

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 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

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

- 2014/6-1 Motion by Linder, seconded by Aitchison to approve the agenda with additions.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Linder. Absent for Vote: Voigt. Motion carried.**
- 014/6-2 Motion by Aitchison, seconded by Linder to approve minutes dated May 5, 2014 as distributed.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Linder. Absent for Vote: Voigt. Motion carried.**
- 2014/6-3 Motion by Linder, seconded by Aitchison to approve the Treasurer's Report ending April 30, 2014 as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2014/6-4 Motion by Linder, seconded by Aitchison to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$8,959.70 (details on file).
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.**

Guest Introduction:

The Board welcomed Sam Soderman, Conservation Corp of MN apprentice who will be serving at the Koochiching SWCD office from May 27-August 15. Discussion included personal background, education, and his selection of the Koochiching site location.

Supervisor Reports

Voigt reported on his attendance at the MN Forestry Association meeting. Discussion included SFIA priorities.

Aitchison reported on his attendance at the Little Fork/Rat Root River Board meeting on May 7th.

Lewis reported on his attendance at the Rainy River/Rapid River Board meeting on May 28th. Discussion included tiling and wetland banking.

Committee Reports:

The Personnel Committee met on 6/2/14 to review the Operational Policy Handbook. Further meetings to finalize will follow.

NRCS Report:

See attached.

District Administrator Report:

Discussion included grant tracking, PRAP work for North St. Louis SWCD, Area VIII meeting, erosion site in Littlefork with Koochiching Highway Department, and the CPL media event on the Rat Root River on May 29th.

District Technician Report:

See attached.

Program Coordinator Report:

See attached.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cost-share for Well Sealing:

Discussion included an abandoned well project near Loman. District Technician will do an assessment and report back to the SWCD Board.

Rapid Watershed Assessments:

2014/6-5 **Motion by Aitchison, seconded by Voigt to authorize the Chair's signature on a joint letter with Lake of the Woods SWCD to NRCS State Conservationist Don Baloun to request assessments be updated to include all SSURGO data.**
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.

International Watershed Advisory Committee:

Discussion regarding the function of the IWAC.

Supervisor Elections:

A candidate has filed for each of the following districts up for election: District I, District IV, and District V.

Littlefork District Fair and Northome County Fair:

2014/6-6 **Motion by Aitchison, seconded by Linder to authorize booth registration for both the Littlefork District Fair and the Northome County Fair to complement the MPCA Civic Engagement work plan objectives.**
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings:

2014/6-7 **Motion by Voigt, seconded by Aitchison to authorize the Program Coordinator to attend the 2014-2015 MASWCD Leadership Program.**
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.

2014/6-8 **Motion by Aitchison, seconded by Lewis to approve the following meeting attendance:**
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Linder. Motion carried.

- **District Administrator, District Technician, and CCM Apprentice to Northern Landscape Committee Meeting, June 4, 2014 in International Falls;**
- **District Administrator and District Technician to International Falls Wetland Plan Meeting, July 9, 2014 in Grand Rapids.**

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

General Business:

Discussion included the IJC Water Quality Plan of Study request for review and comment.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

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

Adjourn Meeting:

2014/6-9 Motion by Linder, seconded by Voigt to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 pm.

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

Submitted by:

Al Linder
Board Secretary

7/7/14
Date

Approved:

Ralph Lewis
Board Chairman

7/7/14
Date



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**District Conservationist Report
Koochiching SWCD board meeting
June 2nd, 2014**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The one CSP applicant for Koochiching County cancelled his application.

There are 51 active CSP contracts. 22 of those contracts are from 2010 and will be eligible to reenroll for 5 more years sometime this summer. We are still awaiting guidance on that process.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Ranking has been completed and applications are currently in the QAR process. We will have final funding decisions by the end of the week. Preliminarily, it looks like 1 grazing system, 5 forest management plans and 5 tree planting contracts will be funded.

There are currently 9 active EQIP contracts. 4 of those are scheduled to be completed this year.

We have two requests for grazing system assistance for this summer in Koochiching County.

Other:

We visited the Grand Mound site on May 9th. MHS located the original rock riprap designs from the early 90s. The engineers are reviewing them and will conduct a site survey to compare to the as-builts to determine how stable the existing rock riprap is. The engineer believes it is more of an ice scouring issue rather than the current undercutting the bank.

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

Performance Summary - Field Measures	Fiscal Year Goal	Total Progress	Progress Percent
0.10 - Conservation plans written (Ac.)		488	
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.)		2,193	
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.)		464	
6.15 - Stewardship activities applied that improve environmental quality (Ac.)		15,829	

District Technician Report

May 2014

WCA

- Work with BWSR, ACOE, Arro surveying, and Svoboda ecological resources on city wetland planning and development. Meeting with multiple agencies and plan finalization in Grand Rapids is being set along with public hearings and final documentation.
- New delineation reports to review and comment on for highway department for projects.
- 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.

Wood Ash

- Writing permits and assisting landowners with process/working with DH contracting.
- Met new Boise staff that will take Sarah Anderson's place.

Water Quality

- Continued sampling on all sites. Going well.
- Meeting with DNR tomorrow on some sites to go over their protocol on checking data loggers and information on sites.
- Covered webinar with other staff to go over data entry for DNR Hydstra sheet.
- Data entry and training Sam in on it as well.

LWM

- Attended Rat Root River/Littlefork River board meeting which discussed various topics mainly concerning water quality and small projects in the area.

Rat Root River Project

- Working on payment and final wrap up of site stabilization with DNR and Up North Builders.
- Media event held on 5/29/14 to cover everything about project and what has been done to the area with multiple parties involved.

Miscellaneous

- Sam Soderman started on 5/27/14.

Submitted by: Eric Olson

Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report

May 2014

Local Water Management

- Phone conference with Envirothon planning team and follow up
- Prepare roster/nametags/score sheet and assist with Area 8 Envirothon
- Press release for Area 8 Envirothon
- Climatology data entry and mail forms to U of M/report hours to NRCS
- Assist with the creation of the Rat Root River riffle sign
- Environmental Education Days at FCC plus planning and wrap-up
-

MPCA Civic Engagement

- Little Fork River Board Meeting
- Phone conferences with MPCA Project Manager/Itasca SWCD/LOW SWCD
- Review resources and documents for possible outreach ideas
- Prepare and complete BBR
- Invoicing

MPCA WPLMN

- Invoicing

Boise Wood Ash

- Ongoing permits
- End User Forms sent, and up to date
- Customer assistance via phone and walk-ins
- Update summary, hauling reports and spreading reports
- Prepare quarterly reports and work with landowners on spreading report
- Meet new Boise staff

BWSR Conservation Delivery

SWCD Board meeting and preparation, type board meeting minutes, assist with election preparation, eLINK, Newsletter label/send/deliver to local businesses, website/social media updating, BBR updating and finalize

District Programs

Assist tree customers and process orders, assist with tree program, customer walk-in general assistance, staff meetings, update daily diary, plat book customer assistance and mailings, research purchase supplies, invoicing, grant tracking

Financial/Admin

Assist with grant tracking

Submitted by:

Olén Simon

rogram Coordinator