

**Star Lakes Meeting**  
**Initiative Foundation Conference Room**  
**Little Falls, Minnesota**  
**February 12, 2009**

**Facilitator:** Judy Alnes, Executive Director, MAP for Non-Profits

**Board Members Present:** Dale Gustafson, Lester Heitke, Jim Jones, William Kallberg, Dave Kavanaugh, Dan Lais, Dann Siems, Sylvia (Doonie) Soeth, William Stearns, John Sturner, Dana Vanderbosch, Katy Wortel,

**Board Members Absent:** Kay Cook, Byron Snowden, Fred Tuominen

**Guests:** Don Hickman, Program Manager for Planning & Preservation, Initiative Foundation,

Dale has written Don to confirm who was there, and also if he was able to get the room for us.

1. Acting Chair Dale Gustafson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with introductions and a review of the agenda.
2. Several milestones were reported:
  - a. Dann Siems reported on his presentation of the required annual report to the Legislature.
  - b. Judy Alnes reported that our filings are completed so that we can now do business as Minnesota Star Lakes and Rivers.
  - c. Judy Alnes also reported that we have applied for an Employer Identification Number.
  - d. We will need to open a checking account and get appropriate signature authorizations. It was suggested that we choose a bank convenient to the treasurer for this. Typically, all the officers will be authorized signers.
3. The previously distributed 501(c)3 application was reviewed by the members. Motion by John Sturner to approve, seconded by Dann Siems, passed 12-0.
4. Don Hickman introduced himself and gave an informative presentation about the Central Minnesota Initiative Foundation. They have been very successful with their "Healthy Lakes & Rivers Partnership (HLRP) program and are able to offer it statewide. Some key points he made are that we are actually trying to manage human behavior, not lakes and rivers. He suggested we keep in mind the prayer of serenity and that we need to keep active and engaged.
5. The group discussed options for ongoing coordination function. MAP does not have expertise available to address specifics of lakes and rivers. Board member Dann Siems presented a proposal from his Manager to contract with Beltrami SWCD for services pay for their staff involvement (Dann Siems) to provide technical assistance. Motion by John Sturner, second by Dave Kavanaugh, to authorize Board Chair to enter into such a contract. Upon further discussion, the motion was tabled until such time as Officers were elected. Following election of officers (see #6), the original motion and second were withdrawn. Further discussion included need to transfer the appropriated funds from BWSR (the balance of \$100,000), how to spend the already available funds, and determine that the funds will be properly expended within the correct biennium, ending in July, 2010. Motion by John Sturner, second by Katy Wortel to continue with Judy Alnes of MAP on a month-to-month basis as needed and to contract with Beltrami SWCD to provide service by Dann Siems, not to exceed 20% of his time. This will be for activities beyond those normally expected of him as a Board Member. The motion passed 11-0, Siems abstaining.
6. Nomination and election of officers. Acting Chair Gustafson presented the following proposed slate of nominees:
  - President – Dale Gustafson
  - Vice President – Sylvia (Doonie) Soeth
  - Secretary – William Kallberg
  - Treasurer – Byron Snowden

The slate was unanimously approved. Dale Gustafson then outlined operating procedures, committee structure and activities. Dale will attach that briefing to the minutes for distribution.

7. The Vision/Mission/Values document was discussed at length for finalizing Vision and Mission. The following wording was discussed and motion by Bill Kallberg, second by Jim Jones to approve as amended. Motion passed 12-0.  
**VISION:**  
Minnesota's lakes and rivers will be improved by investing in citizen organizations that vigorously protect and sustain the long term ecological health of these waters.  
**MISSION:**  
To promote and designate Star Lakes and Rivers as a cost-effective means of encouraging and rewarding citizen-based lake and river associations that effectively develop and implement a plan for protecting and enhancing surface waters.
8. The initial list of subcommittees was reviewed, modified and agreed upon. The modified list was passed around so that each person could indicate their selection of at least two committees. Committee Chairs were later appointed by President Gustafson. The list and final assignments follows:  
Legislative Coordination: Dann Siems-Chair, Bill Kallberg, John Sturner, Les Heitke  
Agency Coordination: Kay Cook-Chair, Jim Jones, Dave Kavanaugh, Bill Stearns, Dana Vanderbosch, Dan Lais  
Star Lake Criteria: Bill Kallberg-Chair, Jim Jones, Dave Kavanaugh, Dann Siems, Dana Vanderbosch, Dan Lais.  
Operation: All Officers of the Board  
Public Relations: Doonie Soeth-Chair, Katy Wortel  
Finance: Byron Snowden -Chair, John Sturner, Katy Wortel, Les Heitke
9. Criteria for Star Lakes/Rivers designation were discussed, essentially around the Initiative Foundation's Healthy Lakes & Rivers Program. We also need to keep in mind the provisions of the enabling legislation. Dann Siems pointed out that these provisions came essentially from a document titled "Developing a Lake Management Plan" prepared by the Interagency Lakes Coordinating Committee, which includes Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). Minnesota Lakes Association, Metropolitan Council and Hennepin Parks also participated. The Plan was last updated August 1996. Copies were distributed. Other suggestions included whether an existing "pristine" lake or river can be designated as "STAR" and to look at criteria for state designations such as "Star City". Motion by Dann Siems, second by Bill Kallberg to have Criteria Committee proceed on these bases. Motion passed 12-0.
10. Schedule of future meetings was discussed. The second Thursday of the month seems to be the best choice. The preferred outstate location is the Initiative Foundation building, but it apparently is internally booked on Thursdays. A second choice would be the DNR Building in Sauk Rapids, just a short distance from Little Falls. For the short term, we will meet on odd-numbered months at MAP building in St. Paul and even-numbered months outstate. The March meeting in St. Paul affords an opportunity to interact with the Legislature. It was suggested we continue with the four-hour format, but include a time for subcommittees to convene as well, with time to report to the full board. We should also attempt to have some attendance at the March 12 meeting of the Clean Water Council.
11. Bill Kallberg distributed copies of two recent articles by Doug Smith (Minneapolis Star Tribune) about the distribution of funds from the Legacy Amendment. The legislation did designate the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council as the primary distributor of these funds. Dann Siems indicated there will be some legislation proposed to not disburse any funds until after the end of the biennium, so as to develop some cash reserves.