



BOARD OF DIRECTORS Minutes

Executive Board Meeting April 1, 2022 Virtual Via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Board Members

Angie Lipelt, Mower Co., (F) President
Garry Johanson, Norman Co., (A) Vice President
Eric Hartman, Rock Co., (D) Treasurer
Kristi Gross, Olmsted County (F) Secretary
John Biren, Lyon Co., (D), Past President

Members Absent:

Dave Rush, Douglas Co., (C)
Pam Flitter, Martin Co. €

District Representatives

Josh Johnston, Marshall Co., (A)
Tim Nelson, Cook Co., (B)
Kyle Krier, Pipestone Co., (D)
Laine Sletta, Brown Co., (E)
Dale Oolman, Steele Co., (F)

Others in Attendance

Call to Order

Attendance Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

MSP: Dale Oolman/Garry Johanson

Approval of Minutes: of the February 11, 2022 Meeting

MSP: Kyle Krier/Garry Johanson

Treasurer's Report – Eric Hartman

- Checking/Savings Account: \$2,483.80; \$30,820.89
 - Down payment on Fall conference of \$4000.
 - Balances accurate as of 25 of March
- Membership Report: 77/32
 - Reached out to outstanding Counties for membership

MSP: Garry Johanson/Laine Sletta

Audit Committee Report

No report until next meeting

Old Business

- Spring Conference

- Agenda looks good
- Only 15 people signed up. Reminder sent out
- Good input from group, pulling speakers and panels
- AMC Contract
 - May meeting, Julie Ring is planning on joining us via zoom for discussion and share some thoughts on potential changes.

New Business

- None

AMC Updates – Brian Martinson

- Legislative Update
 - Today is 2nd committee deadline. All policy work must be done by today.
 - Wrapped up final omnibus bills this week. Very little funding. Tax bill is most spending coming in around 4 billion, most bills are modest or 1 time dollars.
 - Environment:
 - Tax forfeited property to allow counties to hold back revenue for clean up and maintenance was included in the bill.
 - Funding for 404 assumption was included
 - Included legislation: to allow cement pre-cast septic tanks to have holes pre-drilled that are plugged to be used for installation. Agency has been speaking in opposition. Local governments have ability to approve those with an engineers approval if they feel the holes have been adequately addressed. No standard for material or method for plugging holes.
 - Discussion on putting ownership on counties to approve this alternative plans, and the liability that would raise and not knowing if they fail until it is too late. After discussion board would like to oppose it, after double checking with local county that this stems from. The language of this proposal falls short of the needs. Must define the size of holes, define some check on the method of sealing. In general, it causes concern because it diminishes the integrity of the tank and puts the burden on the homeowner.
 - Rule 7083.4110 product development permits might be what pca is using to suggest counties have the ability approve tanks with repaired holes. Its not an alternative to testing or registration though.
 - MPCA has standards when a feedlot pit gets a crack. There has to be a method that works and it has to be tried and true. MPCA must set that standard.
 - No testimony required.
 - Surprised if it will be in omnibus bill based on MPCA's opposition.
 - Will be sending letters to the committees.
 - EAW would only be required for public waters that are on public waters inventory.
 - Ag bill: changes to ag bmp loan program. Expanded eligibility for projects. Removes \$200,000 maximum loan. Removes requirement for local governments identify which fund, funds a project.
 - Senate Omnibus Energy: Added as amendment yesterday for large wind and solar 50 MW or more, in addition to PUC approval they would have to

get approval from local government on the siting. A few projects in southern MN where there is conflict is located the County should be able to review and approve a location based on their ordinances. Prevent local governments from prohibiting natural gas or propane hookups. In the name of climate change they are limit new or extension of natural gas/fossil fuel use.

- Housing: much of the permit stuff was wiped out of the bills. Now focused on cities, hud development.
- Solar Stewardship: Spring conference; push back is slowing progress on tying down how sites are managed and stewardship of the panels. May be scaled down to a study.
- Drainage registry information portal: require counties to submit information on drainage repair, maintenance activities, cover whole range of drainage activity and require more information.
 - Is this just public.
- Ag reserve program: Scale opt out time. Can apply to remove them, we had proposal to ratchet it down to 3 year removal. Metro program is more critical to protecting ag land and allow removal immediately. Other side is to allow 1 MW or less solar development enrollment to be at least 35 acres or more.
- AIS Priority – volunteers
 - 1 name provided for that. Some point, if we want to keep this as an item, if its something we want to pursue, there is interest from the state to work with us but we need people to engage and work on this issue.
 - Carry back to districts and get volunteers.
 - Talked about having the money funneled back to a committee with Ag Inspector.
- SSTS Training and Certification
 - Good response for volunteers 5 or 6 members meeting scheduled with UofM and MPCA mid April, April 19th

MACPZA Committee Reports

- Legislative Committee – John Biren
 - No updates Brian covered everything.
 - Drafting update for platform for fall conference
- Professional Development Committee – Dave Rush
 - Brian, couple recent meetings for Spring Conference.
- By-Laws Committee – Josh Johnston
 - No update

Other Committee Reports

- SSTS Advisory – Chris LeClaire
 - No updates
- SIETF – Christine McCarthy
 - Brian- tries to attend both SSTS and SIETF met last week was there for most of SIETF, talked about pre-cast holes. Did overview of walking tour. 64 counties

had attended on par with normal attendance, more attendance from city/township people than in the past.

- Had discussion on talking tour and where they are going. Very heavy with MPCA staff septic may be turning into feedlot program with permits and audits.
- 2 members came from MPCA prior to COVID, real good, but last zoom meeting had 8 or 10 MPCA staff and some of the questions raised concerns. In past when Erin and Gene came, talked about rule and county programs were far advanced than city and township programs, that sentiment was not the same with the last meeting.
- Elevation data, in the files confirming that counties were requiring things that are in the rule or complete.
- Lidar map showing where the septic location is satisfies the rule, but certain staff think a survey is required.
- Holding contractors to higher standard? Frustrating on level of expertise some of them have and they go to the same classes we go to.
- BWSR - Work Group – Kyle Kier
 - No update

Discussion

- Tim fall conference Sugar Lake Lodge- Any issues, topics we would like to see
- Septics, discussion on program; management due to animal depopulation aka African swine flu related to Land Use decision, carcasses/burial sites for diseased animals.
- High water tables makes it difficult for burial.

Other Business

- Airport zoning stuff: Angie

Adjourn

MSP: Tim Nelson/Garry Johanson

Next Meeting: May 12, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristi Gross
MACPZA Secretary