

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015**

Members Present:	Ralph Lewis	District I
	George Aitchison	District II
	Eldon Voigt	District III
	Richard Dreher	District IV
	Al Linder	District V
Others Present:	Pam Tomevi	District Administrator
	Eric Olson	District Technician
	Jolén Simon	Program Coordinator
	Sam Soderman	District Technician Assistant
	Kelly Voigt	NRCS District Conservationist
	Kevin Adee	County Commissioner

Chair Aitchison called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

- 2015/7-1 **Motion by Lewis, seconded by Dreher to approve the agenda.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, and Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2015/7-2 **Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve the minutes dated June 1, 2015 as
distributed.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, and Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2015/7-3 **Motion by Lewis, seconded by Dreher to approve the Treasurer's Reports ending May 31,
2015 as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, and Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2015/7-4 **Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of
\$60,585.59 (details on file).
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, and Linder. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Reports:

Dreher, Linder, Voigt, Lewis, and Aitchison reported on their attendance at the Area VIII meeting on June 5th in Bemidji.

Committee Reports:

The Budget Committee met with the district administrator on 7/6/15 before the regular board meeting to discuss updates to the 2015 budget and prepare the draft 2016 budget.

NRCS Report:

See attached.

District Administrator Report:

See attached.

District Technician Report:

See attached.

District Technician Assistant Report:

See attached.

Program Coordinator Report:

See attached.

NEW BUSINESS:

Legislative Update:

The board reviewed legislative updates including the passage of the buffer initiative and the increase in funding for organizational capacity.

CPL Rat Root River Project:

Discussion included review of the final report and possible future activities.

ArcGIS Storymap Presentations:

The Board reviewed GIS storymap presentations of both the Rat Root River Walleye Spawning Enhancement Project and the Rainy-Lake of the Woods: Tour of the Basin. The latter will be presented at the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board Meeting on August 12, 2015.

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings:

Discussed and reviewed the following upcoming event attendance:

- Boise Wood Ash Meeting on July 8 at 3:00 in Int'l Falls
- Int'l Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board Meeting August 12 at 1:00 in Int'l Falls

General Business:

Koochiching County Commissioner Kevin Adee announced the hiring of a new Land Commissioner, Nathan Feibel.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Monday, August 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the courthouse board meeting room.

Adjourn Meeting:

2015/7-5 Motion by Linder, seconded by Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

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

Submitted by: Al Linder
Board Secretary, Al Linder

8/3/15
Date

Approved: George Aitchison
Board Chairman, George Aitchison

8/3/15
Date



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**District Conservationist Report
Koochiching SWCD board meeting
July 6th, 2015**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

One additional CSP application was selected for funding. So, a total of 4 out of our 5 CSP applications were funded. All of them have been obligated.

Including these, there are 52 active CSP contracts.

We have our 10% spot check list (20 people) and 19 renewal applications. Jane and I will be making field appointments to meet with all of these individuals prior to September 30th.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Another tree planting project has been completed.

There are 12 active EQIP contracts.

Eric and I surveyed a portion of the Grand Mound site on June 25th.

**Performance Summary - Field Measures
Minnesota - Koochiching – July 2015**

Performance Summary - Field Measures	Fiscal Year Goal	Total Progress	Progress Percent
0.10 - Conservation plans written (Ac.)		2604	
0.20 - Watershed or area-wide conservation plans developed (No.)			
0.30 - Stewardship plans written (Ac.)			
1.10 - Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality (Ac.)			
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.)		1866	
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.)		538	
3.12 - Grazing land with a conservation system applied to achieve a sustainable forage-animal balance (Ac.)		477	
3.21 - Non-Federal land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat quality (Ac.)			
3.23 - Conservation applied on land being actively managed for wildlife habitat (Ac.)			
3.30 - Wetlands created, restored or enhanced (Ac.)			
3.40 - Forest land with conservation applied to protect and improve vegetative condition (Ac.)		1343	
6.90 - Conservation Applied to improve Environmental Quality (Ac.)		1917	

Koochiching SWCD District Administrator Report

June 2015

County Projects:

- Meetings with Commissioners re: new grant opportunities;

CPL Rat Root River:

- Contractor meeting re: log jam removal; contractor final payment on log jam removal; budget update and grant tracking completion, final report, payment reimbursement, project maps/photos, and close-out

District Programs:

- Board meeting prep/attendance/follow-up items; Board minutes/agenda; website maintenance; prep and attendance at the Spring Administrative Training in Duluth (Presenter); BWSR interview on Peer to Peer training; Area VIII meeting in Bemidji

Financial/Administration:

- SAFES Special District Reporting; Calendar update/time tracking; Payroll; PERA; FWT/SWT; bank statement reconciliation; QB transactions; Treasurer Report; Accounts Receivable; Accounts Payable, budget updates; bank deposits/online banking; staff meetings; file/record maintenance; general phone/mail/email

MPCA Contracts:

- Change order for Rainy Basin WRAPS; partner meetings/calls with MPCA, RESPEC, LOWWSF, and Lake of the Woods SWCD; GIS story map editing for Rainy-Lake of the Woods: Tour of the Basin

..RBG:

- MPCA Rainy Basin WRAPS contract executed in SWIFT; RECAP Plasma Gasification project meeting with CORONAL

NSL CPL Conifer Enhancement:

- Grant tracking completion; final report, payment reimbursement, and close-out

NSL CPL Orr Area Trout Stream:

- Grant tracking/budget update

NSL SWCD:

- Staff training and support; QuickBooks cleanup/adjusting entries; board meeting prep/attendance/follow-up; MPCA Civic Engagement contract change order

Submitted by:

Pam Tomevi

District Administrator

District Technician Report

June 2015

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

- 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.
- Haven't written permits since mid-March, still sending out information for soil sampling and working with landowners.

Water Quality

- Continued sampling and yearly training.
- Data entering and revisions to PCA.

Cost Share

- Looking at potential projects and timing along with current budget.

Shoreland

- Working with local contractors on permitting process for different projects.

MPCA Rainy Basin WRAPS

- Work with tech. assistant on binational story map and continuing to work with Canadian agencies involved with the project.
- Attended webex with IJC members to correct and make revisions to the story map before presenting it again as a more finished product. Completion date is mid-August but ongoing as well.

Miscellaneous

- Orr trout stream work with DNR fisheries and setting temperature loggers in designated streams.
- Buffer ordinance passed, state assisting counties with process in near future.
- Survey Grand mound for potential rip rap placement with NRCS.

Submitted by: Eric Olson

District Technician Assistant Report

June 2015

Rainy Basin WRAPS

- International story map

LWM

- International story map

MPCA CE

- Binational Mapping Project

NSL SWAG

- Sampling lakes (1 time) and streams (3 times)
- Get Sampling equipment ready

MPCA NSL CE

- Met with Sportsman Club of Lake Vermilion
- Recruit volunteers for monitoring
- Watershed sampling schedule/locations
- Biological Stressor identification work
- Start Sampling

AIS

- AIS DNR Regional Workshop
- Emails, Research
- AIS Call for Basin Public Service Announcement plan
- AIS trailer tag law

Miscellaneous

- Emails, office work, meeting prep, walk-ins
- NSL CE contract edits

Submitted by: Sam Soderman

Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report

June 2015

Local Water Management

- Climatology data entry and mail forms to U of M/report hours to NRCS
- Board meeting items
- Reporting

MPCA Civic Engagement

- Phone conferences for planning with MPCA Project Manager
- Reporting/Evaluation
- Reviewed Little Fork River TMDL draft and provided input for activities table
- Reviewed future project planning
- Worked on SSTS forms with Environmental Services
- Assisted with Story Map creation

MPCA Rainy Basin WRAPS

- Met with RESPEC (Julie Blackburn) to prep for Big Fork River Watershed WRAPS process
- Planning for future projects in Little Fork River Watershed and other watersheds
- Work with LOWWSF in planning for future projects

Boise Wood Ash

- End User Forms sent, and up to date
- Customer assistance
- Update summary, hauling reports and spreading reports
- Update quarterly reports

District Programs

Customer walk-in general assistance; team meetings; plat book customer assistance and mailings; invoicing; board meeting prep; minutes; board meeting; timesheet updating; Northern Landscape Committee prep, meeting, and minutes; email cleanup; reporting; website maintenance; Leadership training in Lanesboro

Submitted by:

Jolén Simon

Program Coordinator