

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016**

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

Chair Voigt called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

- 2016/7-1 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Linder to approve the agenda.
Voting yes: Lewis, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2016/7-2 Motion by Lewis, seconded Dreher to approve the minutes dated June 6, 2016 as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2016/7-3 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Dreher to approve the Treasurer's Reports ending March 31, and April 30, 2016 which were amended to clarify change in fund expenditure.
Voting yes: Lewis, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2016/7-4 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Dreher to approve the Treasurer's Reports ending May 31, 2016 as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2016/7-5 Motion by Dreher, seconded by Linder to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$23,033.97(details on file).
Voting yes: Lewis, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Reports:

Linder reported on his attendance at the Joint Powers Board meeting. Discussion included Jane Eckholm to create new review committee. The fall Meeting will be held September 22-23 in Baudette. Discussion for next Area meeting: SWCDs may drop NRCS computers.

NRCS Report:

See attached.

Discussion also included preparation for buffer meeting and Grand Mound work.

District Administrator Report:

Discussion included Rule Curve presentation at the Heart of the Continent held at Voyageurs National Park; Littlefork Headwaters project (Phase 2): Koochiching SWCD will contract with professional foresters as was

done in Phase 1; Koochiching SWCD and Koochiching County will have a PRAP audit done and Dale Krystosek will join us for our August SWCD board meeting.

Resource Conservationist Report:

See attached.

Water Resource Specialist Report:

See attached.

Program Coordinator Report:

See attached.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussed Koochiching SWCD signs on office building which will be redone by the sign maker.

NEW BUSINESS:

2017 Plat Book Update:

A quote was received from Farm & Home Publishers LTD (FHP). District Administrator will review this option for printing to determine if it would be advantageous over producing it within our own office.

Cost Share:

The Board reviewed updates on the Grand Mound restoration project which has been put on hold in order to obtain more quotes and the Rat Root River streambank protection project.

Upcoming Meetings:

**2016/7-6 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis authorizing any SWCD board member to attend the Rainy-Namakan Lakes Rule Curve Public meetings.
Voting yes: Lewis, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

Discussion also included that Voigt and the District Administrator will attend the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board Meetings August 8-11, 2016.

General Business:

Discussion included the 2017 county budget request – District Administrator will put together updates and send to the budget committee; a thank you card from the International Falls Mayor’s office was passed around.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Monday, August 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the courthouse board meeting room.

Adjourn Meeting:

**2016/7-7 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Dreher to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.
Voting yes: Lewis, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

Submitted by:

Board Secretary, Al Linder

Date

Approved:

Board Chairman, Eldon Voigt

Date



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Baudette, MN 56623-0217

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**District Conservationist Report
Koochiching SWCD board meeting
July 11th, 2016**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

We are working on CSP interviews for the 10 renewal applications.

There are currently 8 applications for new CSP contracts in 2017.

Three contracts were selected for 10% spot checks this year.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

There are 7 EQIP applications pending for 2017. The application deadline for 2017 applications is August 19th, 2016.

If anyone wants to apply for cost-share for the governor's buffer initiative, the application is due by August 19th.

The Baudette Field office appraisal is being conducted this week.

The Soil Conservation Technician vacancy has not been filled.

Performance Summary - Field Measures Minnesota - Koochiching – July 2016

Performance Summary - Field Measures	Fiscal Year Goal	Total Progress	Progress Percent
0.10 - Conservation plans written (Ac.)		961	
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.)		1463	
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.)		527	
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.)		157	
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.)		1143	
6.90 - Conservation Applied to improve Environmental Quality (Ac.)		1669	

Resource Conservationist Report

June 2016

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 wetland violation status and getting information on permits and actual project implementation.
- Attended TEP meeting with county environmental services and ACOE for project discussion.

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.

Water Quality

- Ongoing sampling for 6 sites on a rain event basis.
- Calls to project manager and other agencies to check status on other river conditions and entering data.
- Ran projected data on 1 minor watershed sites with the FLUX program.
- Worked on final progress report with Jolen and LOW SWCD for the 2014 WPLMN grant.

Cost Share

- Talking with Joint Powers Board Engineers and BWSR staff, discussing different plans for potential projects for both flood damage repair and cost share funds.

MN Ag. Water Quality

- Wrapped up the end of the grant with some unspent funds due to lack of interest in the program and not a need to spend the additional time/funds.

CPL

- Coordinating timeframes to visit the sites where all the CPL funds we've received to verify project completeness with resources specialists from MN DNR.

Miscellaneous

- Look and discuss preliminary buffer map questions.
- Assist Sam in AIS work on stream monitoring.

Submitted by: Eric Olson

Water Resource Specialist Report

June 2016

Rainy Basin WRAPS

- Sampling sites, planning/review
- DO monitoring plan
- DO Sampling equipment pickup
- MPCA Partner Monitoring Meeting
- Rainy River talk/plan w/ MPCA
- Popple River Sonde deployment
- Popple River Site check
- Rainy River sampling w/ Jesse A

MPCA NSL CE

- Biological Stressor identification work/ mapping
- CE sampling in Vermilion watershed planning
- Talk with NSL Resource Conservationist for 2016 summer
- Stressor ID review
- RRHW Vermilion St Louis River watersheds review
- CE Meeting planning for June in St. Louis River Watershed
- CE meeting in St. Louis Watershed (6/27/16, 6/28/16, 6/30/16)

AIS

- Emails
- Research education materials
- Advertising, billboard options
- Zebra mussel veliger testing plan/monitoring plan
- Zebra mussel sampling equipment site check
- Training for Koochiching County officer set-up
- Talk w/ Allover media for gas station advertising

SWAG

- Sampling prep
- Site review
- Calibration
- Lake Sampling
- Stream Sampling

Miscellaneous

- Emails, office work, meeting prep, walk-ins

Submitted by: Sam Soderman

Koochiching SWCD Forest Resource Specialist's Report

June 2016

Local Capacity-Forestry

- J Worked with office staff on general training and procedures.
- J Attended the Area VIII meeting in Bemidji.
- J Worked on employee orientation materials.
- J Wrote a press release for the International Falls Journal.
- J Completed forest stewardship reviews, quizzes, and application material.
- J Studied existing forest stewardship plans for organization, format, and writing techniques.
- J Attended the Heart of the Continent quarterly meeting at Voyageurs National Park.
- J Continued introductions and networking with SWCD partners, various agency staff, and landowners.

NIPF 2

- J Updated and expanded landowner outreach program based on the goals of the project.
- J Created and mapped the NIPF 2 focus area based on updated landowner parcel data.
- J Created a landowner program invitation letter.
- J Organized the printing of the landowner invitation letter/questionnaire and prepared for mailing.

Northern Landscape Committee

- J Coordinated with MLEP on the Logger/forester cross training.
- J Worked on the NLC grant's final report.

Submitted by: James Aasen
Forest Resource Specialist

Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report

June 2016

Local Water Management

-) Climatology data entry and mail forms to U of M
-) Board meeting items
-) Planning for and attending Area VIII meeting on June 3rd
-) Plan for Local Work Group Meeting: June 6

Local Capacity

-) Assist with Area VIII meeting planning
-) Assist Forest Resource Specialist with orientation

MPCA Rainy Basin WRAPS

-) Big Fork River Watershed Core Team Meeting
-) Big Fork River WRAPS phone/in-person meetings with MPCA, RESPEC, and Itasca SWCD
-) Reviewed and edited Big Fork River WRAPS
-) Reviewed technical documents regarding Big Fork River Watershed
-) Worked with MPCA, LOWWSF and LOW SWCD on basin-wide civic engagement planning
-) 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
-) Invoicing

WPLMN

-) Invoice preparation
-) Change order planning and completion

Northern Landscape Committee

-) Preparation and coordination with MFRC for quarterly meeting June 1
-) Meet with contractor and MFRC Northern Landscape Coordinator
-) Type meeting summary
-) Final reporting
-) Invoicing

District Programs

-) Assist with Admin Session planning

General Administration

Customer walk-in general assistance; grant tracking; board meeting prep; minutes and agenda; board meeting; staff report; email cleanup; reporting; website development and maintenance; preparation for and attendance at District Administrative Training; Area VIII meeting plan and attend; invoicing.

Submitted by:

Jolén Simon

Program Coordinator