

April 9, 2009 Minutes – Prepared April 25, 2009

Approved May 14, 2009

Minnesota Star Lakes and Rivers
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday, April 9, 2009
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Initiative Foundation Offices
405 First Street Southeast
Little Falls, MN

1. 10:00 Call to order and review of agenda

Meeting called to order by President Gustafson at 10:00 with 8 members present for a quorum and two arriving shortly after: John Sturner, Katy Wortel, Dann Siems, Lester Heitke, Board President Dale Gustafson, Jim Jones, Dan Lais, Board Secretary Bill Kallberg, Board Vice-President Sylvia (Doonie) Soeth, Fred Tuominen, Kay Cook. Agenda was reviewed and approved as published.

2. 10:01 Reports

• **Secretary's report and approval of Minutes from 3/12/09**

Minutes of March meeting approved as published. Motion -Heitke, second-Sturner, P-8-0.

• **Treasures report (by Gustafson)**

➤ President Gustafson reported the checking account had been opened and materials would be turned over to Treasurer Snowden ASAP. The transfer of funds from BWSR was in process (~\$93,000). A State Tax I.D. number is still required and a State Sales Tax exemption. Details of previous expenses are available from Judy Alnes at MAP. There needs to be a billing from Beltrami SWCD.

➤ Reimbursement of expenses was discussed at length followed by a motion from Sturner, second from Heitke to reimbursement as follows effective 4/10/2009:

- ✓ Lodging at actual cost if one-way travel exceeds 120 miles
- ✓ Meals at actual cost (no alcoholic beverages) if one-way travel exceeds 30 miles
- ✓ Mileage at IRS rate
- ✓ All previously unreimbursed expenses will be reimbursed at actual cost pending submittal of expense report

Motion passed 9-0. Siems is to send a suggested Beltrami SWCD form to Kallberg for development of a Star Lakes form

➤ Signature cards – it was agreed that there should be two signatures on all checks, normally one will be Siems as Temporary Administrative Assistant and the second signer will be one of the officers. Gustafson sent around required form for authorizing this.

• **Executive actions:**

➤ Secretary Kallberg reminded everyone to put dates on all documents, especially as they are in process of development so the newest version can be identified.

➤ Review current version of Vision and Mission Statement: Bill Kallberg was asked to send out the latest version of Vision/Mission to all

• **Review of legislative activities**

➤ Gustafson reported that he had made short-notice the presentation to the legislature. There were some questions for which he was not fully prepared. There are some legislators who have concern that control of invasive species means use of harmful chemicals. Some bills are going forward on the funding, action was expected by the 15th. Siems suggested there are two possible scenarios: that the omnibus Clean Water Bill

would send funds directly to us or the money could go to BWSR for redirecting to us upon our request.

- Wortel expressed concern that we need to have some news releases to start getting people aware of our existence. Heitke suggested we wait until after the funding bills have passed. Siems urged all to contact any legislative committee members we might know, especially Ellen Anderson of the Finance Committee Environmental & Natural Resources Division, Kent Eken of Environmental Policy & Oversight. The contact would best be a brief email and/or phone call. Lais moved, Siems seconded that Gustafson and Siems develop some talking points for this and other opportunities so we all send the same message, based on the presentation made by Gustafson. Passed 10-0.

- **Discuss attendance at Lakes and Rivers Conference May 6-8**

- A display table has been reserved and fee includes up to 2 persons per display. Siems made up a list of persons who are available for the conference and how each could be reimbursed by Star Lakes or their home organization. We could cover two more in addition to the two included in the exhibitor fee. Siems is covered by his SWCD as a speaker on the program, Sturns expects to be covered by his lake association, Tuominen thought he might be, Soeth and Kallberg should be covered by Star Lakes. We should arrange for permanent name badges with Star Lakes & Rivers logo. Kallberg thought he had a source and will pursue this. Lais suggested we have copies of the legislative bills at our booth and info about our web site. Siems noted that there is space (full page inside front cover in the conference program for \$750. Motion by Heitke, second by Sturner to go for this, to include our display booth number. Motion passed 10-0.

3. Updates:

- Senate sub-committee meeting March 18th (Dale). See previous report above.
- Individual visits with Legislators on March 23 (Dann) above.

4. 11:00 Begin discussion of Criteria (What is membership)

(Siems used a draft decision tree format to lead this discussion)

- Must meet spirit of law
- Must provide opportunities
- Goal should be to change attitudes about caring for waters
- Must have lake associations i.e.: PEOPLE
- Should there be criteria for applying and awards

Motion Cook second Soeth Application and Evaluation should be separate and distinct, we can help associations get a management plan, not do it for them. Passed 10-0

- Discussion on eligibility for applying. Statute says 50% membership or participation. Does this mean must meet one of these, both of these or combination totaling 50%? Motion Soeth, second Sturner to accept either criteria. Passed 10-0.

5. 12:00 Lunch and Presentation from Brainerd BWSR representative on water testing they are doing and wanting to expand.

Presentation by BWSR representatives included a series of handouts detailing the program for protecting unimpaired lakes in four areas of northern part of Minnesota. Dan Hickman of Initiative Foundation and Marian Bender of Minnesota Waters were also present for this.

6. 12:45 Reconvene as board to continue on Criteria (What is participation)

- After some discussion motion by Cook, second by Sturner to define membership as one who pays dues, passed 10-0
- After further discussion motion by Sturner, second by Cook to define participation as those who are active but not paying dues and that the final qualification should be a combination of dues payers and active non-dues payers totaling 50% of the shoreland owners. Passed 9-1.
- As we go forward, we are urged to be thinking about recognizing/rewarding membership, how this should be awarded and about awarding grants for special projects. In other words, Rewards for Status, Grants for Special Programs. Motion by Soeth, second by Sturner to approve this idea. Passed 10-0
- Gustafson suggests in closing that we should start to work with some associations to develop a process for further actions

7. 1:50 Meeting schedule for May, June, and July

- The next full board meeting will be July 9th at a location to be determined. There could be some committee meetings, especially on criteria and publicity.

8. 2:00 Adjourn

- The publicity committee met briefly afterwards to draw up brochure for the Minnesota Waters Conference.