



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

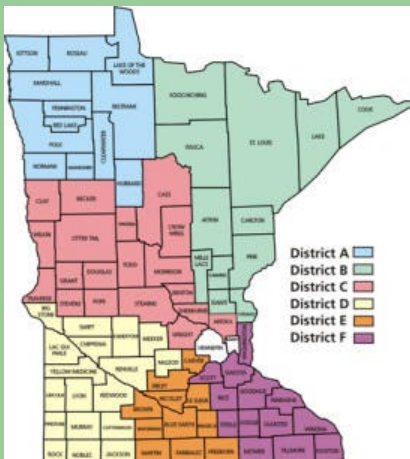
- ☒ District A: Dan Hecht
- ☒ District B: Andrew Carlstrom
- ☒ District C: Amy Kowalzek
- ☒ District D: Kyle Krier
- ☒ District E: Pam Flitter
- ☒ District F: Dale Oolman

District Alternates

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

Association of Minnesota Counties

- ☒ Brian Martinson
- ☒ Bob Libal



MACPZA Website: www.macpza.org

MACPZA Board Meeting

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center; Boardroom Two
2100 Arrowwood Lane, Alexandria MN

10AM

MINUTES

Call to Order- President Johanson called the meeting to order at 10:08AM

Attendance Roll Call- Secretary Berg conducted roll call. A quorum was present as shown on the attendance roster. Others in attendance: Chris LeClair, Otter Tail County; Jason Walsh, Carlton County; Tim Nelson, Cook County; Lynn Waytashek, Sherburne County.

Approval of Agenda

⇒ Motion to approve. MSP: Pam/Angie L. with the addition of a fall conference report.

Approval of Minutes

⇒ Motion to approve minutes from April 5, 2024 MSP: Angie L./Dale.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Hartman presented the checking account (\$7,822.47) and savings balances (\$18,392.83) Certificate of Deposit (\$15,000 9-month CD 4.84% interest expire November of 2024). Report date 5/31/24. There are 79 voting members and 39 associate members. The report is hereby incorporated into the minutes as **Exhibit A**. Spring conference has 51 attendees.

⇒ Motion to approve Treasurer's Report and Membership Report. MSP: Dan/Angie B.

⇒ Motion to approve Membership Report. MSP: Pam/Andrew.

Old Business- None

New Business

1. Appoint nominating committee. Bylaws, Article VI. Section 6 Attachment #2. In preparation for the annual conference the Board needs to appoint a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of three members appointed by the Board of Directors in even numbered years, one of which shall be the Vice President. The Board appointed VP Kristi Gross, Eric Hartman and Garry Johanson to the nominating committee.

2. Renewable energy ordinances (Amy Kowalzek). Morrison County has been approached with a biogas facility. Amy also wondered about large-scale battery storage. She is concerned that their ordinance is not sufficient to cover the various renewable energy uses and was wondering if other counties have expressed the same concern. MPCA considers biogas facilities (with manure) as feedlot. Angie Lipelt shared a contact at Department of Agriculture who has been helpful: Matt Drewiet at 651-201-6520. Lynn Waytashek, Sherburne County, shared that there is a large battery storage site in the City of Becker to serve 4000-5000 acres of solar that was permitted by PUC. Lynn reached out to some other states with concerns with disposal of panels that are damaged. Brian suggested and the Board agreed to convene a workgroup so counties can help each other. They will involve SWAA or a MACPZA member who is in both associations. Amy Kowalzek, Lynn Waytashek and Eric Hartman agreed to work on this. They will also approach Matthew Jacobson and Jean Christoffels.

Brian Martinson stated that there is a 2023 report done for the U.S. Department of Energy. It is a nice overview of the local impact considerations. There is also a statewide initiative that is a direct result of the 2023 Session Laws Chapter 60/[HF2310](#), which mandates the MPCA develop a report on establishing a statewide system to reuse and recycle solar PV modules and installation components in the state. The MPCA has hired a contractor to prepare this report, with an anticipated completion date of late October. MACPZA has been asked to be part of the group and provide feedback on this report. Subsequently, the group is tasked with advising on developing policy recommendations and the MPCA will submit recommendations to the legislature by January 15, 2025. Marc Telecky with McCleod agreed to represent MACPZA.

3. SSTS Enforcement Referrals (Chris LeClair). As reported at the last couple of board meetings, Brent Rud with Beltrami County, Eric VanDyken with Kandiyohi County and Chris LeClair met with Aaron Jensen with the MPCA. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the MPCA allowing counties to have more involvement in enforcement investigations and proceedings for SSTs Enforcement Referrals. Basically, when the group at the MPCA gets together to discuss an enforcement referral, if the referring county wishes, the agency would allow the referring county to be part of that meeting and discussion. Legal counsel at the MPCA is still ruling that since it is an “active investigation”, the data is classified as private data and the referring county is not privy to the data, therefore will not be allowed to be part of the discussion. They are open to calling the referring county before the meeting to discuss enforcement but will not allow the referring county a seat at the table, which is what we were asking for. The Board discussed if MACPZA should pursue this issue and if so, how. It was suggested that we consult our contracted attorney. We have several attorneys on retainer that are generally viewed as our attorneys during the

legislative session. Members agreed that counties should be a party to the investigation, receive all relevant information and get a seat at the table during the negotiations.

AMC Updates – Brian Martinson

- Session ended on time with a little chaos. No bonding bill was passed.
- 35 million in emergency medical availability and ambulance services throughout the state.
- Number of development and planning bills: Rental license, emergency shelters, building permits, building code enforcement. None of these bills passed.
- Cannabis- OCM is working getting prepared for the 1/1/25 deadline. Cultivation licenses will be issued this summer for eligible applicants. The draft model ordinance will be available mid-June. Draft rules are anticipated by Labor Day.
- Changes to WCA and public waters inventory funds.
- Legacy bill: there was just under 2 million for clean water funding for low income low SSTS grants.
- AMC district meetings will begin next week.
- EQB is looking at new surveys in connecting to better understand the time commitments LGU's have invented with environmental rules.
- Very unlikely there will be a special session given that it is also an election year.

MACPZA Committee Reports

Legislative Committee- Vice President Lipelt. No updates at this time.

Professional Development Committee –Spring conference is here! A big thank you to Chair Dave Rush, Bob Lival all other committee members: Garry Johanson, Neva Maxwell, Alex Schultz, George Leary, Amelia Meiners and Brian Martinson. There will be a great turnout.

By-Laws Committee – By-Laws Committee Chair Dan Hecht. The By-Laws Committee met to address how to handle non-county memberships. The committee has communicated via e-mail to work on this request, they've started a working draft of the by-laws to bring forth at a later time with some minor updates. Dan Hecht and Scott Wold are new members this year. Most of the changes are minor edits. The Board tasked the Committee to decide how to handle non-county members. The Committee believes the By-Laws are adequate to allow non-county members as affiliates. This item will be added to the annual meeting agenda.

Other Committee Reports

SSTS Advisory – Chris LeClair. No meeting which is typical for June.

SIETF – No meeting due to lack of agenda items. Last meeting was December.

Discussion

Fall conference update. Eric distributed a draft agenda. Wednesday is going to be informal and there will be a tour at a golf course. Thursday and Friday will be structured. The conference will be held at the Best Western in Willmar.

Adjourn-  Motion to adjourn at 12:15. MSP: Eric/Pam

Next Meeting: August 2, 2024, at 10:00AM. Stearns County Service Center.