

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: October 2, 2024

Attendance

- 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

- 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

- 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

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 25th 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 25th 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.

May 21, 2024

Dear Coastal Council,

Three weeks ago, I hit “submit” on our cooperative agreement for 2024. There was instant relief as I did so because this year had multiple challenges. We encountered everything from receiving our allocation amount after our agreement was (supposed to be) due to navigating a new grant management system.

As the days have passed, relief has changed into excitement – excitement about lies ahead of us for the year, which starts August 1. There’s so much to look forward to including:

- Celebrating the Coastal Program’s 25th anniversary.
- Completing our first Section 309 Assessment and Strategy in almost 10 years.
- Welcoming NOAA to Minnesota for our 312 Evaluation.
- Bringing Indigenous voices into the coastal places and spaces we all enjoy.

It’s not all about the new though. Equally exciting is the continuation of work to:

- Advance climate change awareness, preparedness, and planning.
- Integrate the use of spatial and geographic data and relevant tools into the operations and decisions of partners and collaborators.
- Manage a grant program that provides financial assistance to outside entities for coastal management.
- Administer the state’s annual award and manage the day-to-day operations of the program.

As you can see, we have a tremendous body of work laid out before us. Plus, there’s still some work in older awards that we need to complete. Adding to matters are once-in-a generation opportunities through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act that we intend to capitalize on. It’s going to take our entire team to keep all these wheels moving in sync.

I wish to close with a shout out to the amazing team that undoubtedly will keep everything moving smoothly. Clint, Cynthia, Julie, and Marcia give their best day in and day out. Because of them, the coastal area is more healthy, resilient, and sustainable.

And I give a shout out to you, our council members. You helped us lay out this body of work during a very unusual year. You’re coming together on the 29th to shape our grant offerings for 2024. And looking ahead, we will lean on you to review Annual and STAR grant applications (yes, we’re planning for them to return this year). Thank you for your ongoing contributions!

Here’s to a great year ahead.

Best,
Amber

Coastal Program Grant Report

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program
May 20, 2024; Presented by Cynthia Poyhonen, grant coordinator

Current Funding Opportunities

- [Capacity Grants for Coastal Management](#): posted, open through June 30, 2024

Federal Award and Grant Funds Awarded

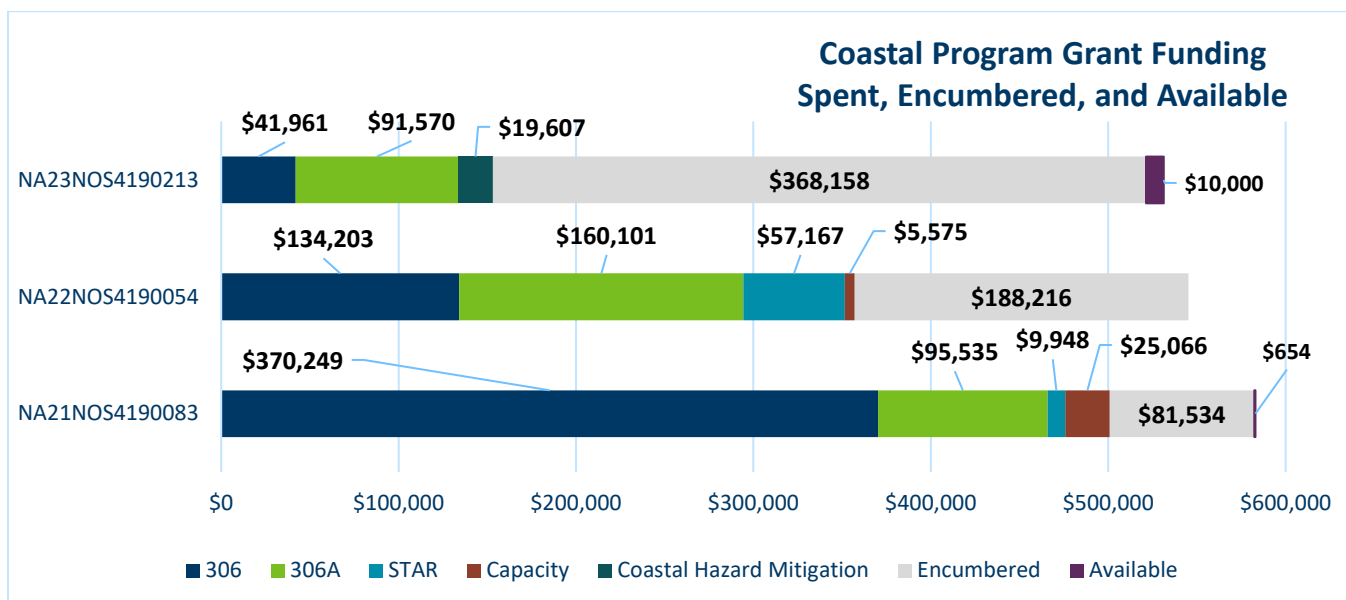
The table below shows the total federal award and amount of Annual and STAR grants awarded to date for the three open NOAA Office of Coastal Management awards.

Federal Fiscal Year and Award	Total NOAA Award	Award Expiration	Annual Grants Awarded	Small Grants Awarded	Total Funds Awarded to Date
2021; NA21NOS4190083	1,122,000	06/30/2024	501,620	80,713	582,333
2022; NA22NOS4190054	1,128,000	06/30/2025	474,560	70,701	545,261
2023; NA23NOS4190213	1,158,000	12/31/2024	521,296		521,296
Total	\$3,408,000		\$1,497,476	\$136,745	\$1,634,221

Grants Reimbursed

The State has reimbursed grantees for project expenses (projects completed/in process), as shown in the chart below.

- Annual grants (306) are shown in blue, and STAR grants are shown in teal.
- Low-cost construction and land acquisition projects (306A) are in green.
- Shown in gray are all the funds under contract (i.e., encumbered), not yet reimbursed.
- Funds available (not yet awarded) is in purple.



Coastal Program Applications – Received and Funded

The table below shows the applications funded by the Coastal Program between July 1, 2019 and March 1, 2024.

Funding	Federal Fiscal Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Annual	Applications Received	10	3	12	9	6	2	42
Annual	Applications Funded	9	2	6	7	6		30
STAR	Applications Received	18	12	14	10	N/A		54
STAR	Applications Funded	17	10	8	10	N/A		45
Capacity	Applications Received	4	4	5	5	17		35
Capacity	Applications Funded	4	4	5	5	16		34

- Annual Applications are funded in federal fiscal year (i.e., 2023 with the NA23 award, begins July 2023).
- STAR and Capacity applications are received during federal fiscal year (i.e., 2023 applications are received between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024); and funded with available funds.

Recently Completed Projects

*The Coastal Program did not close any Annual or STAR projects between January 1 and April 30, 2024.

Project Updates

NA22NOS4190054; Project 22-306-11; **Identifying Drowning Hotspots in the St. Louis River Estuary**; University of Minnesota. The Coastal Program attended the public/stakeholder workshop on May 9. The project team shared the following resources:

- [St. Louis River Estuary current model](#) (hosted by the Integrated Nowcast/Forecast Operation System for Coastal, Riverine, and Estuarine environment (INFOS CORE).
- [Drowning Incidents in the St. Louis River StoryMap](#) (hosted by the College of Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- [Paddle Safe Twin Ports website](#) (hosted by the Harbor Safety Work Group and the University of Minnesota, Sea Grant)
- [Google Earth map](#) of St. Louis River Estuary launch sites

NA23NOS4190213; Project 23-306A-01; **Park Hill Acquisition**; City of Duluth. The City has closed on the Park Hill property and is working on acknowledgment signage for the site.

Coastal Program Grant Funded Projects, Updated 5/20/2024

Status	Federal Award	Project Number	Project Name	Grantee	Start Date	Expiration	Grant
Completed	NA22	22-306-07	Didymo Impacts on Coaster Brook Trout	Science Museum of Minnesota	09/07/2022	11/30/2023	\$99,349
Awarded	NA21	21-306-09	Coastal Erosion Hazard Map Update-Phase 3	ARDC	09/23/2021	05/31/2024	\$47,200
Awarded	NA22	22-306-10	Nearshore and Devils Track Watershed Water Monitoring	Cook County SWCD	09/01/2022	05/31/2024	\$28,542
Awarded	NA22	22-306-11	Identifying Drowning Hotspots in the St. Louis River Estuary	University of Minnesota	11/22/2022	05/31/2024	\$51,395
Awarded	NA21	21-306-08C	Superior Hiking Trail Master Plan: Informing the Future of Minnesota's Premier Footpath	Superior Hiking Trail Association	10/01/2023	06/30/2024	\$10,000
Awarded	NA21	21-306-08D	North Shore Forest Collaborative Plan Update	Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association	02/02/2024	06/30/2024	\$6,000
Awarded	NA21	21-306-12	Demonstration of a Mobile Stormwater Lab	University of Minnesota, NRI	11/24/2021	06/30/2024	\$86,435
Awarded	NA22	22-306-08	Mycorrhizal Fungi and Tree Seedling Success	University of Minnesota	10/24/2022	11/30/2024	\$71,224
Awarded	NA22	22-306A-02	Minnesota Point Boardwalk and Dune Restoration	City of Duluth	10/11/2022	12/31/2024	\$108,182
Awarded	NA23	23-306-10	Documentary: A Sea Change for Lake Superior	Hamline University	09/04/2023	11/30/2024	\$98,727
Awarded	NA23	23-306-11	North Shore Management Plan Update	ARDC	09/12/2023	11/30/2024	\$14,238
Awarded	NA23	23-306-12	Low-Cost Buoys for Smart Coastal Monitoring	University of Minnesota	09/20/2023	11/30/2024	\$94,747
Awarded	NA23	23-306A-01	Park Hill Acquisition	City of Duluth	09/22/2023	11/30/2024	\$100,000
Awarded	NA23	23-306A-02	Native Plant Restoration along Agate Bay Shoreline	Lake County SWCD	09/08/2023	11/30/2024	\$37,384
Awarded	NA23	23-306A-03	Minnesota Point Boardwalk and Dune Restoration - Phase 2	City of Duluth	09/22/2023	11/30/2024	\$108,000
Awarded	IJA	Task3	Coordinate the Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership	Minnesota Land Trust	06/05/2023	11/30/2025	\$111,288
Awarded	IJA	Task3	Develop a Land Stewardship Plan	Lake SWCD	04/23/2024	11/30/2025	\$13,000
Awarded	IJA	Task3	Staff Training and Education on Forest Management	Cook SWCD	05/06/2024	11/30/2025	\$11,000
Awarded	NA23	23-306-09	Mitigating Coastal Hazards: Poplar River Flood Damage Scoping and Mitigation Plan	Cook SWCD	10/06/2023	03/31/2024	\$18,300
Awarded	NA23	23-306-09	Mitigating Coastal Hazards: Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Carlton County	Carlton SWCD	12/01/2023	11/30/2024	\$18,300
Awarded	NA23	23-306-09	Mitigating Coastal Hazards: Stormwater Modeling, Knife River & Two Harbors	Lake County	02/02/2024	11/30/2024	\$18,300
Awarded	NA23	23-306-09	Mitigating Coastal Hazards: Stoney Point Coastal Hazard Mitigation Project	St. Louis County	01/23/2024	11/30/2024	\$18,300

Status	Federal Award	Project Number	Project Name	Grantee	Start Date	Expiration	Grant
Pending	NA21	21-306-08B	Launching a Successful Water Trail Phase IV	St. Louis River Alliance		12/31/2024	\$10,000
		23					\$1,179,911

Capacity Grants; active between 03/07/2024 and 05/20/2024

Federal Award	Grantee	Grant	Description
NA21NOS4190083	Independent School District #94	\$2,500	Youth Education: Provide an active field research-based Ecology class for high school students at Cloquet Area Alternative Education Program (CAAEP). The students will be making observations, collecting data, and reflecting on past and future impacts throughout the St. Louis River Watershed and how those impacts effect the environment and the people living in it.
NA21NOS4190083	University of Minnesota	\$4,500	Workshop: Host AIS Detector training in the Duluth area. Community members will learn aquatic invasive species (AIS) identification, regulations, reporting, and monitoring to become more active in detection, education, outreach, and management. Participants will complete online modules and attend an in-person workshop in June 2024. The training also offers a professional development opportunity for resource managers interested in aquatic invasive species issues.
NA21NOS4190083	Lake County SWCD	\$2,500	Youth Education: (Co-)Host the 2024 State Envirothon, to be held in May at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center (ELC). High school students from all over the state will travel to the Lake Superior basin and test their knowledge on coastal issues.
NA21NOS4190083	Sea Change Expeditions	\$2,475	Youth Education: Provide the Clean, Cold and Clear program to 5th and 6th graders at four schools along the north shore of Lake Superior, spring 2024. This education program focuses on the challenges facing Lake Superior such Invasive species, microplastics and climate change.
NA21NOS4190083	Cook SWCD	\$4,500	Technology Upgrade: Purchase new ProDss and replacement parts for the current ProDss meters. The water monitoring equipment is old and needs to be updated, additional equipment is needed. The SWCD has a grant with the MPCA that will purchase additional equipment and supplies, supplementing all the remaining costs not covered with this grant request.
NA21NOS4190083	Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association	\$2,134	Workshop: Host a North Shore Forest Collaborative Landowner Workshop on June 11 at Wolf Ridge ELC. The workshop will be focusing on climate change, assisted migration, programs available to landowners to help with coastal forest restoration efforts and a discussion about the NSFC's strategic plan.
NA22NOS4190054	Carlton SWCD	\$4,500	Workshop: Attend the 'Applied Fluvial Geomorphology' Level 1 course, put on by Wildland Hydrology. The course, cosponsored by the DNR, will be in Duluth in September.
NA22NOS4190054	Carlton SWCD	\$3,077	Workshop: Host a training for staff with a tour of the St. Louis Estuary and the Thompson Reservoir, to get an up-close look at contaminated sediment remediation efforts led by the EPA.

NA22NOS4190054	North St. Louis SWCD	\$4,500	Workshop: Attend three trainings: MPCA's Smart Salt Symposium and supporting courses, the Minnesota Water Resources Conference, and the Applied Fluvial Geomorphology Level 1 course. The Watershed Conservationist for the St. Louis River Watershed is a new position and coordinates work with five counties and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.
COMPLETED			
NA21NOS4190083	City of Beaver Bay	\$4,500	Technology Upgrade: Beaver Bay, with engineers from MSA, acquired a cloud-based ArcGIS Online city account from ESRI. MSA configured all necessary security, settings, organizational settings, users, data access, and branding. MSA GIS staff migrated previous utility GPS work and other subsequent data into authoritative datasets for water distribution, sanitary sewer, and stormwater. MSA trained Beaver Bay staff to use all applications, edit data, update data, delete data, and future capabilities and options within their GIS. Product: City of Beaver Bay, MN
NA21NOS4190083	University of Minnesota	\$4,033	Workshop: Minnesota Sea Grant (MNSG), in partnership with Wisconsin Sea Grant (WISG) and the Dredging Subcommittee of the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC), hosted the <i>'Beneficial Use of Dredged Material from the Port of Duluth-Superior'</i> on January 31, 2024, at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency office in Duluth. Twenty-six individuals attended the workshop in-person, there were another 34 virtual participants. The workshop included a mix of education for attendees, and the development of a comprehensive list of beneficial use projects. Product: Captioned, publicly available video on the importance of dredging to the Great Lakes maritime transportation system (link to YouTube video also available on MNSG's Great Lakes Shipping 101 webpage).