

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

Date: 03/29/2023
Minutes prepared by: Marcia Cardone-Mohar
Location: Hybrid Meeting – In Person at DNR Office Conference Room – Two Harbors
Approved: June 21, 2023

Attendance

- Governor's Council on Minnesota's Coastal Program Members: Peder Otterson (In-Person), Rick Goutermont (In-Person), Bill Majewski (In-Person), Dick Brenner (In-Person), Barb Liukkonen (Phone), Ellen O'Neill (Virtual), Janice Erickson (Virtual), Erik Peterson (Virtual).
- Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program Staff: Amber Westerbur (In-Person), Clinton Little (In-Person), Cynthia Poyhonen (In-Person), and Julie McDonnell (Virtual).

Decisions Made

- MOTION by Dick Brenner to accept the March 29, 2023, agenda, Seconded by Bill Majewski. AFFIRMATIVE ALL. MOTION ADOPTED.
- MOTION by Dick Brenner to accept the January 18 and 19, 2023 meeting minutes as written, Seconded by Peder Otterson. AFFIRMATIVE ALL. MOTION ADOPTED.
- MOTION by Rick Goutermont to use the \$120,000 set aside for STAR grant funding between the four counties of Lake, Cook, St. Louis, and Carlton, along with the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The funding will be used to fund a project in their Hazzard Mitigation Plans; Seconded by Dick Brenner. AFFIRMATIVE ALL. MOTION ADOPTED.
- MOTION by Rick Goutermont to adjourn, Seconded by Dan Belden. AFFIRMATIVE ALL. MOTION ADOPTED. Meeting adjourned at 12:01pm.

Agenda

- Opening/Logistics
- Share Point Introduction (Optional – 9:00-9:30am)
- March 2023, STAR Grant Application Discussion
- Program Update
- Closing

Meeting Notes

Opening

Meeting called to order by Chair Janice Erickson at 9:33am, using her medicine shell.

An icebreaker was performed with the question: What is your favorite beach?

STAR Grant Application Discussion

Cynthia Poyhonen introduced the STAR Grant review process. Procedures follow the [Standard Operating Procedures of the Governor’s Council on Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program](#) (Page 10). Twenty minutes were dedicated for the one application. Cynthia Poyhonen introduced each application and asked if there were conflicts of interest on each project. Peder Otterson facilitated the discussion.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Dick Brenner disclosed a conflict of interest. It was decided by the Council that Dick not discuss the application or score.

APPLICATION	APPLICANT	ADDRESS	AMOUNT REQUESTED
1	Superior Hiking Trail Association	618 First Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616	\$10,000

Final scores, project rank and other data in the applications and as part of the evaluation process will be available once the STAR projects start; anticipated start dates vary.

Program Update

Cooperative Agreement Development

Amber Westerbur discussed the process of the Cooperative Agreement Development between the DNR and NOAA which is due on April 27, 2023.

NOAA has stated that we can no longer award STAR grants like we have done in the past. Staff and Council will need to find a way to reallocate the STAR funding planned to be available on July 1. The Grants Committee, consisting of Barb Liukkonen, Ellen O’Neill, Pedar Otterson and Cynthia Poyhonen, discussed a possible option: dividing the funds between the four counties of Lake, Cook, St. Louis, and Carlton, along with the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The funding will be used to fund a project in their Hazzard Mitigation Plans. Discussion amongst members about the proposal. Motion and vote.

Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study

Amber Westerbur explained that we are a non-federal sponsor to the Great Lakes Resiliency Study, a \$14.4 million project. We agreed to provide \$255,960, over the course of the four-year study. We intend to us our CZM award to cover the work-in-kind and cash. The goal is to have it not affect our pass-through grants.

Coastal Council

Amber Westerbur mentioned that we hired Tricia Ryan to help us look forward as a program. We have had a lot of local impact through our 25 years as a program. Now we are seeing additional funding opportunities through sources such as, capacity funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant. When asked, Janice Erickson and Peder Otterson stated interest in the work group. To get further input, Amber posed two questions:

1. What is one thing you hope will continue around public participation?

- Continue with opportunities for small entities
- I have little experience here – I liked having people last meeting to ask questions of. I like the focus on asking for involvement of tribes in grant proposals as well as public input and post project.
- We have so little general participation other than grant applications submitted. This focuses on those who are aware of the need.
- This has been a baffling problem for the Council. Soliciting for grants seem to be the most effective ways of creating awareness of our existence.
- Including the Tribes in all opportunities.
- I hope we can continue to react to the needs and wants of the public through grants.
- Actively identify who or audience is and promote our program.
- Public input and post project dissemination of product/learnings.

2. What is one thing you might want to see us change around public participation?

- Like to see outreach to all entities regarding participation on board.
- More opportunities for underserved communities and including youth outreach.
- In the quest for transparency, we have become hidden.
- This is something that needs some thoughts in what segment of the public we need to solicit.
- We mostly just focus on grant approval. If we have a role in thinking through strategy – e.g., “new” STAR grants – I’d be keen to hear from those applying what would help them.

Service Recognition

Amber Westerbur gave comments of much appreciation to the Council Members.

Closing

Meeting adjourned at 12:01pm