

Marquette County RC&D Council
12-11-79

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. at 104 Coles Drive in Marquette.

Presents: Dick Coombs, Sulo Harkonen, A. Headley, Elmer Kangas, U.P. RC&D Coordinator, and D. Ottoson, SCS Marquette.

- Item 1. Slides were shown of the canoe trip down the Chocolay to view the recent bank stabilization RC&D project.
- Item 2. E. Kangas spoke on the current RC&D status, and stated RC&D would probably have some changes in the future, notably more authorities. The program would be a total USDA program and funding would be increased.
- Item 3. Dave Ottoson reported on the erosion control work done on Mt. Mesnard ski area by the city of Marquette and the Boy Scouts. Also reported, was damage done by private enterprise when they worked on electrical hookups and installed ski tows.
- Item 4. Dick Coombs reported on schedule for proposing a county forester to the Board of Commissioners. Committee action December 27, and proposal to full board at their last meeting in January. Dick will report results at the next county council meeting.
- Item 5. Rocking Chair Lakes Natural Area on hold now. A private party has been interested in purchasing a large tract in this area. Gerry Divine, DNR Area Forester, suggested we wait and find out what their intentions are.
- Item 6. Plans for 1980 discussed. Motion made by A. Headley to discuss ideas for action measures, set dates for quarterly meetings, and to have accomplishment reports of projects (slides) for the next meeting. Seconded by S. Harkonen.
- Item 7. Harkonen made motion to hold next meeting on February 19, 1980, at 7:00 p.m. at 104 Coles Drive. Seconded by Headley.

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

MARQUETTE COUNTY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT (RC&D) COUNCIL

September 18th, 1979 Meeting

The Council met at 5:30 at the M-28 Chocolay River access site for a canoe trip to view the RC&D bank stabilization project on 23 sites recently completed.

Chairman Harkonen called the meeting to order at 8:30 at the Bonanza Restaurant in Marquette.

Present: Council members - Sulo Harkonen, Dick Coombs, Aryel Headley, Mel Nyquist; Elmer Kangas, RC&D Coordinator; Augie Blome, County Extension Agent; Dave Ottoson, Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

Motion to dispense with the reading of minutes from the August 7th meeting made by Coombs, supported by Headley. Motion carried.

1. Kangas stated RC&D was funded now for new starts. Up until this point, 1980 RC&D was only funded for completion of projects already planned. Letters to units of government and publicity notices can now be released.

Coombs stated Marquette County Board of Commissioners is sending a request for assistance shortly on their property next to Shiras Hills.

2. Acocks Medical Facility Trail - Coombs stated this trail will be developed in conjunction with their forestry management plan, and when the timber is harvested.

3. Rocking Chair Lakes Natural Area - Ottoson stated he had talked to Jerry Divine, DNR Area Forester and: Michigan Nature Association is interested in purchasing 120 acres; rumor that someone has purchased a portion or all of Island Lake; and that no Kammer funds from the state were made available at present for purchase.

Coombs stated units of government were reluctant to see land go into public ownership because of tax base loss.

Motion by Coombs, supported by Headley, that this Council view this area in October to determine Council input. Motion carried. Divine will be invited to attend.

4. Chocolay River Bank Stabilization - Harkonen explained SCD-RC&D-DNR input into this project. It was felt that the owners should take initiative to correct some problems on the banks above the RC&D works of improvement. Tree planting, steps, and seeding are needed. Motion by Coombs, supported by Nyquist to hold a fall or winter meeting with these property owners at the Chocolay Township Hall to discuss. Motion carried.

5. Mt. Mesnard Ski Hill - Ottoson stated letter had not been written to City Recreation Department about the erosion problem on the hill, as the Commission was finalizing plans to keep present hill open. Nyquist suggested letter still be written with possibility of an alternate site.

6. Harkonen discussed the RC&D program in general and stated the Council should look into some economic measures. Mentioned were hay marketing and fuelwood markets. Ottoson stated the U.P. RC&D Council had put Marquette County's Fuel Wood Research proposal on the back burner as there was research going on at present in other areas. Kangas stated he would make this information available as received.

With no further business, motion by Coombs, supported by Nyquist to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 13th to view the Rocking Chair Lakes area. Council will meet at the County Road Commission building in Ishpeming at 11:00 am.

MARQUETTE COUNTY RC&D COUNCIL
August 7, 1979

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Dick Coombs at 7:00 PM, at 104 Coles Drive in Marquette.

Present were: Dick Coombs, Mrs. Headley, Mel Nyquist, Bill Michelin, Dave Ottoson, and Elmer Kangas - RC&D Coordinator.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Elmer Kangas, RC&D Project Coordinator, gave a report on the status of the RC&D program. It looks like the program will be funded for 32 million, starting October 1. He also reported on RC&D monies expended in Marquette County.

Nyquist moved to send letters to all units of government advising of new funding, and to send out news releases to local papers. Motion seconded by Michelin and carried.

Ottoson gave a report on progress in Marquette County. Three projects are slated for completion in the City of Marquette; namely Presque Isle picnic area, Tourist Park picnic area, and Shiras Park.

Inspections have been made on all completed projects. All look good. Chocolay River has a few small problems which the DNR has agreed to repair. A proposal has been written for land acquisition for the Rocking Chair Lakes area. Up to date progress is not known, as DNR Forester Jerry Divine is on vacation.

Old Business

MID Forestry Project discussed. Case loads are still coming in from many areas of the county. All have been serviced to date by Soil Conservation District hired forester. New means of servicing needs to be explored as SCD forester plans on leaving the area.

Coombs stated the CETA County Consortium has approved a SCD forester at their last meeting and the referral is now with the Six County Consortium. Looks promising.

New Business

Three RC&D proposals were submitted:

1. Tilden Township Recreation Area - mainly need technical assistance, approved.
2. Ishpeming Township proposal - Some technical assistance already given. There could be a possibility that RC&D funding may be eligible to correct their erosion problem. More information is needed, when problem was created, etc. This proposal was approved.
3. Acocks Medical Facility Trail - Discussed and tabled. Coombs will check with various service clubs in the Negaunee area.

Comments

Mt. Mesnard ski hill discussed. City of Marquette wishes to abandon the hill because of little use. A serious erosion problem also exists. It was decided to write a letter to the Recreation Department stating erosion problem should be solved if kept, or abandoned, and if skiing is needed in the City of Marquette to look for a alternate site.

Next meeting will be at 5:30, September 18th at the Chocolay River public access on M-28. Ottoson, Coombs, and Headley will bring canoes to view the RC&D works of improvement on the river. Spouses are invited. A meeting will follow.