

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2022 at 6:00 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

**OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:** Pam Tomevi, Whitney Sims, James Aasen, Sam Soderman, Will Lee (NRCS)

Chair Dreher called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**2022/12-1      Motion by Lewis, seconded by Linder to approve the agenda as presented.  
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

**2022/12-2      Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt to approve the minutes dated November 7,  
2022 as presented.  
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

**2022/12-3      Motion by Lewis, seconded by Aitchison to ratify paid bills, check numbers 11350 to  
11358 including electronic transfers, in the total amount of \$34,482.23. (details on  
file).  
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

**2022/12-4      Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt to approve the Treasurer's report ending  
October 31, 2022 as presented.  
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Linder. Motion carried.**

**2022/12-5      Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt to approve accounts payable in the amount of  
\$1,025 (details on file), and authorize payment of ordinary and necessary bills  
between December 6, 2022 and January 9, 2023, 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 MN SWCD Forestry meeting where tree nurseries were discussed as well as the practice of replanting fields into forest.

**NRCS District Conservationist Report:**

**CSP:** CSP renewal applications that were preapproved have all been obligated into contracts we had 8 for the Baudette field office

- 5 in Lake of the Woods (1 Agland, 4 Forestland)
- 3 in Koochiching (all Forestland)

Most annual CSP payments have been completed for FY 22' except some ones that have compliance issues, deceased participants, those that requested payment in calendar year 2023 etc  
CSP classic signup deadline is February 10<sup>th</sup> for new applications, old applications will be deferred into this current signup.

**EQIP:**

Started working on Assessments and ranking for EQIP applications. Deadline for assessment and ranking is February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Baudette has 19 applications for this EQIP signup #1 FY 2023:

- 12 Koochiching applications (large variety of practices both Agland and forestry related)
- 8 LOW application (Large variety of practices both Agland and forestry related)

EQIP payments are being made for practices completed in 2022

RCPP deadline was December 16<sup>th</sup>, we did not receive any applications for that signup.

No New CRP updates, Continuous CRP signup is ongoing for interested parties

Upcoming workload:

- Assessment and Ranking for EQIP applications
- Finishing up 2022 payments for CSP & EQIP if needed
- Prioritization of CSP Classic workload for FY2023

**District Administrator Report:**

The District Administrator provided a verbal activities report including the following:

- Met with MPCA staff to reinvigorate the work plan for the 319 Federal grant. Funds have been allocated pending EPA approval of the final plan.
- A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow between CN Railroad and government agencies regarding proposed bridge work in the Rainy River Watershed.
- Work plans are being drafted for upcoming BWSR grants for 2023.

**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**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

DNR PFM Meeting December 7<sup>th</sup>, eligible for plan writer credits and requires one night of lodging.

**2022/12-6 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis authorizing the Forest Resource Specialist to attend the DNR PFM Meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> including one night of lodging.**

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

TSA8 Board Meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> in Bemidji

**2022/12-7 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt authorizing the District Administrator to attend online and one Supervisor to attend the TSA8 Board Meeting in person on December 8<sup>th</sup> in Bemidji.**

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

### **Permits**

None.

### **General Business**

The staff and board wished outgoing Supervisor Linder well and recognized him for his many years of service.

A letter from Packaging Corporation of America was reviewed regarding the International Falls Hydroelectric Project Notice of Intent, Pre-Application Document, and Request to use the Traditional Licensing Process.

### **Public Comment:**

None.

### **Confirm Next Meeting Date:**

The next regular board meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on **Monday, January 9, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the Koochiching County Courthouse Boardroom** with teleconference option available for guest attendance.

### **Adjournment:**

**2022/12-8 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m.**

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

**Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chair, Richard Dreher**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

# **Koochiching SWCD Resource Conservationist Report**

## **November 2022**

### **WCA**

- Working with landowners on WCA rules and regulations

### **Wood Ash**

- Assisting new landowners with the wood ash process
- Mailed out soil sample packets
- Working with DH contracting on permits
- Permitting new fields
- Called landowners to verify if ash has been spread
- Planned partner meeting with PCA – Date to be set in Early January
- Ash production is on average 3 loads per day
- Eric came in to approve wood ash permits
- Updated spreading spreadsheets
- Assisted PCA with questions

### **CPL Grants**

- Cattail removal project is underway and expected to begin in 2023 as permits, plans, and contracts are in place. Currently working with Pam and partners on RFP for contract services. Funds are good until 6/30/2025 and partners have confirmed their prior commitments.

### **Other Business**

- Worked with landowner questions about a gravel pit on their property

### **Water Quality**

- Winter sampling

### **Upcoming Work/Training**

- Signed up for sonde training – water quality instrument training in March 2023

### **Miscellaneous**

- Emails
- Staff meeting

Submitted by: Whitney Sims

## **Water Resource Specialist Report**

**Nov 2022**

### **AIS**

- Inspection program management
- NSL and VNP collaboration
- AIS call-in
- Equipment prep
- End of year data compile
- End of year reporting

### **LF WRAPS/BF WRAPS**

- Geomorph data review
- Sediment fingerprinting end of year wrap-up
- Sample storage and delivery to USGS
- Site review for sediment fingerprinting field work, USGS meetings and collab
- Spring survey work and BF watershed planning
- Spring survey field day
- Watershed document review
- BF Watershed field work plan
- Passive sample review

### **LWM/Local Capacity**

- Rapid River WRAPS conversations
- GIS User Group Meeting
- LCCMR grant planning, field work plan, feasibility
- LCCMR Recon mission
- Grant budgets

### **WPLMN**

- Sampling
- WPLMN call-in
- Hydrograph analysis

### **Miscellaneous**

- Emails
- Staff meeting

Submitted by: Sam Soderman

# Koochiching SWCD Forest Resource Specialist's Report

*November 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...
- Continued coordinating several large 20+ acre tree plantings and cost-share with landowners.
- Worked on writing and mapping for a forest stewardship plan.
- Attended the North Central Landscape Committee meeting online.
- Continued coordination on Northern Landscape Committee Plan update and meetings with MFRC staff.
- Conducted seedling bud capping for a landowner.
- Began workshopping an idea for an area tree seed collection training, discussed with partners.
- Provided grant reporting assistance to the city of Ranier.

## **Cooperative Weed Management**

- Continued project wrap up and began end of grant coordination and reporting.
- Discussed appropriate herbicide selection for buckthorn, wild parsnip, and spotted knapweed with several landowners

## **Tree and Native Plant Sales**

- Continued to order trees and coordination of 2023 sales.
- Continued working with landowners on custom orders and special request species.

## **Buffer Law**

- Conducted buffer desktop review.

Submitted by: James Aasen

*Forest Resource Specialist*

# **Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report**

## **November 2022**

### **Local Capacity:**

- Envirothon meeting – Area 3 idea sharing meeting
- Enter climatology, print forms for volunteers, communications with NRCS on volunteer hours
- eLINK data entry
- RSDP Planning and attend meeting in Cloquet to begin planning priorities for 2023 for Natural Resources Committee and plan for next meeting

### **MPCA BF WRAPS Cycle 2**

- Monthly call-in meeting

### **BWSR Conservation Delivery:**

- Walk-in and phone customer assistance
- Social media posts and website updates
- eLINK data entry

### **BWSR Buffer Tech**

- eLINK data entry

### **PCA Wood Ash**

- Permit coversheets
- Customer assistance
- Met with hauling contractor
- End user forms
- Met with new PCA staff
- Updated hauling and spreading reports
- Quarterly meeting moved to January-Date TBD

### **NRBG Grants**

- Social media updates
- Customer service for walk-ins
- eLINK data entry

### **General Administration**

Board meeting prep; minutes; website maintenance; credit card tracking; eLINK reporting; personal appointments (sick); holiday.

Submitted by:

Jolén Simon

Program Coordinator