



**Attendance:**  
**Board of Directors**

- ☒ President: Garry Johanson
- ☒ Vice President: Kristi Gross
- ☒ Treasurer: Eric Hartman
- ☒ Secretary: Angie Berg
- ☒ Past President & Legislative Chair: Angie Lipelt

**District Representatives**

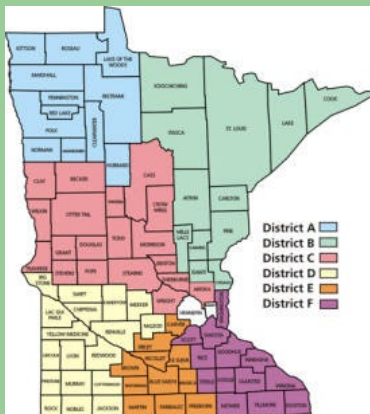
- ☐ District A: Dan Hecht
- ☒ District B: Tim Nelson
- ☒ District C: Amy Kowalzek
- ☒ District D: Kyle Krier
- ☒ District E: Pam Flitter
- ☒ District F: Dale Oolman

**District Alternates**

- ☐ District A: Eric Buitenwerf
- ☐ District B: Trina Bergloff
- ☐ District C: Dave Rush
- ☒ District D: Darren Wilke
- ☒ District E: Robert Santaella
- ☐ District F: Samantha Pierret

**Association of Minnesota Counties**

- ☒ Brian Martinson



# **MACPZA Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023**

*Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis MN Regency Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)*

**9:30 AM**

## **MINUTES**

**Call to Order-** President Johanson called the meeting to order at 9:45am.

**Attendance Roll Call-**Secretary Berg. Attendance was taken. Quorum of voting members met. Others in attendance: Christine McCarthy, Lake County; Jean Christoffels, Murry County; Neva Maxwell, Cook County; Andrew Carlson, Aitkin County; Brian Mueller, Olmsted County Commissioner.

### **Approval of Agenda**

➡ Motion to approve as printed. MSP: Amy/Angie L.

### **Approval of Minutes**

➡ Motion to approve minutes from October 10, 2023. MSP: Krisit/Angie L.

### **Old Business**

Angie Berg summarized the last PUC permitting stakeholder meeting for renewable energy projects. The legislature created a task force to analyze how the permitting process can be changed to meet the 100% renewable energy goal by 2040. It is anticipated that 80% of this goal will be met by 2030. Prime farmland was the focus of the last meeting. How does the State balance the competing interests of green energy and prime farmland.

- 50 years from now there will be one million more Minnesotans to feed AND we need to meet the renewable energy standard. Both are true.
- Ideas: provide incentives for grazing; concentrate solar in areas that are susceptible to pollution (DWSMA, well head, etc.)
- The prime farmland legislation was enacted in the 1930s. The PUC has not been overruling this legislation with the approval of the large solar projects. The law allows for prime farmland to be impacted provided there is 'no feasible and prudent alternative'. When the exception of the rule is routinely overruled does it need to be a rule?
- Prime farmland is also the same land that is good for solar (flat; non rocky)
- Energy legislation was enacted in 1982 for coal and nuclear. Solar was not even anticipated.
- 30% of the state's land is prime farmland.
- To meet the 2040 goal, 0.3% of the State's total prime farmland would be impacted.
- 5800mw in MISO que (50-60,000/acres of land) 8 acres/1MW
- A map of the available land within 10 miles of a substation with available capacity was shared and is hereby incorporated as **Exhibit**

### **AMC Updates – Brian Martinson**

The focus recently has been on the conference. AMC will define priorities and adopt their platform at the meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Brian reached out to all the relevant agencies to request a county leadership meeting. The Chair/Vice Chair of AMC Environment/Natural Resources Committee and 2 members from each of the affiliates, including 2 people from MAPCZA will be asked to attend. Each affiliate will be given one hour. January is the estimated timeframe for the meeting. The meeting will be in St. Paul. President Johanson and Vice President Gross will participate. In the meantime, we should be thinking of issues we want to bring to their attention.

Brian provided an update on cannabis rule making. OCM has a website and several open comment periods: <https://www.cannabis.mn.gov/>. Four MACPZA members (Jean Christoffels, David Green, Kurt Schneider and Angie Berg) assisted Jill at AMC with questions counties have related to cannabis. AMC is looking at other states to get advice from stakeholders. Brian will send out an email with AMC's information on cannabis to date.

- Each plant needs 5/6 gallons of water/plant/day.
- Lighting from the greenhouses can be a nuisance if not managed.
- Is the use agricultural or industrial?
- 1 dispensary/12,000 people is required. This can also be in a city. Coordination with cities will need to occur.
- Plants need 16 hours of light/day in a controlled environment.
- Seed sales/licenses are happening.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Hartman presented the checking account (\$1237.51) and savings balances (\$25,379.84. The report is hereby incorporated into the minutes as **Exhibit B**. There are 79 voting members and 36 associate members.

⇒ Motion to approve Treasurer's Report and Membership Report. MSP: Tim/Pam

### **New Business**

DNR Guidance on Township Adoption of Shoreland Ordinance. Brian will post this on under resources on the MACPZA website. Matt Bauman and Dan Petrick have been the main DNR staff. The Minnesota Association of Townships has also reviewed and vetted the guidance.

Membership and Dues Request. A request for membership has been submitted by an entity that is not a County Zoning Administrator. A professional organization has requested membership. The organization is TCPA (Township Cooperative Planning Association) originates from Olmstead County. Kristi Gross provided background on their role with Townships. There was discussion on membership versus training. The consensus was that anyone including TCPA is able to attend any MACPZA training at a non-member rate. MSP: Angie B./Tim to create a new fee for trainings allowing non-members to attend. MSP: Dale/Angie L. to send this concept to the By-Laws

Committee using SWAA (Solid Waste Administrators Association) as an example. Angie will send out an email to the By-Laws Committee.

2024 Conference Dates. MSP: Eric/Amy to accept District D's recommendation for the annual conference to be held on October 2-4, 2024, at the Best Western, Willmar, MN. October 2<sup>nd</sup> will be a tour only. Members will arrive at the hotel and go straight to the tour bus. There will be registration for the tour.

By-Law Committee Vacancy. Josh Johnston submitted his resignation. Angie will send out an email asking for a new member.

2024 Executive Board Meeting Dates/Location. MSP: Eric/Angie B. to establish the 2024 Meeting Schedule.

2/2: Stearns County Service Center

4/5: Stearns County Service Center

6/6: Arrowood Resort, Alexandria MN (Spring Legislative Conference)

8/2: Stearns County Service Center

10/2: Best Western, Willmar MN (MACPZ Annual Conference)

12/10: Bloomington, MN (AMC Annual Conference)

### **MACPZA Committee Reports**

Legislative Committee – No updates.

Professional Development Committee –No updates

By-Laws Committee – No update

### **Other Committee Reports**

SSTS Advisory – Chris LeClaire. No update.

SIETF –Christine McCarthy. SIETF meets more in the off season and is agenda dependent. The meeting for this week (12/6) was cancelled. Another meeting has not been scheduled.

**Other Business.** None

**Discussion.** Olmstead County Commissioner, Brian Mueller, gave the background on the TCPA. Neva Maxwell pointed out that attendance of a county commissioner at this meeting confirms MACZPA should continue to meet at the AMC conference. Our association should remain visible to commissioners. Neva asked how many counites have experience with cooperatives. Cook county is experiencing a housing crisis and cooperatives may be considered to help address this.

**Adjourn-** ➞ Motion to adjourn at 11:21AM. MSP: Tim/Angie

**Next Meeting: February 2, 2024, at 10:00AM. Stearns County Service Center. 3301 County Road 138, Waite Park MN 56387.**