

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2014**

Members Present:	Ralph Lewis	District I
	George Aitchison	District II
	Al Linder	District V
	Eldon Voigt	District III
Members Absent:	Chris Pfeifer	District IV
Others Present:	Eric Olson	District Technician
	Jolen Simon	Program Coordinator
	Kelly Elijo	District Conservationist
	Kevin Adee	County Commissioner

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**2014/2-1 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder to approve the agenda as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Linder, Voigt. Absent for Vote: Aitchison. Motion carried.**

**2014/2-2 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt to approve minutes dated January 8, 2014 as distributed.
Voting yes: Lewis, Linder, Voigt. Absent for Vote: Aitchison. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Reports:

Voigt reported on his attendance at the MASWCD Forestry meeting including a discussion on SFIA.

Committee Reports:

Aitchison reported that he met with Voigt regarding draft updates to the Personnel Handbook. Staff will type the draft update in time for review and comment at the March Board meeting.

District Technician Report:

See attached.

Program Coordinator Report:

See attached.

NRCS Report:

See attached.

NEW BUSINESS:

BWSR White Cedar Contracts:

District Technician updated the board on upcoming contract amendments. Discussion to be continued during the March Board meeting

Upcoming Meetings/Training

2014/2-3 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve the following trainings:

- Lewis, Voigt, District Administrator to attend the budget committee meeting at 12:00 p.m. on February 25th in the SWCD office.**

- Lewis, Aitchison, Linder, Voigt, and District Administrator to attend the 2014 Annual Board Retreat at 1:00 p.m. on February 25th in the Courthouse basement conference room.
- Lewis, Aitchison, Linder, Voigt, and District Administrator to attend Area VIII meeting on March 14 in Bemidji.

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

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the courthouse board meeting room.

Adjourn Meeting:

2014/2-4 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm.

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

Submitted by:

Al Linder
Board Secretary

3/3/14
Date

Approved:

Ralph Lewis
Board Chairman

3/3/14
Date

District Technician Report

January 2014

WCA

- Worked on year end reporting and compiling info. on what was done over 2013.
- Work with BWSR, ACOE, Arro surveying, and Svoboda ecological resources on city wetland planning and development. Made maps to help show high priority locations for buildings, wetlands, etc.
- Held TEP meeting to review projects and make decisions with BWSR and ACOE. Sent out annual reports, applications, and decisions that were made through TEP.

Wood Ash

- Writing permits and assisting landowners with process/working with DH contracting.
- Staff attended quarterly meeting and went over mainly 2013 totals and summary with some small database changes.

Water Quality

- Go to Detroit Lakes for water quality equipment maintenance check and cleaning.

BWSR White Cedar Project

- Site visiting numerous cedar stands and assessing restoration priority for possible banking sites.
- Received additional funding for administrative work and to help Rick Dahlman with his work.

Rat Root River Project

- Contacted Up North on progress which was there's still 1-2 feet of water in thalweg so it was plowed off and being checked again in a couple weeks.

Miscellaneous

- Worked on tree program and order form.
- Year end reporting and finalizing 2013 programs and data.

Submitted by: Eric Olson

Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report

January 2014

Local Water Management

- Sent Envirothon registration packets
- Created and sent Envirothon donation letters
- Envirothon phone conference call with Area VIII committee
- Climatology data entry and mail forms to volunteers

MPCA Event Based

- Semi-annual reporting

MPCA Civic Engagement

- Phone conference with LOWWSF
- Phone conference with MPCA Project Manager
- Semi-annual reporting

Wood Ash

- Ongoing permits
- End User Forms sent, and up to date
- Customer assistance via phone and walk-ins
- Calls to landowners for spreading outside of 50 miles
- Update hauling reports and spreading reports
- Quarterly meeting with Boise White Paper
- Meet with contractor periodically
- Discuss spreading contacts for Supervisors in each District

District Operations & Programs

- **General, financial, clerical, and administrative:** Board meeting prep, type minutes, web maintenance, mail processing, update timesheets, edit 2014 time sheets, 2014 office planning, staff meetings, email, plat book customer assistance, office cleanup, grant tracking management, eLINK data entry, set up year-end meeting details, invoicing assistance, eLINK reporting, assistance with year-end reporting.

Submitted by:
Jolén Simon
Program Coordinator

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
119 1st Avenue NW, PO Box 217
Baudette, MN 56623-0217

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FAX: (218) 634-1726

**District Conservationist Report
Koochiching SWCD board meeting
February 3rd, 2014**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Payment processing for Conservation Stewardship Program participants is almost complete. 50 payments have been made so far in fiscal year 2014 for a total of \$309,433. There is one modification that needs to be completed prior to payment. There are 51 active CSP contracts for Koochiching County participants.

The current CSP signup deadline was extended to February 7th, 2014. We have one application so far.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Seven payments totaling \$16,408 have been made this fiscal year – 4 for prescribed grazing, 1 wildlife opening and 2 for browse protection on tree plantings. We have 9 active EQIP contracts. 1 is in the process of termination.

The EQIP signup deadline has been extended to February 21st. We have 13 applications – 2 seasonal high tunnels, 4 forest management plans, 5 tree planting plans, 1 abandoned well sealing and 1 grazing system. The current funding levels are at approximately 75% of last year's allocation due to budget reductions.

There is a new pollinator initiative for EQIP. Specific details have not yet been released.

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

Performance Summary - Field Measures	Fiscal Year Goal	Total Progress	Progress Percent
0.10 - Conservation plans written (Ac.)			
0.30 - Stewardship plans written (Ac.)			
1.10 - Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality (Ac.)		330	
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.)		1,106	
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.)		573	
3.12 - Grazing land with a conservation system applied to achieve a sustainable forage-animal balance (Ac.)		420	
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.)		203	
6.15 - Stewardship activities applied that improve environmental quality (Ac.)		6,605	

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

Performance Summary - Field Measures	Fiscal Year Goal	Total Progress	Progress Percent
0.10 - Conservation plans written (Ac.)			
0.30 - Stewardship plans written (Ac.)			
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.)		1,498	
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.)		573	
3.12 - Grazing land with a conservation system applied to achieve a sustainable forage-animal balance (Ac.)		420	
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.)		464	
6.15 - Stewardship activities applied that improve environmental quality (Ac.)		16,201	