

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE COUNTY BOARD ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018**

Members Present:	Ralph Lewis	District I
	George Aitchison	District II
	Eldon Voigt	District III
	Richard Dreher	District IV
	Al Linder	District V
Others Present:	Jolen Simon	Program Coordinator
	Eric Olson	Resource Conservationist
	Sam Soderman	Water Resource Specialist
	James Aasen	Forest Resource Specialist
	Kevin Adee	Koochiching County Commissioner

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

- 2018/5-1 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve the agenda with changes.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2018/5-2 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt to approve the minutes dated April 2, 2018 with corrections.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2018/5-3 Motion by Dreher, seconded by Voigt to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$83.39 (details on file) and to allow payment of ordinary and necessary bills between May 8, 2018 and June 4, 2018, not to exceed budget.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Reports

Dreher reported on his attendance at the Big Fork River Board meeting on April 30th.

Aitchison also reported on his attendance at the Big Fork River Board meeting, including the MPCA's discussion regarding Cycle 2 of the WRAPS process and a possible shoreline stabilization project on the Big Fork River approximately four miles from the confluence of the Rainy River.

Voigt reported on his attendance at the Cooperative Weed Management meeting held in April and on his attendance at meetings regarding upcoming construction on Highway 11 and Highway 53. He also reported on his attendance at the Red Lake Watershed WRAPS meeting where there was a presentation on the Monitoring and Assessment Report.

Resource Conservationist Report

See attached.

Water Resources Specialist Report

See attached.

Forest Resource Specialist Report

See attached. Aasen informed the Board that Larry Voltz from the Bemidji NRCS field office will now be serving as the acting District Conservationist for Lake of the Woods and Koochiching Counties.

Program Coordinator

See attached.

NEW BUSINESS

2017 Financial Audit Bid

**2018/5-4 Motion by Aitchison, seconded by Voigt to approve the audit bid submitted by Michael Peterson, CPA of Peterson Company Limited as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

Envirothon Donations Distribution

**2018/5-5 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Dreher authorizing the following distribution of 2018 Area VIII Envirothon donations: \$300 to Clearwater SWCD for 2018 Envirothon expenses, \$900 to Northome School for team expenses, and \$225 held in reserve for future expenses.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

MASWCD Award Nominations

Discussion included the qualifications for the Outstanding Conservationist and Outstanding Forest Steward Awards and possible candidates who may qualify.

Upcoming Meetings:

Discussed and reviewed the following event attendance:

- o Staff to assist at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection on May 23rd.
- o Voigt, Forest Resource Specialist, and Program Coordinator to attend the Northern Landscape Committee on May 30th.

**2018/5-6 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis authorizing the following meeting attendance:
o Board/staff to attend the Area VIII Resolution Meeting on Friday, June 1st in Bemidji.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

General Business:

Aasen reported that the Land Commissioner asked if the SWCD would be interested in a pull behind tree planter that is no longer in use, pending County Board approval to donate it to the SWCD. The Board agreed to accept it as a donated item pending County Board approval.

The Board reviewed a resolution submitted by Aiken SWCD requesting continuous funding for forestry programs for SWCDs.

Supervisor Elections:

Districts I, IV, and V (Lewis, Dreher, Linder) are up for election this year. Filing dates are May 22-June 5.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular board meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Monday, June 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the courthouse board meeting room.

Adjourn Meeting:

**2018/5-7 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Aitchison to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

Submitted by:

Board Secretary, George Aitchison

Date

Approved:

Board Chairman, Al Linder

Date

Resource Conservationist Report

April 2018

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.
- Continued work on WCA tasks and updating Koochiching ESD on in progress projects.

Wood Ash

- Assisting landowners with process/working with DH contracting.
- Currently switching over to receiving more long permits due to the amount of consistency and catch up the program has made.
- Working with DH contracting on permits and areas to dump/spread with current conditions.

CPL – RRR

- Permitting, working with DNR on project planning/details, project installation and clean up, general logistics and tasks for project.

Water Quality

- Sampling 9 total sites now on a regular 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.
- FLUX 32 pollutant load program work.
- Switching over to amended contracts for additional sampling and grant changes with MPCA.

Miscellaneous

- Work/plan projects with RLPOA and VNP for invasive cattail removal and effectiveness.

Submitted by: Eric Olson

Water Resource Specialist Report

April 2018

AIS

- Inspection program
- 2018 Inspection program planning
- Work with county to get documents and inspection plan ready

Rainy Basin

- Contract amendments/changes
- Sampling site check
- Rat Root Sampling start
- Flow measurements with MPCA
- Sampling planning with MPCA staff
- Willow and Valley sampling
- Rainy River Rainy Lake Core Team meetings

SWAG

- Pre-sampling prep
- Budget review
- Pre-sampling call w/ MPCA and LOW SWCD
- Met with Itasca SWCD, St. Louis SWCD, and MPCA for pre-sampling season meeting
- QAPP and EQUIS site establishment forms

Local Capacity

- Water plan
- Landowner questions/walk-in
- Littlefork SWAG contract work
- County Mapping
- Watershed Forum

WPLMN

- Sampling
- WebEx trainings

Miscellaneous

- Emails

Submitted by: Sam Soderman

Koochiching SWCD Forest Resource Specialist's Report

May 2018

Local Capacity-Forestry

- J Researched general forestry and forest health topics.
- J Processed contracts for several upcoming Forest Stewardship Plans and began field work.
- J Completed a forest stewardship plans and began another.
- J Completed NRCS Technical Service Provider Application and Ag Learn Training and sample training plan and submitted to the state TSP coordinator.
- J Completed two tree plantings, 1 in Ray and 1 in Silverdale.
- J Attended the Northern Landscape Committee Meeting.
- J Initiated a conversation with the city of International Falls about cooperation on a community EAB grant.
- J Worked with County Lands and Forests on transfer of tree planter to SWCD.
- J Began assisting Environmental Services with Island View Sewer Project tree planting.
- J Presented to the kids at the Environmental Education Days at the Golf Course.

Cooperative Weed Management Area

- J Helped organize and participate in the Koochiching CWMA Public Meeting in Littlefork.
- J Collected management templates, previous partner agreements, invited new agencies and partners to participate, and continued establishment process with the MN DNR Northeast Planner.

NIPF 2

- J Discussed and promoted the project as landowners respond to the invitation letters.
- J Processed final invoices and survey results.
- J Expanded Forest Plan Tracking for grants and collected data.

MN Buffer Initiative

- J Reviewed BWSR and MN DNR Buffer Law updates and guidance as they became available
- J Coordinating with the County Buffer Committee in establishing local jurisdiction and processes.
- J Addressed responses to the buffer letter and discussed landowner options.
- J Continued thorough review and updating of buffer mapping affected parcels.

District Tree Program

- J Conducted 2018 Tree Sale and Pickup days.
- J Ordered additional trees and tree planting accessories as requests occurred.
- J Tracked tree orders as they came in.

Submitted by: James Aasen

Forest Resource Specialist

Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report

May 2018

Local Capacity:

-) Environmental Education Days event, organization and deliver
-) Attend Northern Landscape Committee meeting 5/30/18, minutes summary review

Rainy Basin MPCA

-) Attended civic engagement training in St. Cloud 5/23-5/24
-) Drain stencil planning meetings with partners for I. Falls and deliver in I. Falls May 21st
-) Fort Frances Drain Stencil project postponed until June 14th

Rainy Basin International & Watershed Coordinator

-) Participated in partner meetings with MPCA and LOWWSF for interview planning, created stakeholder list, interview questions, etc.

PCA Wood Ash

-) End User Forms sent, and up to date
-) Updated permits, and spreading
-) Update summary, hauling reports and spreading reports, permit coversheets
-) Quarterly Meeting: June 8 – 10:00 a.m.

NRBG Grants

-) Climatology data entry and mail forms to U of M, submit to NRCS
-) eLINK data entry reporting
-) Envirothon coordination and prep; attend and deliver on May 2nd
-) Environmental Education Days assistance May 22nd

General Administration

Customer walk-in general assistance; board meeting prep; minutes and agenda; minutes book updating; reporting; website maintenance; credit card tracking; assist with tree program and tree customers; holiday-Memorial Day

Submitted by:

Jolén Simon

Program Coordinator