

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE COUNTY BOARD ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017**

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Members Present: | Ralph Lewis | District I |
| | George Aitchison | District II |
| | Eldon Voigt | District III |
| | Richard Dreher | District IV |
| | Al Linder | District V |

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Others Present: | Eric Olson | Resource Conservationist |
| | Sam Soderman | Water Resource Specialist |
| | James Aasen | Forest Resource Specialist |
| | Jolén Simon | Program Coordinator |
| | Kevin Adee | Koochiching County Commissioner |
| | Wayne Skoe | Koochiching County Commissioner |
| | Kelly Voigt | NRCS District Conservationist |

Chair Dreher called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**2017/5-1 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Aitchison to approve the agenda with additions.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

**2017/5-2 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve the minutes dated April 3, 2017 as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

**2017/5-3 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve the amended Treasurer's reports ending February 28 and March 31, 2017 as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

**2017/5-4 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$9,332.30 (details on file).
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Reports

Voigt reported that in their draft report to the International Joint Commission (IJC), the Rainy-Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board has recommended "Alternative C", responsive rule curves for Rainy and Namakan Lakes that aim to benefit ecological conditions and reduce flooding, as their choice to replace the current 2000 rule curves; Discussed attendance of the Little Fork and Big Fork River WRAPS meetings; Attendance at the County Water Plan Advisory Committee at which Koochiching County Local Water Management Plan Priority Concerns were selected for the Priority Concerns Scoping Document and submitted to state entities for review and comment.

Aitchison discussed the Koochiching County culvert inventory in the Little Fork River Watershed; reported on his attendance at the Big Fork River Board meeting and the aquatic invasive species work done in both Koochiching and Itasca Counties.

Dreher reported on his attendance at the Big and Little Fork River Watershed WRAPS meetings.

NRCS Report:

See attached.

District Administrator Report:

See attached.

Resource Conservationist Report:

See attached. Discussion also included DNR fish shocking near the Rat Root River riffle and that they were satisfied with the number of fish found.

Water Resource Specialist Report:

See attached.

Forest Resource Specialist Report:

See attached. Discussion also included the BWSR White Cedar Restoration project.

Program Coordinator Report:

See attached.

OLD BUSINESS:

2017/5-5 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt authorizing Aitchison to attend the 2017 Area VIII Envirothon as a volunteer.

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

2017/5-6 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt authorizing the pass through of 2017 Envirothon local business donations totaling \$750 as follows: \$250 to the Area VIII Envirothon and \$100 to each of the five registered Koochiching County teams to assist with associated expenses.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Cost Share Review:

The resource conservationist reported on four potential cost share sites. A severity index study was completed for each and sent to the Joint Powers Board (JPB). Once a response is received from the JPB, each site will be assessed for cost estimates.

MPCA Rapid River Watershed Grant:

2017/5-7 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Aitchison authorizing the district administrator's signature on the 2017 Rapid River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Grant through the MPCA.

Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Dreher, Linder. Voting no: Voigt. Motion carried.

Area VIII Resolutions:

Voigt discussed a possible resolution regarding recycling availability at the MASWCD Annual Convention Event. No action taken at this time.

Upcoming Meetings:

Board Approval:

2017/5-8 Motion by Dreher, seconded by Aitchison authorizing all board and staff to attend the Area VIII meeting in Bemidji on June 2.

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

- 2017/5-9** Motion by Voigt, seconded by Aitchison authorizing all Board Members to attend the Public Open House for Rapid and Lower Rainy River Watersheds, May 18th 4:30 pm-6:30 pm in Baudette at the Lake of the Woods Ambulance Garage.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.
- 2017/5-10** Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis authorizing all Board Members to attend the Public Open House Event for Rainy River-Rainy Lake on May 22nd in Ranier.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.
- 2017/5-11** Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis authorizing the resource conservationist and water resource specialist to attend Fundamentals of Stream Restoration Training from June 19-23 in Fergus Falls
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.

The board discussed the following upcoming meetings and events:

- Science Days on May 22 at Voyageur's National Park
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection on May 24 in International Falls
- Environmental Education Days on May 24-25 in International Falls
- Forest Stewardship Plan Writer Training on May 18 in Grand Rapids
- Northern Landscape Committee Meeting on June 7 in International Falls
- Ecological Classification System Training on June 29 at Beltrami Island State Forest

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Aitchison discussed his attendance at the Little Fork River WRAPS meeting in Littlefork.

The water resource specialist discussed technical staff attendance at the regular board meetings during the 2017 field season. The board verbally requested that technical staff attend monthly Koochiching SWCD board meetings only if their attendance would not result in additional comp time earned for the week.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Monday, June 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the courthouse board meeting room.

Adjourn Meeting:

- 2017/5-12** Motion by Lewis, seconded by Aitchison to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Board Secretary, Ralph Lewis

Date

Approved:

Board Chairman, Richard Dreher

Date



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Phone: (218) 634-2757
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District Conservationist Report Koochiching SWCD board meeting May 1, 2017

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Training for the CAET tool is tomorrow in Erskine. There are 9 applicants for Koochiching County. CAET and AERT evaluations are due by June 9th.

Letters for renewal applications went out. Two of the 8 participants eligible for renewal have applied. Friday is the deadline for our office to receive the renewal applications.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

All 9 eligible EQIP applications for Koochiching County were funded and the contracts have been obligated. Seven of the contracts are for forest management plans. One is for a pollinator habitat management plan and one is for a prescribed grazing system.

One contract was completed this past month leaving 2 active grazing system contracts in addition to the new contracts.

Personnel Updates

**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.

FRS 6.13

| Performance Summary - Field Measures | Fiscal Year Goal | Total Progress | Progress Percent |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 0.10 - Conservation plans written (Ac.) | | 1,783 | |
| 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.) | | 510 | |
| 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.) | | 721 | |
| 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.) | | 203 | |
| 6.90 - Conservation Applied to improve Environmental Quality (Ac.) | | 730 | |

Koochiching SWCD District Administrator Report

April 2017

) **BWSR White Cedar Preservation:**

- Project updates with Forest Resource Specialist; work plan and budget review

) **CPL Projects:**

- Rat Root River: Contractor meeting for wood removal; invoice review and payment

) **District and County:**

- Processed tree orders; landowner assistance with erosion/forest stewardship questions; quarterly update with County Board on 4/25/17 including 2016 annual report and 2017 work plan

) **MPCA Contracts**

- 1st quarter invoicing for Rainy Basin and Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring grants

) **Littlefork NIPF2:**

- 1st quarter 2017 invoicing; landowner contracts/payments; work plan/budget reviews

) **Natural Resource Block Grant:**

- Ongoing work with the Rainy-Namakan Lake Rule Curve Study Board including multiple teleconferences in preparation of the draft report which will be presented at the IJC Semi-Annual in Washington DC May 1-5
- Completed the Priority Concerns Scoping Document (PCSD) and sent out for state agency review
- Met with NRCS District Conservationist to review collaborative projects and discuss PCSD
- Discussions/emails re: Second Creek and next meeting set up for 5/22/17

General Administration:

-) Updated district inventory list for MCIT; completed MCIT 2018 Risk Assessment; Board meeting prep/follow-up items; Board minutes/agenda; staff meetings/training; calendar update/time tracking; Payroll; PERA; FWT/SWT; bank statement reconciliation; QB transactions/updates; Treasurer Report; Accounts Receivable; Accounts Payable, budget updates; bank deposits/online banking; staff meetings; file/record maintenance; general phone/mail/email

Submitted by:

Pam Tomevi, District Administrator

Resource Conservationist Report

April 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.
- Work with Hwy. department on upcoming project possibilities and options for mitigation.
- 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

- Rivers are now fully open and will sample mainly on rain event basis now.
- 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 DNR divisions on riffle installation/new riffle areas. Seeding and mulching on landowners property has been completed and contractor has been paid.

Local Water Management

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

Cost Share

- Site visits to landowners properties. Severity indexes were taken and JPB was informed on conditions at 4 different locations. Engineer request forms were sent out and awaiting a site visit.

Miscellaneous

- Work with county staff and SWCD staff for water plan updates.
- Vacation
- Assist Forest Resource Specialist where needed with tree sales.

Submitted by: Eric Olson

Water Resource Specialist Report

April 2017

AIS

- Inspection program
- Plan inspection program with Koochiching Environmental Services Department
- Work with Always There Staffing
- Decontamination unit delivery date set
- AIS webpage updates
- AIS spring fishing inspectors work with Lake of the Woods
- Outdoor Expo
- Interviews for Inspectors
- Equipment ordered/purchased for inspectors

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

SWAG

- QAPP
- Order/purchase

Local Capacity

- Water plan
- Upcoming Sampling locations in Koochiching County
- Landowner questions/walk-in
- County Mapping
- Water Plan mapping
- PCSD meeting (4/12/17)
- Rat Root Site visit for staff gage

Miscellaneous

- Emails
- Tree Program

Submitted by: Sam Soderman

Koochiching SWCD Forest Resource Specialist's Report

April 2017

Local Capacity-Forestry

- J Researched general forestry and forest health topics.
- J Studied incoming forest stewardship plans for organization, format, and writing techniques.
- J Processed contracts for several upcoming Forest Stewardship Plans.
- J Continued the collection of field data and completed a forest stewardship.
- J Continued introductions and networking with SWCD partners, various agency staff, and landowners.
- J Coordinating future cost-share projects with the DNR PFM Representative.
- J Collaborated district, Koochiching County, SWCD Area 8, and BWSR staff on County Water Plan Strategies.
- J Worked with staff on drafting the Water Plan Priority Concerns Scoping Document.
- J Attended the Water Plan Advisory Committee meeting
- J Prepared for and operated a district booth—including Private Woodland Stewardship information—at the Outdoor Expo.

NIPF 2

- J Discussed and promoted the project as landowners respond to the invitation letters.
- J Added to the NIPF 2 mapping project as it progresses.
- J Sent participating landowners satisfaction surveys and final invoices.
- J Processed Final invoices and survey results.
- J Planned further efforts to increase participation and targeting of priority stewardship areas.

BWSR White Cedar Restoration

- J Conducted cedar stand field assessment with North St. Louis Con. Tech.

MN Buffer Initiative

- J Reviewed BWSR and MN DNR Buffer Law updates as they came available
- J Koochiching accessed as 95% buffer compliant.

Tree Program

- J Processed and inventoried orders as they come in.
- J Addressed questions about 2017 tree orders with interested landowners.
- J Coordinated shipping dates and prepared for delivery and pickup week.

Submitted by: James Aasen

Forest Resource Specialist

Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report

April 2017

Local Capacity:

-) Complete March 1 Northern Landscape Committee (NLC) meeting summary
-) Send updates to NLC as needed

NRBG Grants

-) Climatology data entry and mail forms to U of M, submit to NRCS, mail forms to volunteers
-) Board meeting items
-) Envirothon planning
-) Environmental Education Days planning
-) Poster Contest
-) Assist in writing the Priority Concerns Document and work with WPAC
-) Board retreat prep and attend

Rainy Basin MPCA

-) Continued working with DNR staff and MPCA towards crowd source hydrology station (Watson's Landing) for spring 2017, planning kiosk building with contractor
-) Watershed template website page
-) Worked with LOWWSF towards printed civic engagement materials
-) Drain stencil planning for International Falls and Fort Frances schools
-) Big Fork River and Little Fork River civic engagement public informational meetings on April 10-11 and 24-25
-) Planning for Rapid River and Lower Rainy River Watershed public open house on May 18 in Baudette
-) Planning for Rainy River-Rainy Lake public open house on May 22
-) 1st Quarter Invoicing

2016 WPLMN

-) 1st Quarter 2017 Invoicing

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; vacation.

Submitted by:

Jolén Simon

Program Coordinator