

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL REORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 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
	Sam Soderman	District Technician Assistant
	Jolén Simon	Program Coordinator
	Kevin Adee	County Commissioner

Re-elected supervisors Ralph Lewis and Al Linder and newly elected Richard Dreher took the Oath of Office, witnessed by Eldon Voigt.

Elected by show of hands:

Chair: George Aitchison
Vice-Chair: Eldon Voigt
Secretary: Al Linder
Treasurer: Ralph Lewis
Member: Richard Dreher

Chair Aitchison called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**2015/1-1 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve the agenda.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

2015/1-2 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Linder to approve the following reorganizational meeting business as follows:

J Budget Committee:	Ralph Lewis/Eldon Voigt plus Administrator
J Personnel Committee:	Ralph Lewis/George Aitchison plus Administrator
J Education/Public Relations Committee:	Al Linder/Richard Dreher plus Administrator
J North Central MN JPB:	Al Linder (Eldon Voigt – Alternate)
J Laurentian RC&D:	Al Linder (Eldon Voigt – Alternate)
J MN SWCD Forestry Association:	Eldon Voigt (Ralph Lewis – Alternate)
J Big Fork River Board:	Richard Dreher/ George Aitchison
J Little Fork/Rat Root River Board:	Al Linder/George Aitchison
J Int'l Watershed Advisory Committee:	Eldon Voigt/Ralph Lewis
J Wood Ash Committee:	Richard Dreher/Al Linder
J Others (As deemed necessary and approved by the Board)	

- J keep monthly meeting date and time as the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. for November-April meetings and 7:00 p.m. for May-October meetings;
 - J keep supervisor compensation rates as \$75 for in county meetings and out of county meetings;
 - J adopt the 2015 mileage reimbursement rate set by the IRS;
 - J set hourly service delivery rate as determined by BWSR guidance;
 - J designate Bremer Bank and Border State Bank as official depositories of the Koochiching SWCD (see MN Statute 118A.002);
 - J keep The Journal as the official newspaper;
 - J grant district check signing authority to Pam Tomevi, Jolén Simon, Ralph Lewis, and Eldon Voigt.
 - J approve the current Cooperative Working Agreement with the USDA-NRCS;
 - J approve the current MOU with the U.S. Forest Service, BWSR, and the District;
- Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.

2015/1-3 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Linder to approve minutes dated December 1, 2014 with corrections.
 Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.

2015/1-4 Motion by Linder, seconded by Lewis to approve the Treasurer's reports ending October 31 and November 30, 2014 as presented.
 Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.

2015/1-5 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Aitchison to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$7,918.47 (details on file).
 Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.

Supervisor Reports:

Linder reported on his attendance at the MASWCD State Convention between December 7-9, 2014.

District Administrator Report:

Discussion included: North St. Louis interviews for ½ time administrator; attendance at the MASWCD State Convention December 7-9 and earning the District Employee of the Year Award, vacation time used; assisted with the hazardous waste mitigation plan for Koochiching County; AIS plan committee and invoicing.

District Technician Report:

See attached.

District Technician Assistant Report:

See attached.

Program Coordinator Report:

See attached.

OLD BUSINESS:

2015 Board/Staff Retreat:

Discussion included the Staff/Board Retreat tentatively being scheduled for late February, date to be determined at the February board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

PERA Exclusion Report:

2015/1-6 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder to approve the 2014 PERA Exclusion Report.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.

2015 Boise Wood Ash Service Proposal:

2015/1-7 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder approving the 2015 proposal as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings:

2015/1-8 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve the following meeting attendance:
) All Supervisors to attend the Little Fork River Watershed Community Conversation meetings in both Littlefork on January 14th, and Cook on January 15th;
) Voigt to Legislative days in St. Paul on January 26-27;
) District technician assistant to attend the 2015 Aquatic Invaders Summit in St. Cloud January 20-21.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.

General Business:

Discussion included 2014 MCIT Annual Report and general publications.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Monday, February 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the courthouse board meeting room.

Adjourn Meeting:

2015/1-9 Motion by Linder, seconded by Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Board Secretary

Date

Approved:

Board Chairman

Date



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Baudette, MN 56623-0217

Phone: (218) 634-2757
FAX: (218) 634-1726

**District Conservationist Report
Koochiching SWCD board meeting
January 5th, 2015**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

41 payments have been completed in FY2015 – a total of \$258,967.

All contract renewals are completed. Nineteen contracts were renewed. There are currently 51 active contracts in Koochiching County including the renewals.

A 2015 signup is still anticipated in the next couple months.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

There are currently 10 active EQIP contracts.

We have 11 new EQIP applications for Koochiching County – 2 forest management plans, 2 seasonal high tunnels, 5 tree plantings and 2 grazing systems.

5 payments have been made so far in FY 2015 totaling \$13,523. Three of these payments were for prescribed grazing and 2 for PlantSkydd application.

EQIP training is scheduled for January 15th and 16th in Walker.

Walter Albarran is the current Acting State Conservationist for Minnesota NRCS.

Performance Summary - Field Measures
Minnesota - None Selected - Koochiching – January 2015

Performance Summary - Field Measures	Fiscal Year Goal	Total Progress	Progress Percent
0.10 - Conservation plans written (Ac.)		1,926	
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.)		846	
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.)		322	
6.90 - Conservation Applied to improve Environmental Quality (Ac.)		897	

District Technician Report

December 2014

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.
- Collaborating meetings with various agencies for yearlong projects and upcoming year.

Wood Ash

- Writing permits and 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.

Water Quality

- Finalizing FLUX data for PCA and reviewing process.
- Working with PCA on reporting deadlines and year end data collection.

Cost Share

- Working with JPB on project for Land and Forests for Point of Pines and restoring the area damaged as a result of the flood. Preliminary plans received.

LWM

- Assisting in review for county AIS plans for 2015.

Rat Root River Project

- Review hours and invoices committed to project. Making plans with contractor for start dates and project permits.

Miscellaneous

- Attended Northern Landscape Committee meeting.
- Working with district tech assistant and district administrator on ordering and tree selection.
- Sick, vacation, and holiday time used.

Submitted by: Eric Olson

District Technician Assistant Report

December 2014

Water Quality

- Continued sampling on major sites. Going well.
- EQIS, Photo update
- Flux data

LWM

- Climatology data entry.
- NSL SWAG grant research/write-up/submission
- eLINK setup and familiarization
- Snowmobile trail bridge visit

Boise Wood Ash

- Sent out end user forms and data entry

MPCA NSL

- Civic engagement contact list
- RRHW, St. Louis River Watershed impairments info
- Contact/email with Project Managers for watersheds
- Citizen stream monitoring volunteer lookup/research
- Civic Engagement map generation
- Event research

PRAP NSL

- Tree Order for NSL and DNR

Miscellaneous

- Special tree order
- Emails, office work, meeting prep, walk-ins
- Northern landscape committee meeting prep
- Plat book sales
- Hazardous mitigation plan research
- AIS plan
- Program task list updating

Submitted by: Sam Soderman

Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report

December 2014

Local Water Management

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

MPCA Civic Engagement

- Phone conferences with MPCA Project Manager, Emmons & Olivier Resources (EOR)
- Invoice update and fix
- Research SSTS forms and county needs
- Write article for ESD: Protect sewage treatment systems from frost
- Prep for upcoming CE Meetings: Littlefork on Jan. 14, Cook on Jan. 15
- Meet with LOWSF via phone for future project planning

MPCA WPLMN

- Report updating
- Assist with FLUX
- Begin invoicing

Boise Wood Ash

- End User Forms sent, and up to date
- Customer assistance
- Update summary, hauling reports and spreading reports
- Update quarterly reports
- Quarterly meeting
- Make calls to landowners for spreading
- Contractor meeting with DH

District Programs

Customer walk-in general assistance, staff meetings, update daily diary, plat book customer assistance and mailings, begin 4th quarter, grant tracking, board meeting prep, minutes, board meeting, assist with Northern Landscape Committee meeting

Submitted by:

Jolén Simon

Program Coordinator