

MN Highway 38 Leadership Board
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 18, 2012
5:30 to 7 pm
218-832-3161



Location: Marcell Family Center, Marcell, MN
Time: 5:30 PM

1. Call to order, introductions, approve agenda
2. Approval of the Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
3. Treasurer's report - Tarry Edington
-Approval to pay bills

Reports:

4. MnDOT report
5. Community Coordinator
6. US Forest Service
7. Itasca County
8. Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center Update
9. Edge of the Wilderness Business Association
10. Visit Grand Rapids
11. Edge of the Wilderness Lodging Association
12. Old Business:
 - a.
13. New Business:
 - a.
14. Next meeting:
 - a. Set time, Location
15. Adjourn

**Minnesota Highway 38 Leadership Board
Wednesday March 21, 2012
Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center, Marcell**

Board members present: President Bud Sage (Wabana Twp and WCOLA), Vice President Sharon Miller (Stokes Twp), Secretary Catherine McLynn (County Commissioner Dist. 2), Treasurer Tarry Edington, Tim Stewart (City of Effie), Paul Andersen (Suomi Area Lakes Assn), Mike Flaherty (Johnson Lake Assn), Diane Coppens (Marcell Tsp), (One board position vacant)

Also present: EOW Coordinator Tim Johnson, Jason Kuiken (USFS)

The meeting was called to order by President Bud Sage at 5:05.

The agenda was revised to include additional items and approved. McLynn/Miller MCU

The minutes of Feb. 15, 2012 were revised and approved as noted below. Miller/Stewart MCU

Delete two sentences in the Treasurer's report referring to services and donations. Change date to June 14 for Take A Kid Fishing Day.

Treasurer's report: The treasurer's report was distributed and is incorporated herein by reference. The balance as of February 29, 2012 was \$1302.72. Tarry is ready for the audit to be done by Kathryn Johnson and Paul Andersen.

The treasurer's report was accepted. Edington/Flaherty MCU

Payment was approved for \$100 to EOW Lodging Assn for advertising for Bargains are Great on 38.

Edington/Stewart MCU

REPORTS

MNDOT: Tim did communicate to MNDOT the serious dips and bumps and lack of warning signs. He will follow up with Brian Larson regarding the use of \$50,000 RAC funds that were approved for safety upgrades/design on Hwy 38 preservation project. If MNDOT will provide adequate funding without the RAC funds, we should notify the USFS so the money can be used for other high priority projects on the Chippewa National Forest. The funds could be used to provide funding for safety improvements and visitor experience enhancements along the Scenic Byway that might otherwise not be included in MNDOT plans. The need for a safer parking area at Kremer Lake was mentioned.

EOW Community Coordinator: Tim's report is incorporated herein by reference and details Tim's work to manage the EOW Discovery Center and maintain good communications with agencies and communities. The DNR will install the floating fishing pier. A new sign and picnic tables and benches have been ordered. He is working with the USFS on restoration of the historic Ranger House so it can be rented out this summer.

US Forest Service: Jason will stay in close communication with Tim on encumbering the RAC funds as mentioned above. April 21 is the Team Up to Green Up at the Middle School from 9-12. The training session for stewardship contracts was cancelled and will be rescheduled. Campgrounds open May 4. Stewardship contracts are being offered to upgrade the drainfield/septic system at the Ranger House as well as other boat access improvements throughout the Chippewa. Stewardship contracts are an exchange of services for purchase of timber harvested so that more of the benefits can remain here and provide local job opportunities.

Itasca County: Catherine reported that ARDC is handling the closing of the America Byways Resource Center and the distribution of assets. Tim is in the loop of communications. The Agricultural Assn has asked the county for permission to complete the final large section of fencing around the Midway. A request for funding the project is likely to accompany the request. Concerns have been raised about the reduced access by the public to the county park. The recent state redistricting has split the EOW communities up into different legislative districts so there will be additional representatives to contact and be involved in EOW activities.

Discovery Center: Tim has been able to secure a volunteer naturalist with payment to include only a small monthly stipend to defray the cost of parking their camper at the Marcell RV Park and Campground. They will be available throughout the summer to assist with the naturalist programs. A new Otter panel will soon be up.

More volunteers are welcome at the Center especially on program days.

Marcell Township has a revolving loan fund that will be used for purchasing inventory (\$6,000) and paying for

fishing pier/tables/benches (\$40,150) until reimbursed by USFS.

Motion made to approve?? (I did not record any.)

EOW Business Assn: Their new publication will include more roads so it can be used to actually navigate throughout the area.

EOW Lodging Assn: Resorts marketing plan will include advertising on digital billboards in May.

Visit Grand Rapids: We should invite Meghan Christiansen to attend our annual meeting.

Old Business:

Corridor Management Plan update: Tim will write an RFP for assistance with the update. Documents will be assembled and provided at the annual meeting in April. Board members should review their documents.

New Business:

Annual meeting will be held April 18, 2012 at the Marcell Family Center. The meal will be provided by a sponsor so RSVP's are needed. Directors' terms that are up are Mike Flaherty, Tarry Edington and one vacancy.

Hwy Clean up: Catherine, Bud and Tim Stewart will tackle it over the next few weeks.

**Motion was made to renew the loan agreement for \$5,000 in order to maintain it as an option.
Edington/Flaherty MCU**

Commendation for Tim Johnson: Tarry offered sincere appreciation and recognition to Tim for his initiative and accomplishments with regard to restoration of the Ranger Station, the naturalist programs and the quality of work that he does consistently for the EOW communities.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine McLynn, secretary