023 contributions, such as: the NOAA Manoomin Resilience Indicators Project; the 3D Geomatics Committee; Data Acquisition; Lidar Derived Products; and the 3D Hydrography Program (USGS 3DHP).

Looking Ahead to 2024 – The Coastal Program's 25th Anniversary

Amber handed out a slip of paper with questions for the council to share their ideas on ways to celebrate the May 2024, 25th anniversary of the Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program. This will be an ongoing discussion topic in the coming weeks.

Looking Ahead to 2024: Pass-through Funding (non-administrative dollars)

The Executive Committee proposed the Coastal Council recommend funding for three additional projects:

- **Educational messaging and/or signage at waysides.** The goal would be to include more indigenous voices and stories and make them a welcoming place for everyone. (Estimated budget: \$225,000)
- **Section 309 Assessment and strategies completion.** The Coastal Program would complete an assessment of how it is doing in nine specific areas and develop improvement strategies in accordance with NOAA requirements (Estimated budget: \$100,000)
- **STAR grants.** The Coastal Program would reinstitute STAR grants for projects that do not require additional NOAA review. Preliminary thoughts are to include a DEU (diversity, equity inclusion, and justice) focus. (Estimated budget: \$75,000)

There was general agreement in the room and an official vote will be taken via email.

The Coastal Council in 2024 and Beyond

A long discussion was held the importance of the council and its members. Such things as attendance at meetings, making sure to re-apply for the council if interested, encourage members to encourage individuals they know to apply to become a member (especially in Lake and Cook counties).

Janice also asked for an ad hoc committee to help complete the program evaluation. An emphasis on inviting all members to the table, reiterating the lines of communication are open, and this will have a positive outcome for the council.

Closing

Amber wrapped up the meeting and it adjourned at 3:15pm.