

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 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:	Eric Olson	District Technician
	Sam Soderman	District Technician Assistant
	Jolen Simon	Program Coordinator
	Kelly Voigt	District Conservationist (via phone)
	Kevin Adee	County Commissioner

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

- 2014/12-1 **Motion by Voigt, seconded by Aitchison to approve the agenda.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2014/12-2 **Motion by Voigt, seconded by Aitchison to approve minutes dated November 3, 2014.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2014/12-3 **Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve the Treasurer's Report ending September
30, 2014 as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2014/12-4 **Motion by Voigt, seconded by Aitchison to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of
\$28,536.89 (details on file).
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.**

NRCS Report:

See attached.

District Technician Report:

See attached.

District Technician Assistant Report:

See attached.

Program Coordinator Report:

See attached.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cost Share Contract:

- 2014/12-5 **Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to cancel cost share project #CS14-2 by request of
landowner.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

2015 SWAG:

2014/12-6 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to authorize the district administrator to submit an application to the MPCA for a Surface Water Assessment Grant as requested by the North St. Louis SWCD and authorize the district technician assistant to provide services as outlined in the work plan.

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

Designated Fund Balance:

2014/12-7 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder to approve the committee recommendation BC2014-1 Designated Fund Balance in the amount of \$10,000.

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

Rat Root River CPL Riffle Contractor Bid:

2014/12-8 Motion by Aitchison, seconded by Voigt to award the bid for the Rat Root River spawning riffle to Up North Builders and authorize the Koochiching SWCD board chair to sign the contract (details on file).

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

Upcoming Meetings:

2014/12-9 Motion by Linder, seconded by Voigt to table planning of the 2015 Board/Staff Retreat until the January meeting, with the understanding that it will take place in February.

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

2014/12-10 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder authorizing the Board Chair and the district administrator to attend the Area VIII Chairman/Manager meeting in Bemidji. Date TBD.

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

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be the Annual Reorganizational Meeting held on Monday, January 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the courthouse board meeting room.

Adjourn Meeting:

2014/12-11 Motion by Linder, seconded by Voigt to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm.

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

Submitted by:

Board Secretary

Date

Approved:

Board Chairman

Date



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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**District Conservationist Report
Koochiching SWCD board meeting
December 1st, 2014**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

68 of 81 participants that requested payment in 2014 have been paid.

We are finalizing contract renewal documents on 7 of the 47 renewals. Of the other 40 that have been mailed out for contract signatures, 24 have been returned. The next step is area office QAR and contract obligation.

A 2015 signup is anticipated in January or February.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

There are currently 10 active EQIP contracts.

December 18th is the final EQIP signup deadline for FY2015.

We have 6 new EQIP applications for Koochiching County – 1 forest management plan, 3 tree plantings and 2 grazing systems.

EQIP training is scheduled for January 15th and 16th in Walker.

Performance Reports are not yet available for FY2015.

Don Baloun is retiring effective January 5th, 2014.

District Technician Report

November 2014

WCA

- 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.
- Working with DNR, BWSR, and ACOE on possible wetland violation status and getting information on permits and actual project implementation.

Wood Ash

- Writing permits and assisting landowners with process/working with DH contracting.
- Holding/not receiving any more long permits due to the amount of permits that are already out there pending and amount of workload for the contractor. I will continue permitting long fields when improvements are made and fields are caught up on spreading and hauling.
- Met with Boise and contractor to assess program status and make plans for the better of the program.

Water Quality

- Finalized and submitted data for the 4 minor sites now we are only sampling at the 2 major sites 1 to 2 times per month.
- Working on FLUX data for PCA as it comes in.
- Finalizing second creek data with PCA employees and getting the site established for long term data.

Cost Share

- Site visits working on current contracts for Land and Forests Nelson West project extension and planning.
- Working with JPB on project for Land and Forests for Point of Pines and restoring the area damaged as a result of the flood.

LWM

- Talking to interested landowners about shoreline development and rules/laws about it.

Rat Root River Project

- Working with Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club (RLSC), private landowners, and DNR on second riffle location entrance and planning.
- Received bids on riffle project until 2 p.m on Nov. 18th in which only 1 was received by Up North Builders.
- Answering questions and submitting plans to interested contractors. Visiting location and making plans/revisions with other agencies to accommodate rules/laws and staking locations.
- MCC crew finished removing log jams as of 11/3/14 and submitted bill and future plans.

Miscellaneous

- BWSR Academy
- Working with district tech assist. and district administrator on ordering and tree selection.

Submitted by: Eric Olson

District Technician Assistant Report November 2014

Water Quality

- Continued sampling on major sites. Going well.
- EQIS, Photo update
- Flux data

LWM

- Research North St. Louis (NSL) watershed, acquire data.
- Climatology data entry.
- NSL SWAG grant research/write-up

MPCA Civic Engagement

- Core team meeting for vermilion watershed
- Map acquisition, data accumulation
- Start working on contract, connecting with contacts

Boise Wood Ash

- Sent out end user forms and data entry

Rat Root River

- Riffle 2 site visit.
- Prebid meeting, erosion control products
- Riffle bid opening
- Picture presentation of site

Miscellaneous

- Finalize tree program, order trees.
- Plat book sales
- Hazardous meeting review

Submitted by: Sam Soderman

Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report

November 2014

Local Water Management

- Climatology data entry and mail forms to U of M/report hours to NRCS
- Create and mail annual forms to volunteers
- Board meeting items
- Envirothon kick-off meeting 11/18. 2015 Envirothon event scheduled for Wednesday, May 6th.
- Create and order calendar for volunteers and partners

MPCA Civic Engagement

- Phone conferences with MPCA Project Manager
- Itasca team members will be changing-update
- Invoice update
- Research SSTS forms and county needs
- Review LF documents on turbidity
- Meet with LOWSF via phone for future project planning
- Meeting with MPCA Project Manager and TMDL contractor on 11/25 for possible Civic Engagement update public meeting in December for Little Fork River

MPCA WPLMN

- Report updating
- Assist with FLUX

Boise Wood Ash

- End User Forms sent, and up to date
- Customer assistance
- Update summary, hauling reports and spreading reports
- Update quarterly reports
- Make calls to landowners for spreading
- Contractor meeting with DH
- 3rd Quarter meeting 11/19 plus follow up

District Programs

Customer walk-in general assistance, staff meetings, update daily diary, plat book customer assistance and mailings, 3rd quarter invoice follow up, grant tracking, Leadership Academy in Duluth, board meeting prep, minutes, board meeting, assisted with wage and benefit survey update, eLINK update

Submitted by:

Jolén Simon

Program Coordinator