

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

Date: 04/06/2022
Minutes prepared by: Clinton Little
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting
Approved: June 17, 2022

Attendance

- Governor's Council on Minnesota's Coastal Program Members: Daniel (Dan) Belden (exit 3:16), Matthew Brown (exit 1:08), Janice Erickson, Jim Ericson, Sophia Green, Barbara Liukkonen (exit 2:50), William (Bill) Majewski, Ellen O'Neill, Peder Otterson (joined 12:46), Sharon Erickson Ropes (exit 2:45), Donald (Don) Schreiner (exit 3:11)
- Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program Staff: Amber Westerbur, Clinton Little, Cynthia Poyhonen, and Julie McDonnell.

Decisions Made

- MOTION by Sharon Erickson Ropes to accept the April 6, 2022, agenda, Seconded by Ellen O'neill. AFFIRMATIVE All. MOTION ADOPTED.
- MOTION by Dan Belden to accept the January 12 and 13, 2021 meeting minutes as written, Seconded by Matthew Brown. AFFIRMATIVE All. MOTION ADOPTED.

Agenda

- Opening
- April 2022 STAR Grant Application Discussion
- Other New Business
- Closing

Meeting Notes

Opening

Meeting called to order by Chair Janice Erickson.

Amber Westerbur announced Governor Walz's appointment of Erik Peterson to the vacant Council seat in Carlton County. Erik's first official day is April 11.

Vice Chair Barbara Liukkonen called for approval of the April 6, 2022 agenda. Motion by Sharon Erickson Ropes to accept the April 6, 2022, agenda, Seconded by Ellen O'neill. Affirmative all. Motion adopted.

Vice Chair Barbara Liukkonen called for approval of the January 12-13 meeting minutes. Motion by Dan Belden to accept the January 12 and 13, 2021 meeting minutes as written, Seconded by Matthew Brown. Affirmative all. Motion adopted.

STAR Grant Application Discussion

Vice Chair Barbara Liukkonen facilitated the discussion of the April 6, 2022, STAR grant applications.

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 each application. Cynthia Poyhonen introduced each application. Vice Chair Barbara Liukkonen asked if there were conflicts of interest on each project and facilitated the discussion.

Janice Erickson asked if the Council saw her role in the Minnesota Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee as a conflict in association with application number five. After discussion, the Council agreed that there was no conflict of interest. Members did not disclose any other conflicts of interest.

APPLICATION	APPLICANT	ADDRESS	AMOUNT REQUESTED
1	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	1720 Big Lake Road, Cloquet, MN 55720	\$10,000
2	Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District	408 1 st Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616	\$10,000
3	City of Rice Lake	4107 W Beyer Road, Rice Lake, MN 55803	\$8,500
4	Town of Thomson	25 East Harney Road, Esko, MN 55733	\$10,000
5	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.

Other New Business

Governance Committee

Amber Westerbur introduced the ad hoc Governance Committee and committee work. This committee reviews and proposes changes to Council bylaws and operating agreement. The committee also completes a program review required under the Executive Order and submit findings to the DNR Commissioner. The time commitment is likely less than 10 hours, including two meetings. Work will begin soon, and hopefully be done before the June 17 meeting. Bill Majewski and Janice Erickson volunteered. Amber Westerbur will follow-up with an email to the Council seeking one additional volunteer.

Grant Priorities

Amber Westerbur started the conversation on grant priorities. Input collected during the meeting will inform the Grants Committee as they develop recommendations for the full council’s consideration at the June 17 meeting.

Council Recruitment

Amber Westerbur reviewed appointment timeline for the Council and past methods of advertising council positions. She asked for and received suggestions from members on creative ways to recruit new members.

Annual Meeting Time and Format

Amber Westerbur discussed logistics for the June 17 annual meeting and sought input using meeting polls.

Questions considered included:

- Would you prefer to meet virtually or in a hybrid setting (choice of virtual or in person)?
- Do you want a field trip?
- Would you like us to invite a guest speaker for a lunch-and-learn?
- Would you prefer to meet in the morning or afternoon?

Staff collected preferences. Staff noted that June 17 is Grandma's Marathon weekend. Ms. Westerbur indicated she would seek additional information from the council about the meeting, and alternate dates if needed.

Closing

Meeting adjourned by Chair Janice Erickson.