

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT IN COUNTY BOARDROOM: Supervisors Lewis, Aitchison, Dreher, Linder.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: Voigt

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT IN COUNTY BOARDROOM: Pam Tomevi

OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: Jolen Simon, Sam Soderman, James Aasen, Jody Peek (NRCS)

Chair Dreher called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

- 2022/7-1 Motion by Linder, seconded by Lewis to approve the agenda as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2022/7-2 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Linder to approve the minutes dated June 6,
2022 as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2022/7-3 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt to ratify paid bills in April (corrected), check
numbers 11289 to 11298 including electronic transfers, in the total amount of
\$36,648.96 and in May, check numbers 11299 to 11307 including electronic
transfers, in the total amount of \$50,735.33. (details on file).
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2022/7-4 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Aitchison to approve the Treasurer's report ending
April 30, 2022 as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2022/7-5 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Linder to approve the Treasurer's report ending
May 31, 2022 as presented.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**
- 2022/7-6 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt to approve accounts payable in the amount of
\$421.32 (details on file) and authorize payment of ordinary and necessary bills
between July 12, 2022 and August 1, 2022, not to exceed budget.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

Guest Introductions

None.

REPORTS

Supervisor Reports:

Voigt reported that the next MN SWCD Forestry Association Meeting will take place in Marcel, where a project will be discussed that mimics climate change scenarios by increasing the ambient temperature of bog forests using domes. Voigt also reported on his attendance at the SWCD Area VIII meeting at which members voted on bylaw changes.

NRCS District Conservationist Report:

- Peek reported on staffing changes, stating that while the agency is short by one person in Bagley, they have hired two people for the Bemidji office.
- The Baudette office has approximately 11 CSP applications moving to contracts.
- 2022 Emergency Relief Disaster Program: this program covers the Red River Valley and crosses into Koochiching County. Funding up to \$5,000 may cover structural damage and must be used this fall. Signup extends through July 15, 2022.
- Discussion included assistance to Bois Forte

District Administrator Report:

See attached.

Water Resources Specialist Report:

See attached.

Forest Resource Specialist Report:

See attached.

Program Coordinator:

Discussion included native plant sale and wood ash programs.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Resource Conservationist position vacancy

The District Administrator reported that the job announcement has been posted and will close on July 15th.

NEW BUSINESS

2022 MASWCD Community Conservationist, Outstanding Conservationist, and Outstanding Forest Steward Awards

The District Administrator discussed with the Board that nominations will be due soon and nominations should be brought to the August board meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

The District Administrator reported that she had received an invitation to attend the Change of Command ceremony for the outgoing and incoming Colonels for the Army Corps of Engineers-St Paul District. She commented that ordinarily this would not be an event she would ask to attend, however, due to the historic flood event this year and the upcoming International Rainy-Lake of the Woods

Watershed Board / Water Levels Committee public meetings, this would be the only opportunity to meet the new Colonel and discuss the flooding issues/presentation prior to the August public meetings.

2022/7-7 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Aitchison authorizing the District Administrator to attend the Change of Command Ceremony for USACE in St. Paul on July 28, 2022. Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.

Permits

None.

General Business

None.

Public Comment:

None.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular board meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on **Monday, August 1, 2022, at 7:00 pm in the Koochiching County Courthouse Boardroom** with teleconference option available for guest attendance.

Adjournment:

2022/7-8 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Linder to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.

Approved:

Chair, Richard Dreher

Date

Koochiching SWCD Forest Resource Specialist's Report

June 2022

Local Capacity-Forestry

- Researched general forestry and forest health topics.
- Many landowner discussions involving native plant programs, FSP's, CAP's, SFIA, 2C tax designation, tree planting etc...
- Conducted forest stewardship field work and wrote 2 forest plans.
- Conducted a tree inventory for Forest Hill cemetery.
- Developed several outreach posts and articles.
- Assisted City of Ranier with EAB project coordination and Tree Board establishment.
- Continued TSA 8-DNR Forest Health Training for SWCD Foresters
- Participated in the RR-RL/LR LSP Final Review and Comment Meeting

Island View Sewer Project Tree Distribution and Planting

- Distributed and planted trees for landowners affected by the sewer project tree removal.

SWCD Tree and Native Plant Sale

- Conducted the 2022 Spring Native Plant Sale customer pickup

LLL-LSP

- Developed a forest plan template for use in the RR-RL Watershed.

Cooperative Weed Management

- Continued developing and coordinating a community buckthorn removal project for Ranier.
- Began developing plans for a Northome buckthorn workshop for Fall 2022.

Submitted by: James Aasen

Forest Resource Specialist

Koochiching SWCD District Administrator Report

June 2022

- **BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Area**
 - Execute new grant agreement; updates with staff on new work plan
- **BWSR Conservation Delivery**
 - Attended Spring administrative session; Board meeting/follow-up
- **BWSR Local Capacity**
 - Staff oversight/assistance; Water Levels Committee meetings and document review; High water/flooding updates, landowner communications, and site visits with IJC, WLC, LEC, USACE; National Weather Service weekly flood briefings; staff vacancy job announcement and postings
- **County/District**
 - 2021 financial audit prep; staff meetings/workload updates; Website updates; PEIP health insurance request for quote; troubleshoot email account for Resource Conservationist with IS Department/CWHelpdesk
- **DNR/CPL**
 - One Watershed, One Plan (LSP review for RR/RL-LR watersheds)
- **MPCA Contracts**
 - Expense tracking; partner/RMB Lab communications
- **Natural Resource Block Grant**
 - eLINK updates; 1W1P planning; landowner assistance with Big Fork River water elevation data; CN Railroad assistance with permitting questions (DNR Waters); Stormwater Management meeting with City of International Falls

General Administration

- Board meeting prep/follow-up items; Board minutes/agenda; 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; file/record maintenance; general phone/mail/email

Submitted by:

Pam Tomevi, District Administrator

Water Resource Specialist Report

June 2022

AIS

- 2022 NSL contract review/budget
- Watercraft inspection program planning for 2022
- Level 1 and Level 2 training
- Inspection program management
- NSL and VNP collaboration
- AIS call-in
- Equipment prep, equipment handout
- Inspector check
- Work w/ Always there staffing for scheduling and inspection season plan

LF WRAPS/BF WRAPS

- Geomorph work w/ DNR MPCA
- Sediment fingerprinting field work, passive sampler install
- Pump sampling
- Sample storage and delivery to USGS
- Field work prep
- Rapid River and Lower Rainy mapping, project development
- Site review for sediment fingerprinting field work, USGS meetings and collab
- Lower Rainy stormwater meeting
- Stormwater planning
- Spring survey work and BF watershed planning
- Watershed document review
- LCCMR Grant finalized
- BF Watershed field work plan
- Culvert training set up

LWM

- Rapid River WRAPS conversations
- GIS User Group Meeting
- Drone flights on the Rainy River
- LCCMR grant write-up
- Grant budgets

WPLMN

- Sampling
- WPLMN call-in
- Hydrograph analysis

Miscellaneous

- Emails
- Staff meeting