

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Supervisors Voigt, Aitchison, Dreher, Reller.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: None.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lewis.

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Jolen Simon, Pam Tomevi; Destry Hell, Matt Gouin

OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: James Aasen, Sam Soderman, Jody Peek,

Vice-Chair Aitchison called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**2023/4-1 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Dreher to approve the agenda as presented.
Voting yes: Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Reller. Motion carried.**

**2023/4-2 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Reller to approve the minutes dated January 9,
2023 as presented.
Voting yes: Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Reller. Motion carried.**

**2023/4-3 Motion by Dreher, seconded by Reller to ratify paid bills, check numbers 11384 to
11391 including electronic transfers, in the total amount of \$38,663.24. (details on
file).
Voting yes: Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Reller. Motion carried.**

**2023/4-4 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Dreher to approve the Treasurer's report ending
February 28, 2023 as presented.
Voting yes: Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Reller. Motion carried.**

**2023/4-5 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Dreher to approve accounts payable in the amount of
\$4,333 (details on file), and authorize payment of ordinary and necessary bills
between April 4, 2023 and May 1, 2023, not to exceed budget.
Voting yes: Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Reller. Motion carried.**

Guest Introductions

None.

REPORTS

None.

NRCS District Conservationist Report:

Jody Peek provided a verbal update on NRCS activities over the past month.

Topics included the Local Working Group Meeting: June 5, 6:00 p.m.

**2023/4-6 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Reller to set the Local Working Group meeting for
Monday, June 5th, 6:00 p.m. in the Koochiching Courthouse Boardroom.**

Voting yes: Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Reller. Motion carried.

District Administrator Report:

See attached.

Discussion also included an increase in the interest to monitor precipitation through the National Weather Service.

2023/4-7 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Aitchison authorizing Tomevi to purchase rain gauges as needed, total cost not to exceed \$300, for anyone in the county who would like to participate in climatology data gathering for the National Weather Service's Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) but are unable to purchase the specific rain gauge.

Voting yes: Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Reller. Motion carried.

Water Resources Specialist Report:

See attached.

Forest Resource Specialist Report:

See attached.

Discussion also included forest stewardship plan pricing.

Program Coordinator:

See attached.

OLD BUSINESS

Rainy River -Rainy Lake 1W1P

2023/4-8 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Reller to approve the revised Memorandum of Agreement noting the name change from Rainy River-Rainy Lake/Lower Rainy River to Rainy River-Rainy Lake and the date change for by-law establishment under 6a(iii) from 3/31/2023 to 4/7/2023; authorizing the original signature page from 3-6-2023 signed by the Board Chair to be submitted with the final approved MOA; and amend motion 2023/3-5 to read:

"Motion by Voigt, seconded by Aitchison authorizing the District to serve as the fiscal agent and grant administrator for the Rainy River-Rainy Lake 1W1P and approve the Memorandum of Agreement; motion reaffirms appointing Eldon Voigt as the main member, George Aitchison as the alternate, and Pam Tomevi as the Steering Committee Member."

Staff Vacancy

2023/4-9 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Reller authorizing the District Administrator and Personnel Committee to conduct interviews and fill the vacant Resource Conservationist position.

NEW BUSINESS

Koochiching County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

2023/4-10 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Dreher to appoint Supervisor Reller as the Koochiching SWCD representative on the Koochiching County Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Voting yes: Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Reller. Motion carried.

Envirothon

2023/4-11 Motion by Dreher, seconded by Reller approving the distribution of the remaining \$800 in 2022 Envirothon donations and total 2023 Envirothon donations to support 2023 participating teams and to help offset Area VIII 2023 Envirothon program costs.

Voting yes: Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Reller. Motion carried.

Soil Health Cost Share

2023/4-12 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Reller designating the Forest Resource Specialist as the technical assistance provider on 2023 Soil Health Cost Share Grant projects related to forestry and native perennial cover establishment practices as outlined in the 2023 approved work plan and authorizing the District Administrator to approve Soil Health Cost Share contracts with Board ratification at the following monthly board meetings.

Voting yes: Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Reller. Motion carried.

2023 MASWCD Awards

Aasen suggested the District posthumously honor Wayne Skoe as the Outstanding Conservationist of the year; Voigt suggested Rainy Lake Property Owners Association as the Community Conservationist for cattail removal project.

2023/4-6 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Dreher to nominate Wayne Skoe as the 2023 MASWCD Outstanding Conservationist and the Rainy Lake Property Owners Association as the 2023 Community Conservationists.

Voting yes: Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Reller. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings

2023/4-8 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Reller authorizing the District Administrator, as a member of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board and Water Levels Committee, to attend and present at the International Joint Commission (IJC) Semi-Annual Appearance in Washington D.C. from 4/24 – 4/28 with travel expenses paid by the IJC.

Voting yes: Aitchison, Voigt, Dreher, Reller. Motion carried.

Permits

None.

General Business

Tomevi, presented a card from the previous Resource Conservationist and the Annual Activity Report

Public Comment:

None.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular board meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on **Monday, May 1, 2023, at 7:00 pm in the Koochiching County Courthouse Boardroom** with teleconference option available for guest attendance.

Adjournment:

2023/4-9 Motion by Dreher, seconded by Reller to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

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

Approved:

Vice-Chair George Aitchison

Date

Water Resource Specialist Report

March 2023

AIS

- Inspection program management
- NSL and VNP collaboration
- AIS call-in
- Equipment prep
- 2023 meeting set up, inspection program overview, goals
- AIS online workshops
- Updating AIS county plan w/ Matt and Whitney

LF WRAPS/BF WRAPS

- Geomorph data review
- Sediment fingerprinting proceedings paper review
- Spring survey work and BF watershed planning
- Watershed document review
- BF Watershed field work plan
- Passive sample review
- LF cycle 2 wraps meeting and planning

LWM/Local Capacity

- Rapid River WRAPS conversations
- GIS User Group Meeting
- LCCMR grant planning, field work plan, feasibility
- LCCMR document finalization
- LCCMR meetings
- 319 grant document review, project planning, conference calls w/ MPCA
- Grant budgets
- Spring fishing meeting

WPLMN

- Sampling
- WPLMN call-in
- Ice out prep and equipment review
- Hydrograph analysis

Miscellaneous

- Emails
- Staff meeting

Submitted by: Sam Soderman

Koochiching SWCD Forest Resource Specialist's Report

March 2023

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...
- Assisted landowners with SFIA transfer and program details.
- Began working with several other landowners on forest planning.
- Developed a draft city tree management plan for Ranier based on tree board input.
- Continued to organize a public tree cone collection training for April 1st at RRCC.
- Attended the SWCD Forestry Association meeting online.
- Collected black spruce and jack pine tops and slash for cone collection events.
- Organized and helped lead tree cone collection events for homeschool, Littlefork, and Indus students.
- Attended the MFRC meeting online.
- Attended the landscape committee chairs meeting online.
- Worked with MFRC staff and NLC vice chair to compile a forestry stakeholder list for invitation to NLC planning.
- Continued assisting several landowners with spring tree planting plans.
- Drafted program updates for the 2023 yearly report.

Cooperative Weed Management Area

- Began organizing a spring partner meeting.
- Updated member representative contact list.
- Held buckthorn conversations with landowners and discussed Northome workshop.

SWCD Tree and Native Plant Sale

- Processed incoming tree and native plant orders and discussed species selection and planting advice with landowners.

Submitted by: James Aasen

Forest Resource Specialist

Koochiching SWCD Program Coordinator Report

March 2023

Local Capacity:

- eLINK data entry
- Coordinate with the Women's Woodland Network, Littlefork School, Indus School and homeschool group for cone collection events
 - Held 3 school events for cone collecting: March 22nd, 23rd, 30 at Littlefork DNR.
 - Prepared for April 1st Event (30 participants!)
- RSDP planning for showcase event NE region hosting
- Newsletter finalization, print and send
- Northern Landscape Committee-3-1-2023
- Attend MN Women's Woodland Network Education Committee Meeting to discuss future workshop

MPCA BF WRAPS Cycle 2

- Monthly call-in

MPCA LF WRAPS Cycle 2

- Reviewed documents from PM

BWSR Conservation Delivery:

- Walk-in and phone customer assistance
- Annual activity report content writing
- Attend MN Women's Woodland Network Education Committee Meeting to discuss future workshop

PCA Wood Ash

- Customer assistance

NRBG Grants

- Website compliance-annual activity report
- Assist with CCM workplan review
- Customer service for walk-ins
- 319 workplan
- eLINK data entry
- Envirothon donation thank you
- 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting
- Rainy-Lake of the Woods Forum
- eLINK training – new eLINK reporting system

General Administration

Board meeting prep; minutes; website maintenance; credit card tracking; eLINK training reporting; board meeting followup; laptop maintenance; tree order customer assistance; plat book customer assistance; staff report; personal appointments (sick).

Submitted by:

Jolén Simon

Program Coordinator