

Meeting Minutes

Governor’s Council on Minnesota’s Coastal Program

Date: 9/28/2020
 Minutes prepared by: Marcia Nieman
 Location: Due to Executive Order 20-20, the Coastal Council met via telephone
 Accepted: January 11, 2021

Attendance

- Governor’s Council on Minnesota’s Coastal Program Members: Bill Majewski, Janice Erickson (joined at 1:15pm), Barb Liukkonen, Dan Belden, Sophia Green, Matthew Brown, Ellen O’Neill, Dick Brenner, Don Schreiner, and Peder Otterson.
- Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program Staff: Amber Westerbur, Clinton Little, Cynthia Poyhonen, Julie McDonnell, Melanie Perello, and Marcia Nieman

Decisions Made

- MOTION by Brenner to accept the September 28, 2020, agenda, Seconded by Brown. AFFIRMATIVE All. MOTION ADOPTED.
- MOTION by O’Neill to accept the June 25, 2020 meeting minutes as written with a slight correction on who wanted the map (it was Janice Erickson who wanted the maps in the applications), Seconded by Liukkonen. AFFIRMATIVE All. MOTION ADOPTED.
- MOTION by Brown to recommend funding the STAR project if ranked above 70%. Seconded by O’Neill. AFFIRMATIVE: Belden, Brown, Erickson, Green, Liukkonen, Majewski, O’Neill, Otterson, Schreiner. OPPOSED: Brenner. MOTION ADOPTED.

| Application | Applicant | Weighted Total | Grant Request | Rank |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------|
| 3 | South St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District | 88.92 | \$10,000 | 1 |
| 1 | Regents of the University of Minnesota | 88.00 | \$10,000 | 2 |
| 4 | Ecolibrium3 | 74.15 | \$10,000 | 3 |
| 2 | Lake County | 56.33 | \$10,000 | |

- MOTION to adjourn at 4:50 p.m.

Next Meeting

Date: January 11, 2021
Time: Tentatively 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Location: Duluth (if safe to do so)

Agenda

- Call to Order-Roll Call, Adoption of the Agenda and the Minutes
- Program Updates
- STAR Grant Review and Recommendations
- NOAA Evaluation Results
- Groundwork for FY2021 Work Planning
- Meeting Adjournment

Meeting Notes

Call to Order

Majewski called meeting to order at 1:02 pm. Westerbur provided a brief welcome and reviewed housekeeping items. Majewski asked members and staff to introduce themselves.

Members approved the June 25 minutes and September 28 agenda (roll call vote).

Program Updates

Staff provided brief summaries of what they are currently working on.

- Cynthia Poyhonen – shared recent grant activities and upcoming events.
- Clinton Little – shared information about the MN Geospatial Advisory Council – 3 D Geomatics Committee, coastal erosion hazard mapping work, two initiatives from the Great lakes Observing System and coastal atlas development.
- Julie McDonnell – shared about some issues on Minnesota Point and her involvement with the Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership Awards Committee.
- Melanie Perello – shared information about her fellowship, including what is happening with coastal erosion hazard mapping (CEHM) and a new community of practice, CHAOS (Coastal Hazards of Superior)
- Amber Westerbur – shared information about COVID-19 and the DNR’s response. She addressed the possibility of using virtual platforms instead of a conference call for future meetings.

STAR Grant Application Review and Recommendations

Chair led the discussion, scoring and ranking of the September 1, 2020, STAR grant applications:

01 – Regents of the University of Minnesota, 200 Oak Street SE Suite 450, Minneapolis, MN 55455-2070 - \$10,000. Green and Erickson-Ropes declared a conflict of interest (COI) because they are planning to attend. Council decided Green could participate in the discussion (Erickson-Ropes was not present) and both could score the applications. Liukkonen declared a COI. Council decided she would not to participate in discussion or score the application, but could stay on the call. Application discussion.

02 – Lake County, 601 3rd Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616 - \$10,000. Goutermont declared a COI. Goutermont was not present for the discussion and his scores were not included. Application discussion.

03 – South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, 215 North First Avenue East, Room 301, Duluth, MN 55802 - \$10,000. Application discussion.

04 – Ecolibrium3, 2014 W. Superior St., Duluth, MN 55806 - \$10,000. Application discussion.

Roll call vote to recommend funding the STAR project if ranked above 70%. Westerbur reminded members to complete the survey to finalize their scores, verify destruction of materials and count volunteer hours.

NOAA Evaluation Results

Westerbur introduced the NOAA evaluation process. She noted that NOAA's fundamental conclusion of the evaluation is that Minnesota is adhering to all programmatic requirements of the Coastal Zone Management Act. NOAA specifically called out four accomplishments and eight recommendations. They did not identify any necessary action steps from this evaluation.

McDonnell asked members to (1) share their initial thoughts on the evaluation report (provided in advance with the meeting materials); and (2) identify interest and ability to participate in any future meetings to delve deeper into the recommendations. The meetings would help develop program strategies in response to the findings.

Staff took notes of key takeaways and will share them with members by October 7.

Groundwork for FY2021 Work Planning

Westerbur introduced the discussion. The goal was to gather member input on coastal management challenges and opportunities.

The council discussed two questions. (1) What are the biggest challenges facing coastal Minnesota? (2) How can the Coastal Program and its partners address these challenges?

Two small groups of four to five members discussed the questions for 30 minutes, with staff taking notes. Members reconvened and reported out to the full group. Staff will share a summary with members by October 7. Staff will use the input to inform development of the DNR's annual application to NOAA (due in March 2021).

Meeting Re-cap

Westerbur asked the council members to complete the post-meeting survey by midnight on Wednesday, September 30. If there are any needs for different meeting formats, please let staff know via email.

By October 7, staff will have the outcome of the STAR Grant review, the summary of the 312 discussion, and the FY2021 work planning discussion.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.