

**MNA Meeting
9 March 2008
Pam Welisevich's House; St. Paul, MN**

In attendance: Pam Welisevich, Teresa Root, Jodie Gustafson, Mara Koenig, Krista Prokosch, Katie Hoeschen, April Rust, Jamie McBride, Hallie Wunsch
Absent: Joel Light, Rob Blair

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves.

Committee Reports:

Secretary: Nothing new to report

Treasurer: See attachment (was only for Jan because didn't have Feb bank statement yet; in future report will be for two months at a time)

Standing Committees

1) Program:

2008 Conference

- Reviewed lodging/hosting options for SW MN, and were not able to get a good site for this year, so instead postponed SW location until 2009 and looked at other possible sites around the state for this year.
- Approached 3 ELCs to get details and then compared based on lodging capabilities and cost.
- Selected Luther Crest Bible Camp (formerly Lake Carlos ELC) in Alexandria. Conference dates are November 21-23, 2008.
- Cost will be approximately \$80/person with an estimated 105 attending. They can house up to 170 in total if needed in a combination of several retreat centers and winterized cabins. The contract is being sent to us this week for finalizing.

2008 Field Trips

- Planning 2-3 simple one-day field trips for 2008. Brainstormed a short list of ideas and asked the committee members that are interested in taking the lead on organizing to select which ones based on their interest and availability. So far, Lynette Anderson has offered to plan a Lac Qui Parle trip in the fall. Other ideas include:
 - Sharp tailed grouse trip in April/May
 - Dragonflies survey in summer
 - St Anthony Falls Lab tour in summer/fall (plus Mill City Museum, Stone Arch Bridge, Mill Ruins Park dig?)
 - Fungus trip in fall
 - Reeds Landing/Wabasha/Eagle trip in winter
 - Platte River/sandhill crane trip in March 09

2009 Conference

- Worked with Lake Shetek Lutheran Camp www.shetek.org to find an open weekend to host the 2009 conference at their camp in Slayton (near Marshall). They re-arranged another group reservation for us and have put a November weekend on hold for us. We will be contacting them soon to discuss a contract and get the weekend officially booked.

Next planning meeting sometime in mid-March

3) Information Network (includes newsletter)

Got the January newsletter out!

Need articles by March 15 (President's column; article about Marcie Oltman; Meet the Member – will contact Becky Pollack; article about Joel's new book)

Website: Send information to Jodie or Hallie first and they'll pass it along to Gordon; will put "MNA" in the subject to help him know it's about MNA

4) Metro Training

January 2008 Metro Naturalist Staff & Volunteer Training: Topic - Sustainability

Location: Lebanon Hills Visitor Center; Eagan, MN

Hosted by Dakota County, Wood Lake Nature Center, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Featured Speakers: Angie Hong, WCSWCD (Rainwater outreach programs and

designing workshops), Karen Shragg, WLNC (Population), Tim Farnan, MNPCA (Toxicity reduction), Katie Hoeschen, Dakota County (Trail and park design)
Summary: 50 people in attendance. Feedback received was positive.
Participants enjoyed the variety of topic areas. The make-n-take your own cleaner was not a hit among most. The free use of winter recreational equipment for use on sustainable trails was not a hit.
Thank you cards to presenters were mailed.

Next Metro Training:

Location: Tamarack Nature Center, White Bear Lake, MN

Topic: Early Childhood Environmental Education

Hosted by Tamarack Nature Center and Minnesota DNR

5) Nominating Committee (nothing to report at this time)

6) Legislative: 1) Have talked with Amy Kay Kerber and Brinkley Prescott about having a social event where will invite EE folks and political candidates, too, to talk about environmental issues;
2) Legacy Act – constitutional amendment to be voted on in the fall – many organizations are looking at ways to explain/promote this to the public

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

1) Promotion and Outreach: Nothing new to report

2) Environmental Stewardship/Scholarship Nothing new to report

3) Fund Raising: Nothing new to report

Committee Goals

Program Committee Goals

- Plan and complete an excellent annual conference in November.
- Plan location and theme for the 2009 annual conference.
- Plan and offer at least 2 short field trips throughout the year.

MNA Secretary (Historian) Goals for 2008

- Update Board Action information sheets to add actions since 2004.
- Save Board Actions to disk.
- Scan and save on disks for Meeting Minutes of previous Boards – at least five years worth.
- Save current membership information to disk.

MNA Fundraising Committee Goals

- Research ways to raise funds to keep the costs of the conference low.
- Work closely with promotions and marketing to ensure that funding options are known to membership and outside organizations
- Develop fundraising letter and background.
- Hold an auction/raffle at our conference.
- Establish tabling/exhibitor options at events as a way to raise funds.
- Have a giving option for non conference events should our efforts for the conference prove extremely successful.
- Solicit for one large door prize for our conference.

MNA Information Network Committee Goals

- Produce a relevant, well-organized bimonthly newsletter
- Build means of efficient communication between the Information/Network co-chairs to streamline production over a long distance
- Look into developing a "meet your naturalist" column (just a small one!) that would further member connections and establish ties between naturalists with similar interests and specialties
- Minimize typos and errors

Environmental Stewardship and Scholarship Committee Goals

- Promote both Scholarship & stewardship fund sources to members through a newsletter article, detailed website information, & MNA events.
- Put together a solid view team for application views & set specific dates for the meetings. Especially around conference time.

- Keep having scholarships for MNA conference write articles for newsletter, volunteer services for conference & be recognized at conference.

Metro Naturalist Training Committee Goals:

- Coordinate 3 naturalist trainings each year through out the metro area.
- Serve as a networking resource for area centers.
- Committee Chair or designated board member will attend and offer an introduction and welcome from MNA at all trainings.
- Research and evaluate a naturalist intern-training day.

New Business:

Conference Auction Money: Have more than the \$1000 we usually use for Scholarship and the Stewardship Fund; Isn't specified that it has to be used in the year after it was raised, so gives us flexibility in how many scholarships to award; Will do more to promote the funds by listing information on SEEK, in newsletter and on the website; At future conferences, can say we are raising money for more than just the funds (e.g. new permanent display);

Sponsoring EE Social Nights: MAEE wants to have it more officially sponsored; MNA decided to not have our name attached; willing to participate, but not promote

Ideas from Joe Walewski: interested in having mentoring workshops; also interested in having a student chapter of MNA; point would be to recruit students to our organization; board expressed concerns about time involved in contacting/promoting at colleges; suggested that instead we could go to ELCs and recruit from there; Jamie will contact Joe to write an article

No Child Left Inside Legislation: Jamie has received e-mails requesting MNA send a letter in support of the bill; board decided to wait until have exact description of what the bill contains; also suggested inviting Amy Kay Kerber to talk to our board about it;

Fun Run: promoted them last year; will do it again this year by listing them in the newsletter;

Recognition for retiring/leaving EE people: 1) Made a motion to not formally recognize retiring EE people or those leaving the profession; Motion by Mara Koenig; seconded by Hallie Wunsch; approved by the board; 2) asked by MAEE if want to co-sponsor event to recognize Marcie Oltman: will not financially support the event because don't want to set a precedent, but will promote to our members; will feature her in an article;

Family Membership: Discussed possibility of giving discount to people that have multiple family members in MNA as a way to save money on newsletter, postage, etc.; Decided to not do this

Nominations in November: situation is unusual because several people will have served for just one year; Jamie supports having overlap with more than six members-at-large for just this one year as current members-at-large get to complete their two-year term; may not have anyone choosing to run so the point may be moot

Discussion Items

Briefly reviewed how to form and supervise committees, what to do to avoid burnout (delegate; switch roles), how to write committee reports (agreed that can write them however want), and how to ask for help;

Future Board Meetings:

Agreed to do a board retreat again next year: was a good way to get to know each other; just make sure that everyone can eat supper together; ½ day long enough; Mt. Olivet nice location; set date for January 29, 2009

May: will send out an email to put possible dates and times on Doodle; will be at Teresa's house

Action Items:

Hallie and Jodie: will publish the next newsletter;

Mara: will promote the Scholarship and Stewardship Funds;

Jamie – will set up the Fun Run calendar and send to the newsletter;

Katie – will write an article about Marcie; will research an intern naturalist training day

April – will talk with program committee to cover what next steps will be;

Hallie – will talk to Joe about his ideas and suggest writing an article for an upcoming newsletter;

A motion for adjournment was made by Katie Hoeschen, seconded by Mara Koenig, and approved by the board.

The meeting adjourned at 7: 49 p.m.