



*Engineering Minnesota's Future*

## **MGEC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

Present: Bob Dehler, Marilyn Jordahl-Larson, Mike Lownsbury, Ann Driver, Jerry Kotzenmacher, Linda Heath, Mohammad Dehdashti, Andrew Eller, John Siekmeier, Bruce Tanquist, Joe Fleisher, Dana Wheeler

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

### **II. President's Report**

A. Government Shutdown Follow Up

- i. Grievances: Dana presented to the state on 9-8-11 on two individual grievances and one class action grievance affecting 12 members. Vacation/sick accruals, back pay, exercise option to use vacation time.
- ii. MGEC Activities: Staff worked about normal hours (40+ for Dana and around 20 for Rhonda). The questions from members included: 1) decisions pushed out, 2) unemployment, 3) sharing of articles, 4) tracked comments, 5) 2-3 membership alerts, 6) post shutdown—MGEC only union calling for recall meeting, 7) breakdown in communications in August.

B. Insurance Bargaining: State conceptual presentation to make up \$125 million projected as needed over next two years. Coalition gave a full proposal for improvements to plan coverage and employee costs. Dana described the MGEC proposal for cutting SEGIP subsidy for Level 3 & Level 4 clinics. MMB has priced such a change at \$51M saved. The Board continued to support this proposal. Perhaps the clinics will decide to become more competitive if they lose the business.

C. Should non-board members be on the Finance Committee? That's OK was the outcome of the discussion.

### **III. Finance Committee Report**

A. Dues Increase: The Finance Committee proposed \$1.70 per pay period increase for members and \$1 per pay period for Associates. By-Law 3 provides for the Executive Board to determine the amount of the dues increase. BT moved to raise dues 34 percent. JS moved to raise dues to \$12 for full members. BT moved to amend JS motion to include \$4 for Associate dues. This presumes that we won't be fully rented out in early 2012. JS accepted this as a friendly amendment. JS motion passed. It was discussed that the dues increase would occur with the start of the first full pay period in 2012.

- B. PAC (Political Action Committee): The Finance Committee recommends that any PAC be self-supporting. The Legislative Committee recommended that MGEC reconstitute the MGEC PAC. JS motion: The MGEC Executive Board agrees that the concept of a PAC is supported and that we direct the Legislative Committee and the Executive Director to define a Charter and propose some membership structure/ voluntary fee and return to the Board with a recommendation in October. The purpose would be to screen, endorse and contribute to candidates, as a non-partisan, MGEC issues-oriented PAC. Motion failed 5-4 with 1 abstain.

**IV. Vice President's Report**

- A. Negotiations: The committee has met a few times and is working on language proposals. One of those proposals is to change the language for filling of vacancies so that promotional opportunities might be considered at the same time as lateral candidates. Additionally, before the job is opened to hiring from outside state employees, all options for state employees to fill the vacancy must be considered. JS motion: The MGEC Executive Board agrees that the most qualified MGEC member, as defined in the MGEC agreement, should be hired to fill an open position. [Qualified is defined in Article 13 - Seniority, Layoff & Recall - Section 1H as the employee meets the registration, experience and/or education requirements for initial appointment: to the position.] A motion similar to this was rejected by the Negotiations Committee. Motion failed. 2 in favor--John, Bruce; 3 against--Mohammad, Mike, Linda (voted because it was a tie); 6 abstain--Jerry, Marilyn, Bob, Joe, Andrew, Ann.

**V. Committees:** Role of a committee and what we expect of our committees. Tabled.

**VI. Secretary's Report:** MSP the 8-19-11 minutes with Marilyn's edits.

**VII. Executive Director's Report:** Dana distributed his monthly activities report. A lot in the report—contact him with questions. Review draft website update—send comments to Dana.

**VIII. MN 2050:** Bruce Tanquist will be the MGEC liaison to MN 2050. John brought a handout on support for producing a water documentary. Dana will check into costs of different levels of sponsorship. Sponsorships would be listed on public television.

**IX. Adjourn:** MSP to adjourn 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Jordahl-Larson  
Secretary