

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE COUNTY BOARD ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017**

Members Present:	Ralph Lewis	District I
	George Aitchison	District II
	Eldon Voigt	District III
	Richard Dreher	District IV
Absent:	Al Linder	District V
Others Present:	James Aasen	Forest Resource Specialist
	Jolén Simon	Program Coordinator
	Kevin Adee	Koochiching County Commissioner
	Kelly Voigt	NRCS District Conservationist

Chair Dreher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2017/2-1 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Aitchison to approve the agenda with corrections.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher. Motion carried.**

**2017/2-2 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt to approve the minutes dated January 9, 2017 as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher. Motion carried.**

**2017/2-3 Motion by Aitchison, seconded by Eldon to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$4,017.34 (details on file).
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Reports:

Aitchison reported on his conversation with Linder. Staff will send a get well card.

Voigt reported on the match needed for the SWCD North Region Forester. SWCDs are able to use in-kind hours to match these dollars rather than all cash match.

**2017/2-4 Motion by Dreher, seconded by Aitchison to approve \$1200 in cash and \$1200 in in-kind match to support the SWCD North Region Forester for 2017; motion further authorizes these changes to be reflected in the approved 2017 operating budget.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher. Motion carried.**

NRCS Report:

See attached.

District Administrator Report:

Discussion included the following activities:

1/9-1/13 (W2/1099, tax reports, Rule Curve draft report, contract invoices, eLINK reporting and work plans) 1/16-2/1 (vacation)

Resource Conservationist Report:

See attached.

Water Resource Specialist Report:

See attached.

**2017/2-5 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to authorizing the district administrator’s signature on the contract with “Always There Staffing” for AIS inspector program.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher. Motion carried.**

Forest Resource Specialist Report:

See attached.

Program Coordinator Report:

See attached.

NEW BUSINESS:

Local Water Plan Update:

Program coordinator gave an update on the progress of the water plan update. The SWCD office has been coordinating with the County Environmental Services Department to organize the public comment for priority concerns input, to recruit and confirm members of the Water Plan Advisory Committee (WPAC), and to plan the upcoming public meeting in March. Future work will continue as described in the local water plan timeline.

Upcoming Meetings:

2017/2-6 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Aitchison authorizing the following meeting attendance:

- All staff and board to attend the 2017 Board/Staff Retreat – February 15 in International Falls
- All staff and board to attend the Area VIII Spring Meeting – March 10 in Bemidji

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

Permits:

Board reviewed the following permits: 2017-007, 2017-0104, 2017-0114, and 2017-0150. No comments.

General Business:

Aitchison reported on a wild rice documentary regarding sulfate/sulfite standards.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Monday, March 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the courthouse board meeting room.

Adjourn Meeting:

**2017/2-7 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Aitchison to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher. Motion carried.**

Submitted by:

Board Secretary, Ralph Lewis

Date

Approved:

Board Chairman, Richard Dreher

Date



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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**District Conservationist Report
Koochiching SWCD board meeting
March 6th, 2017**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The eligibility deadline 2017 CSP applications is this Friday (March 10th). We received 9 applications for Koochiching County – 7 forestry and 2 agricultural. They are all currently eligible. We will have until June 9th to do the CAET evaluations and AERT evaluations via interviews with each applicant.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

There are 9 EQIP applications in Koochiching County – 1 tree planting, 1 pollinator habitat plan, and 7 forest management plans. They are currently being reviewed through a program QAR process. We will be notified of funding decisions on March 21st.

There are 3 active EQIP contracts in Koochiching County – 1 tree planting (1 PlantSkydd applications remains) and 2 grazing systems.

**Performance Summary - Field Measures
Minnesota - None Selected - Koochiching - FY 2017**

Goals data is displayed based on the selected service area for data input, either county or service center.

RRS 6.13

Performance Summary - Field Measures	Fiscal Year Goal	Total Progress	Progress Percent
0.10 - Conservation plans written (Ac.)			
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.)		208	
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.)			
3.12 - Grazing land with a conservation system applied to achieve a sustainable forage-animal balance (Ac.)			
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.)		208	
6.00 - Conservation Applied to improve Environmental Quality (Ac.)		218	

Resource Conservationist Report

February 2017

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 getting information for permits and actual project implementation.
- Held WCA TEP with new area specialist and compiled/made revisions to existing projects based on contractor needs.
- Work with conservation officers on possible wetland violations.
- Work with landowners and different project leaders on project form revisions.

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.
- Working with DH contracting on permits and areas to dump/spread with current conditions.

Water Quality

- Ongoing sampling for 2 sites on a monthly basis.
- Calls to project manager and other agencies to check status on other river conditions and entering data.
- Data recording/updating and attend MPCA led trainings/phone conferences.

CPL Grant – Rat Root River

- Work with contractors on log removal project and contract and riffle installation project.
- Work with DNR divisions on permitting for riffle projects.

Local Water Management

- Worked with citizens, DNR, MPCA, and other county offices on restoration ideas for Second Creek.

Miscellaneous

- Attended American fisheries society conference in St. Cloud.

Submitted by: Eric Olson

Water Resource Specialist Report

February 2017

MPCA NSL CE

- Evaluate CE plan
- Bio stressors work with North St. Louis (NSL) SWCD

AIS

- Inspection program
- Plan inspection program with Environmental Services
- Watercraft inspection meeting (2/1/17)
- Set up contract with staffing agency
- Talk with owner of Roadhouse for decontamination unit location
- AIS brochure update and development for lands and forest
- AIS webpage development and creation
- AIS Spring fishing inspectors
- MN American Fisheries Society meeting (2/22-23/17)
- Outdoor Expo planning

BWSR eLink

- Koochiching Surface Water Assessment (SWAG) contract work

Rainy Basin

- Story map work with Lake of the Woods Sustainability Foundation
- Sampling planning with MPCA Project Manager
- Amendment work with MPCA Project Manager
- Culvert mapping
- Culvert document review

WPLMN

- Sampling with Resource Conservationist (2/27/17)
- WPLMN Training (2/7/17)

Local Capacity

- Water plan
- Upcoming Sampling locations in Koochiching county
- Littlefork Watershed Site selection meeting (2/14/17)
- Board Retreat

Miscellaneous

- Emails

Submitted by: Sam Soderman

Koochiching SWCD Forest Resource Specialist's Report

February 2017

Local Capacity-Forestry

- Researched general forestry and forest health topics.
- Studied incoming forest stewardship plans for organization, format, and writing techniques.
- Processed contracts for several upcoming Forest Stewardship Plans.
- Continued the collection of field data and completed a forest stewardship.
- Continued introductions and networking with SWCD partners, various agency staff, and landowners.
- Coordinating future cost-share projects with the DNR PFM Representative.
- Collaborated district, Koochiching County, SWCD Area 8, and BWSR staff on County Water Plan Strategies.
- Created a forest stewardship article for the 2017 district newsletter.
- Attended SWCD Forestry Stewardship workshop in Grand Rapids.
- Secured a speaker for and attended the Northern Landscape Committee meeting.
- Attended the District Board/Staff Retreat at Lenard's.

NIPF 2

- Discussed and promoted the project as landowners respond to the invitation letters.
- Added to the NIPF 2 mapping project as it progresses.
- Processed several completed Forest Stewardship Plans and corresponding invoices.
- Sent participating landowners satisfaction surveys and final invoices.
- Seven contracts for forest stewardship plans in 2017 year, surpassing project goal (Totaling 1048 Stewardship Plan acres).
- Planned further efforts to increase participation and targeting of priority stewardship areas.
- Compiled a 2017 project end of year report.

MN Buffer Initiative

- Reviewed BWSR and MN DNR Buffer Law updates as they came available

Tree Program

- Finalized and added tree order form to 2017 district newsletter.
- Addressed questions about 2017 tree orders with interested landowners.

Cooperative Weed Management

- Researched and selected from BWSR and Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) information to create an outline for creating a Cooperative Weed Management Area.

Submitted by: James Aasen

Forest Resource Specialist

Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report

February 2017

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

-) Edited and formatted AIS article for newsletter
-) Worked with Water Resource Specialist to create an AIS page on the Koochiching SWCD website

Local Capacity:

-) Prepped for March 1 Northern Landscape Committee meeting including previous meeting summary and coordinating event

NRBG Grants

-) Climatology data entry and mail forms to U of M, submit to NRCS, mail forms to volunteers
-) Board meeting items
-) Worked with ESD on planning the upcoming public priority concerns meeting, March 22nd in Littlefork; assist with recruiting the Water Plan Advisory Committee (WPAC)
-) Discussed One Watershed One Plan with BWSR BC
-) Finalized and distributed newsletter; Envirothon newsletter article, plan for Envirothon event, draft and send donations request and school recruitment; Envirothon article
-) Board retreat prep and attend
-) Finalized and submitted FY17 Local Capacity work plan

Rainy Basin MPCA

-) Worked with DNR staff and MPCA towards crowd source hydrology station for spring 2017, planning kiosk building
-) Planned civic engagement presentation and workshop at the LOWWSF Forum
-) Update board and staff on project progress
-) Assisted with amendment proposal

Boise Wood Ash

-) End User Forms sent, and up to date
-) Customer assistance on soil testing, updated permits, and spreading
-) Update summary, hauling reports and spreading reports, permit coversheets
-) Meet with contractor periodically to discuss hauling/spreading progress

General Administration

Customer walk-in general assistance; board meeting prep; minutes and agenda; board meeting; staff report; reporting; website maintenance; plat book and tree program customer assistance; 2017 timesheet updates; board retreat planning; tree newsletter article; sick time, holiday time.

Submitted by:

Jolén Simon

Program Coordinator