

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Supervisors Voigt, Lewis, Aitchison, Dreher, Linder.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: None.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Jolen Simon; Jody Peek (NRCS)

OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: Pam Tomevi, Whitney Sims, James Aasen, Wayne Skoe (Koochiching County Commissioner); Kevin Adee (Koochiching County Commissioner)

Chair Dreher called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2022/9-1 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Linder to approve the agenda with additions (upcoming meetings).

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

2022/9-2 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve the minutes dated August 1, 2022 as presented.

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

2022/9-3 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to ratify paid bills, check numbers 11317 to 11324 including electronic transfers, in the total amount of \$31,180.67. (details on file).

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

2022/9-4 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve the Treasurer's report ending July 31, 2022 as presented.

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

2022/9-5 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to authorize payment of ordinary and necessary bills between September 13, 2022 and October 3, 2022, not to exceed budget.

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

Guest Introductions

None.

REPORTS

Supervisor Reports:

Voigt reported on his attendance at the Area VIII meeting. The tour included a rotational grazing site and buckthorn grazing practice using goats. The business meeting included discussion about the 2022 MASWCD Annual Convention. The MN Forestry Association meeting will be on Thursday this week in Two Harbors. He also reported on his attendance at the public water levels meeting regarding flooding.

NRCS District Conservationist Report:

Jody Peek reported on the Inflation Reduction Act which may increase the NRCS budget by roughly 40%, resulting in an increase in workload and the need for additional staff. Additional CSP funds are now available due to recent cancellations. Peek also reported on her attendance at a meeting between tribal members and NRCS staff to discuss NRCS practices that may be useful. In the coming days, there will be a tour of various practices in the Lake of the Woods area.

Discussion also included visits from the Baudette office to the Koochiching SWCD office.

District Administrator Report:

See attached.

Resource Conservationist Report:

See attached.

Water Resources Specialist Report:

See attached.

Forest Resource Specialist Report:

See attached.

Program Coordinator:

See attached.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

The District Administrator reviewed the remaining plat book inventory and expenses/revenue to date.

Upcoming Meetings

**2022/9-6 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to authorize the Forest Resource Specialist to attend the MFRC/DNR/BWSR Private Lands Forestry Panel Discussion on September 19th in Cloquet including one night of lodging; to authorize Supervisors to attend the Buckthorn and EAB workshop in Ranier on September 21st; and to authorize Supervisors to attend the Little Fork River Sediment Fingerprinting Public Meeting in Littlefork at the Community Building on September 28th.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

Permits

None.

General Business

None.

Public Comment:

Skoe asked Voigt about tree plantings along shorelines.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular board meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on **Monday, October 3, 2022, at 7:00 pm in the Koochiching County Courthouse Boardroom** with teleconference option available for guest attendance.

Adjournment:

**2022/9-7 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

Approved:

_____ **Chair, Richard Dreher**

_____ **Date**

Koochiching SWCD District Administrator Report

August 2022

- **AIS**
- **BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Area**
- **BWSR Conservation Delivery**
 - Board meeting prep/attendance/follow-up; erosion control assistance/TSA8 communications; new office space planning; New staff hire/orientation and training
- **BWSR Local Capacity**
 - Staff oversight/assistance; landowner communications; New staff hire/orientation and training
- **County/District**
 - 2021 financial audit; staff meetings/workload updates; Website updates
- **DNR/CPL**
 - Expense tracking and invoicing
- **MPCA Contracts**
 - Expense tracking and invoicing; partner communications
- **Natural Resource Block Grant**
 - eLINK updates; Water Levels Committee meetings and document review; high water/flooding updates/data and public meetings/presentations; CN Railroad discussions with RLPOA/City of Ranier re: potential water flow restrictions; New staff hire/orientation and training
- **Other**
 - Leave to care for dad

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

Koochiching SWCD Resource Conservationist Report

August 2022

WCA

- Identified areas of possible wetlands violations with ESD and DNR
- Work with various landowners on wetland regulations
- Work with ESD on wetland for planning and zoning meeting
- Online training and help from ESD
- Visit with Chad Severt

Wood Ash

- Assisting landowners with the wood ash process and working with DH contracting
- Working with DH contracting on permits
- Permitting
- Follow up on old ash piles that have not been spread
- Follow-up with NDSU on missing soil reports
- Soil sample landowners field

CPL Grants

- Project is expected to begin in 2023 as permits, plans, and contracts are in place. Funds are good until 6/30/2025

Other Business

- Well index work with ESD and county staff

Upcoming Work/Training

- WCA training in Cass County
- Matt Johnson visit

Submitted by: Whitney Sims

Water Resource Specialist Report

August 2022

AIS

- 2022 NSL contract review/budget
- Program management with flood issues and scheduling landings
- Inspection program management
- NSL and VNP collaboration
- AIS call-in
- Equipment prep
- Inspector check
- Work w/ Always there staffing for scheduling and inspection season plan
- Decon deployment for DNR staff use

LF WRAPS/BF WRAPS

- Geomorph work w/ DNR MPCA
- Sediment fingerprinting field work, passive sampler check
- 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

LWM/Local Capacity

- Rapid River WRAPS conversations
- GIS User Group Meeting
- LCCMR grant planning, field work plan, feasibility
- Grant budgets
- Landowner field visit for erosion issue

WPLMN

- Sampling
- WPLMN call-in
- Hydrograph analysis

Miscellaneous

- Emails
- Staff meeting

Submitted by: Sam Soderman

Koochiching SWCD Forest Resource Specialist's Report

August 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...
- Worked on coordinating several large 20+ acre tree plantings and cost-share with landowners.
- Conducted forest stewardship fieldwork.
- Worked on writing and mapping for several FSP's.
- Organized and attended a forest health field training as part of TSA 8 training team.
- Held the 2022 outstanding conservationist interview and helped draft the state application.
- Attended the MFRC Landscape subcommittee meeting online on behalf of the NLC.
- Met with new MFRC landscape coordinator to discuss the northern landscape committee needs.
- Began planning the next NLC meeting and securing speakers.
- Participated in a field day with local forestry partners discussing forestry practices and BMP's.
- Assisted Forest Hill Cemetery Board in designing and tree placement at the cemetery grounds.

Cooperative Weed Management

- Continued developing and coordinating a community buckthorn removal project for Ranier.
- Conducted outreach and secured landowner contracts for buckthorn removal.
- Worked with the County, MCC, and Ranier city staff to ensure all steps of the project are accounted for.
- Began working on buckthorn/EAB presentation for public workshop on September 21st.

Tree and Native Plant Sales

- Ordered trees and began coordination of 2023 sales.
- Began working with landowners on custom orders and special request species.

Buffer Law

- Conducted buffer field monitoring and desktop review.

Submitted by: James Aasen

Forest Resource Specialist

Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report

August 2022

Local Capacity:

- Plan for BWSR Academy Session, work with BWSR staff
- Landowner outreach for community project
- Prepare education materials for Koochiching County Fair

MPCA Little Fork WRAPS Cycle 2

- Planning for upcoming meetings regarding sediment fingerprinting work
- Meetings to take place on September 28, October 4, and October 6. Locations TBD.

MPCA Big Fork WRAPS Cycle 2

- Prepare for and attend Koochiching County Fair
- Drive to Northome to retrieve items, review docs
- 1 Big Fork Team meeting

CWMA

- Outreach to Ranier landowners for Buckthorn project, coordination for project.

Conservation Delivery:

- Outstanding Conservationist of the Year Award coordination and submittal
- Walk-in and phone customer assistance
- Social media posts and website updates

PCA Wood Ash

- Permit coversheets
- Customer assistance
- Met with hauling contractor
- Coordinate and meet with PCA staff, send documents for review and begin to edit.
- Met with new PCA staff for program overview
- Met with landowners on site for spreading in Northome and Mizpah area, will follow-up with PCA on this soon.
- Report updates, update all outreach materials with new staff information

NRBG Grants

- Social media updates
- Customer service for walk-ins
- Enter climatology, print forms for volunteers, communications with NRCS on volunteer hours
- Meet with BWSR Board Conservationist
- Assisted with Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- eLINK reporting

General Administration

Board meeting prep; minutes; website maintenance; credit card tracking; eLINK reporting; computer safety training; vacation.

Submitted by:

Jolén Simon

Program Coordinator