



	Present		Present
President Linda Heath	X	Director (vacant)	
Vice President Mohammad Dehdashti	X	Director Joe Fleisher	X
Past President John Siekmeier	X	Director Jerry Kotzenmacher	X
Secretary Marilyn Jordahl Larson	X	Director Mike Lownsbury	X
Treasurer Jessica Forsberg	X	Director Bruce Tanquist	X
Director Bob Dehler	X	Director Ryan Wilson	
Director Ann Driver	X	Executive Director Dana Wheeler	X
Director Andrew Eller	X	Administrative Asst Rhonda Bauer	X
		Past President Cary Efta	X

I. **Call to Order:** President Heath called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

II. **President's Report (Linda Heath)**

- a. Executive Board election: Linda appointed a Teller Committee (Mohammad, Joe and Bob) which certified the election. Results are: President – Jerry Kotzenmacher (MnDOT), Treasurer – Jessica Forsberg (MPCA), Directorships – Andrew Eller (MnDOT), Brian Larson (MnDOT), Aida Mendez (MPCA), Jeffrey Cremin (DPS). The election results will be posted on the website.
- b. Coalition Insurance Update: The state continues to push for premiums for single coverage, and a ten percent copay for specialty drugs. We are against both those items, especially while the other economic items are still unknown. One proposal being considered is for the entire coalition to continue with insurance bargaining until the end of the bargaining process. The Board reviewed the membership insurance survey responses.
- c. Executive Director Review: Dana may request to take a sabbatical possibly a year from now for a two to three month period. Linda said the Board has changed in the scope of what it's doing and has a high level of commitment; Dana spends a lot of time doing outreach and has made some good contacts. He continues to work on renting the vacant offices, coalition bargaining, compensation changes and work site meetings.

III. **Nominations Committee (Marilyn Jordahl Larson)**

- a. Nominations: Update on the reasons for the reopening of nominations after the slate had been finalized and presented to the Board.
- b. Recommendations: The constitution references the same topics in different areas throughout, so there is a need to review and consolidate the guidelines for the nomination and election process, including the eligibility to serve on the Nominations Committee if a person is also a candidate. Marilyn and Dana will highlight some of the problem areas for the Constitution Committee to review. Mohammad suggested that the Board should have to approve the slate.

**IV. Administrative Assistant Report (Rhonda Bauer)**

- a. Membership: 980 total; no change in overall total from last month. One member withdrew to become fair share.
- b. Distribution lists: The consensus is to keep fair shares on the regular distribution list.
- c. First paycheck for dues increase: The Finance Committee clarified the increase should begin with the first full pay period after 1/1/12 (pay period ending 1/17/12). The increase will appear on the 1/27/12 paycheck.
- d. Member status while on leave: Staff requested clarification of membership status, as it pertains to voting rights, when a member is in a non-dues-paying status (unpaid leaves of absence due to parental, work or personal leave, unclassified service leave, etc.). One suggestion was a forgiveness factor if the person is not working and invoicing those who are working. The item was deferred to the Constitution Committee. John suggested retirees should not be required to pay dues if they return to work.

**V. Agency Reports**

- a. DNR: Joe was not able to attend the last meeting. The LMC meets quarterly; the next meeting is in February.
- b. PCA: Jessica is on the LMC. Meetings are scheduled for every other month; and the agenda is set by the chairpersons. She suggests having a brown bag lunch meeting to share background about the MPCA, such as the Citizen's Board. John said the *Engineering Minnesota* brochure also highlights what is being done by the different agencies.
- c. MDH: A class action grievance has been filed relating to overnight travel. The contract says you get \$3 for phone calls, but the agency set a policy to not reimburse.

**VI. Treasurer Report (Jessica Forsberg)**

- a. Account Status – simplified version reviewed.
- b. Approval was tabled until the December meeting.
- c. Dana will complete the equity line of credit process after the bank's new procedure is in place.

**VII. Past President Report (John Siekmeier)**

- a. John made a motion for a \$100 donation to River Valley Action. Bruce 2<sup>nd</sup>. Handout "Debunking Common Myths." Discussion. Roll call vote: 7 yea, 4 nay. Motion carried. Post it on website that this is being donated. The next session is coming up in January.
- b. Maplewood lunch meeting: Cary commented earlier that going to the membership meetings doesn't always guarantee effective transfer of communication. He said Dana explaining the benefits of an action is helpful. They would like to see more transparency, i.e., earlier posting of the draft meeting minutes, noting controversial points or disputed positions. He suggested

that we encourage opinions and ask the question as to what you would like MGEC to do for you. He also suggested that getting information to the membership sooner regarding decisions that are made will help dispel rumors and misinformation. Bruce said some were upset because of being in the red and the dues increase. Jerry noted that the building is a long term investment. It was decided that it is not a good idea to send out the minutes in draft, but approving through email sooner. There was discussion on how detailed the minutes should be, i.e. names, discussion, etc. Dana suggested adding additional topics to the website update following Board meetings. Mohammad asked if information could be shared via webinars; not with the use of state equipment.

#### **VIII. Vice Presidents Report (Mohammed Dehdashti)**

- a. Negotiations Update: No news to share.
- b. Surface Transportation Authorization (STA): Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed two-year, \$109 million STA to which consulting engineers attempted to insert an amendment to encourage state DOT's to "utilize private engineering firms to the maximum extent possible." The NASHTU email and letter template (handouts) will be sent to members through Capwiz to direct a letter to legislators at the federal level. The letter has some statistics but without citations, so we'll want to include a reference to the NASHTU Highway Robbery Report.

#### **IX. Executive Director Report (Dana Wheeler)**

Dana's status and activities report was distributed. Highlighted items:

- a. Item #8: Conflict in property tax appraisal in current worth of the buildings. Jerry will accompany Dana to the Association Board meetings.
- b. MFESTS election: Bruce said he's willing to serve in the secretary position. Dana will contact the nominating committee.
- c. Building update: Two of the lower-quality desks were given away. Dana will make decisions on carrying out building repairs himself based on cost versus his time.
- d. Item #9: Met with MnSCU and other bargaining units on KSTP request for data prior to their piece on state worker payouts. It claimed \$68 million in payouts over the last three years for severance, vacation and ERI. The focus was on MnSCU.
- e. Item #41: Dana's response to a member's concern about rising insurance costs.
- f. Item #43: Council of Engineer and Scientists Organizations (CESO) – They are considering a dues increase; Dana is participating in those discussions.
- g. Review of MnDOT agreement/waiver for personal mobile devices allowing access to the employee's data if they connect it to the MnDOT network.
- h. Grievance/Investigation Update: See handouts.

#### **X. Consent Agenda - Approval of Minutes and Treasurer Report**

- a. Annual meeting minutes: Review of the minutes was deferred.

- b. October minutes: Approved. A typo was corrected in a name spelling.
- c. Treasurer report: Tabled to December Board meeting.

**XI. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was approved at 7:33 p.m. The next meeting will be Monday, December 19, 2011, at the MGEC office. New 2012 Board members will be invited.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Jordahl-Larson  
Secretary

Rhonda Bauer  
Administrative Assistant