

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE COUNTY BOARD ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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
	Wayne Skoe	Koochiching County Commissioner

Chair Linder called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

- 2018/9-1 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Dreher to approve the agenda with changes.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2018/9-2 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve the minutes dated August 6, 2018 as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2018/9-3 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Dreher to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$176.58 (details on file) and allowing payment ordinary and necessary bills between September 11, 2018 and September 30, 2018, not to exceed budget.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2018/9-4 Motion by Voigt seconded by Dreher to ratify paid bills, check numbers 10522 to 10553 including electronic transfers, in the total amount of \$56,479.43 (details on file).
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Reports

Dreher and Aitchison reported on their attendance at the Big Fork River Board and discussed a road project on County Road 1.

Voigt reminded everyone that the Northern Landscape Legislative Tour is on September 27th.

Resource Conservationist Report

See attached.

Water Resources Specialist Report

See attached.

Forest Resource Specialist Report

See attached.

Program Coordinator

See attached.

NEW BUSINESS

FY2019 Local Capacity and Buffer Law Implementation Grant

2018/9-5 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Dreher authorizing the district administrator as the authorized representative and signer for the FY2019 Local Capacity and FY2019 Buffer Law Grants.

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

Plat Book Advertiser Rates

2018/9-6 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Linder approving advertiser rates for the 2018 Koochiching County Plat Map Book as presented.

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

Upcoming Meetings:

Informational:

- Northern MN Life and Landscape Legislative Field Day – September 27 in Int'l Falls

General Business:

- Skoe reported on the site visit with Jim Palm regarding old dam pilings.
- Aitchison reported seeing our meetings in the Borderland Briefs
- Staff presented the September Snapshots (BWSR) in which the Forest Resource Specialist's photo was featured
- Skoe discussed the Bartlett Lake sandy beach project, explaining that more sand will be put out and they are looking into aquatic weed control.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular board meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Monday, October 1, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the courthouse board meeting room.

Adjourn Meeting:

2018/9-7 Motion by Dreher, seconded by Aitchison to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 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

August 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.
- Marking wetland boundaries with BWSR for upcoming projects and assisting landowners.

Wood Ash

- Assisting landowners with process/working with DH contracting.
- Currently switching over to receiving and permitting 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 – Rat Root River

- Working with DNR fisheries office, stream habitat specialists, MPCA, and RLSFC on how/where the best place to spend remaining dollars would be before the grant closes.

Cost Share

- Awaiting final plan decisions for hospital river bank shoreline restoration.
- Met with NRCS and JPB with giddings probe and to take soil borings and check soil conditions for a potential project on the Big Fork River. Awaiting soil profile from NRCS before JPB can continue their work in a potential design.

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.

Miscellaneous

- Work/plan projects with RLPOA and VNP for invasive cattail removal and effectiveness which may lead to a grant proposal once more research is completed.
- Vacation

Submitted by: Eric Olson

Water Resource Specialist Report

August 2018

AIS

- Inspection program check in
- AIS detectors training
- Prep decon unit for inspection program
- Talk/plan inspection program with Always There Staffing
- Billing

Rainy Basin

- Sampling site check
- Rat Root Sampling
- Flow measurements with MPCA
- Sampling planning with MPCA staff
- Document review and story map work
- Billing
- Final Reporting

SWAG

- Pre-sampling prep
- Budget review
- Pre-sampling call w/ MPCA and LOW SWCD
- QAPP and EQUIS site establishment forms
- Little Fork Sampling
- Rat Root Sampling prep
- Billing
- Check-in calls for LF and RR SWAG Contract
- Budget planning for SWAG Contracts

Local Capacity

- Landowner questions/walk-in
- Littlefork SWAG contract work
- County Mapping
- Rat Root sampling/field work prep

WPLMN

- Sampling
- WebEx trainings

Miscellaneous

- Emails

Submitted by: Sam Soderman

Koochiching SWCD Forest Resource Specialist's Report

September 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 Attended SWCD Forestry Association meeting in McGregor.
- J Attended the Northern Landscape Committee meeting.
- J Conducted a Pine Bud Capping Project.

2019 Tree Sale

- J Developed a Survey to judge interest in new species for 2019 and help staff send to past participants.

NIPF 2

- J Discussed and promoted the project as landowners respond to the invitation letters.
- J Processed final invoices and survey results.
- J Mapped further eligible participants.
- J Created Contracts and Coordinated Plan Writing for project participants.
- J Continued planning and organization of legislative tour.
- J Attended and Presented at the 2019 Wood Fiber Council Tour.

MN Buffer Initiative

- J Reviewed BWSR and MN DNR Buffer Law updates and guidance as they became available.
- J Discussed Compliance Status with BWSR buffer staff, submitted updates.
- J Conducted buffer compliance checks on landowners who signed waiver/agreements last year.
- J Addressed responses to the buffer letter and discussed landowner options.
- J Continued thorough review and updating of buffer mapping affected parcels.

Submitted by: James Aasen

Forest Resource Specialist

Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report

August 2018

Rainy Basin International & Watershed Coordinator

-) Met with U of M to review docs
-) Prep for mock interview

PCA Wood Ash

-) Updated permits, and spreading
-) Update summary, hauling reports and spreading reports, permit coversheets

Local Capacity

-) Participated in Peer 2 Peer civic engagement planning
-) eLINK entry
-) Educational program for the Stewardship Youth Rangers in Fort Frances
-) Preparation for the Northern Landscape Committee Meeting (9/5/18)

NRBG Grants

-) Climatology data entry and mail forms to U of M, submit to NRCS
-) eLINK data entry reporting

General Administration

Customer walk-in general assistance; board meeting prep; minutes and agenda; minutes book updating; website maintenance; credit card tracking; local capacity audit prep assist; staff report; eLINK data entry; MCIT Risk Management meeting; security training

Submitted by:

Jolén Simon

Program Coordinator