

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2014**

Members Present:	Ralph Lewis	District I
	George Aitchison	District II
	Eldon Voigt	District III
	Al Linder	District V
Members Absent:	Chris Pfeifer	District IV
Others Present:	Pam Tomevi	District Administrator
	Eric Olson	District Technician
	Jolen Simon	Program Coordinator
	Kelly Voigt	District Conservationist
	Kevin Adee	County Commissioner
	Sam Soderman	Conservation Corps of MN Apprentice
	Rob Ecklund	Koochiching County Commissioner
	Brian McBride	Koochiching County Commissioner

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

- 2014/8-1 **Motion by Linder, seconded by Aitchison to approve the agenda as presented.**
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.
- 2014/8-2 **Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder to approve minutes dated July 7, 2014 as presented.**
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.
- 2014/8-3 **Motion by Voigt, seconded by Aitchison to approve the Treasurer's Report ending June 30, 2014 as presented.**
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.
- 2014/8-4 **Motion by Voigt, seconded by Aitchison to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$25,921.87 (details on file).**
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.

NRCS Report:

See attached.

District Administrator Report:

Discussion included grant tracking, PRAP work for North St. Louis SWCD, staff meetings, MPCA WRAPS meeting in Duluth, Wage and Benefit Report, water planning with Environmental Services, CCM supervisor visit, and discussions regarding a restoration project for Bartlett Lake.

District Technician Report:

See attached.

Program Coordinator Report:

See attached.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grant Status Updates

Discussion included a progress update on BWSR White Cedar, Littlefork NIPF, and MPCA grants.

Cost Share Project Updates

2014/8-5 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder to approve up to \$400 of FY14 state cost-share funds for well sealing contract CS14-1 on the basis of 50% with 20% of FY14 cost-share funds authorized for district technical and administrative services.

Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.

2015 County Budget Request

2014/8-6 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder to approve the county budget request as presented.

Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.

Request for Assistance

Discussion included grant writing assistance in regards to Bartlett Lake for the City of Northome and continued service to North St. Louis SWCD.

2014/8-7 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis authorizing the district administrator to provide administrative and technical staff resources on a contract basis to the North St. Louis SWCD (details to be defined by the contract).

Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.

NRCS Acknowledgement of Section 1619 Compliance

2014/8-8 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder to authorize the Chair's signature on the NRCS Acknowledgement of Section 1619 Compliance.

Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.

CCM Apprentice Application

Discussion included a one (1) year apprentice application with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota.

Upcoming Meetings

2014/8-9 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder to approve the following meeting attendance:

- Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder, District Administrator, District Technician, Program Coordinator to the IRLWWB/Lake of the Woods Basin Water Quality Plan of Study -- August 11-12 in Fort Frances and International Falls
- Aitchison, District Administrator, District Technician, and Program Coordinator to the Big Fork River Board Meeting on Monday, August 25 in Big Fork
- Voigt and District Administrator to International Watershed Advisory Committee -- TBD

Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.

General Business:

Discussion included a request by a local high school graduate to job shadow with the District Technician for the month of August. It was concluded that the NRCS Earth Team program will be a good fit and this opportunity will be made available to her. Severts also discussed completion of the final financial reports for eLINK reporting and thanked Koochiching SWCD and the District Administrator for assisting BWSR at North St. Louis SWCD.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Monday, September 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the courthouse board meeting room.

Adjourn Meeting:

2014/8-10 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 pm.

Voting yes: Lewis, Voigt, Linder. Absent for Vote: Aitchison. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Al Linder
Board Secretary

9/8/14
Date

Approved:

Ralph Lewis
Board Chairman

9/8/14
Date



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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**District Conservationist Report
Koochiching SWCD board meeting
July 7th, 2014**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Re-enrollment letters went out. Twenty-two 2010 contracts will be eligible for re-enrollment in Koochiching County. Seven contract holders have sent in their renewal paperwork.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

11 contracts were funded this fiscal year. Two applications were not funded. We are waiting for contract signatures on one contract.

There are currently 14 active EQIP contracts. 5 of those are scheduled to be completed this year.

Jane and Mark met with 3 grazing producers last week to develop prescribed grazing systems with them.

Other:

Emergency Watershed Protection - Discussion

**Performance Summary - Field Measures
Minnesota - Koochiching – July 2014**

Performance Summary - Field Measures	Fiscal Year Goal	Total Progress	Progress Percent
0.10 - Conservation plans written (Ac.)		2,043	
0.20 - Watershed or area-wide conservation plans developed (No.)			
0.30 - Stewardship plans written (Ac.)		438	
1.10 - Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality (Ac.)		477	
1.11 - Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil health and sustainability (Ac.)			
1.13 - Cropland with an applied Soil Health Management System (SHMS) (Ac.)			
2.10 - Land with conservation applied to improve water quality (Ac.)		3,637	
2.11 - CNMP written (No.)			
2.12 - CNMP applied (No.)			
2.20 - Land with conservation applied to improve irrigation efficiency (Ac.)			
2.26 - Land with conservation system applied to improve agricultural irrigation water management (Ac.)			
3.11 - Grazing land with conservation applied to protect and improve the resource base (Ac.)		1,252	
3.12 - Grazing land with a conservation system applied to achieve a sustainable forage-animal balance (Ac.)		423	
3.21 - Non-Federal land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat quality (Ac.)		139	
3.30 - Wetlands created, restored or enhanced (Ac.)			
3.31 - Wetlands re-enhanced (Ac.)			
3.40 - Forest land with conservation applied to protect and improve vegetative condition (Ac.)		1,798	
6.15 - Stewardship activities applied that improve environmental quality (Ac.)		15,829	

District Technician Report

July 2014

WCA

- Work with BWSR, ACOE, Arro surveying, and Svoboda ecological resources on city wetland planning and development. Plan is complete and awaiting final written approval from ACOE.
- Talking to ESD on notices for upcoming projects and decisions with other agencies.
- Assisting landowners with permit process and identifying areas of wetlands on possible wetland properties in the area.
- Visiting wetland banks with multiple agencies to make decisions on the eligibility of wetlands banks/ future plans and outcomes to be decided.

Wood Ash

- Writing permits and assisting landowners with process/working with DH contracting.
- Holding/not receiving any more permits due to slow/non quality ash production until improvements are made and fields are caught up on spreading and hauling.

Water Quality

- Continued sampling on all sites. Going well.
- Attended 2 webinars to go over FLUX work and data overview from past samples. Starting to receive data on sites to enter into program and submit to PCA.
- Second project numbers received for PCA approval. Data can now be entered and viewed.

LWM

- Working with NRCS and setting up Sam to handle the flood relief forms for landowners who have been affected by the flood. More news to follow once water recedes and people can assess damages.

Rat Root River Project

- Obtained more money and match dollars to cover another riffle project.
- Working with Sport fishing club on developing site locations and project areas for tree planting and sediment deposition prevention to the Rat Root River.

Miscellaneous

- Hazardous waste collection on August 20th.
- Update maps for Jolen on the Big Fork River for Civic engagement grant. Sam is handling most of the map generation.
- Cost Share inquiries from landowners on their shorelines, but most will hold off until we hear from the County and FEMA's plan.
- Giddings Probe with NRCS and JPB engineers on Don Rolando's property. More site inspections to come in the future for different property owners.

Submitted by: Eric Olson

Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report

July 2014

Local Water Management

- Climatology data entry and mail forms to U of M/report hours to NRCS
- Assist NRCS with flood inventory management
- Submit flood management report and photos to BWSR

MPCA Civic Engagement

- Phone conference for planning with MPCA, Itasca SWCD, LOWWSF
- Phone conferences with MPCA Project Manager/Itasca SWCD/LOW SWCD
- Invoice update and prep
- Research SSTS forms and county needs
- Attended AIS informational webinar regarding 2015 funding
- Research ideas and prepare communication tools for events at Littlefork and Northome fairs
- Assist with creation of maps for Big Fork River Watershed
- Attend and create network throughout the Little Fork River Watershed at the Northern MN District Fair in Littlefork, MN
- Attend event in French Township (North St. Louis County) to promote watershed civic engagement work and network with local residents

MPCA WPLMN

- 1 sampling day plus meeting with DNR representative
- Invoice preparation
- Attended FLUX32 WebEx meeting plus practice with sample data

Boise Wood Ash

- Ongoing permits
- End User Forms sent, and up to date, train apprentice
- Customer assistance via phone and walk-ins
- Update summary, hauling reports and spreading reports
- Update quarterly reports and work with landowners on spreading report
- Contractor meeting with DH

BWSR Conservation Delivery

SWCD Board meeting and preparation, type board meeting minutes, eLINK update and submit final 2013 reports, website/social media updating

District Programs

Customer walk-in general assistance, staff meetings, update daily diary, plat book customer assistance and mailings, 2nd quarter invoicing, grant tracking

Submitted by:

Jolén Simon

Program Coordinator