

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 7, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON:** Supervisors Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Reller.

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:** None.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON:** Pam Tomevi, James Aasen, Austin Wallin (SWCD); Jody Peek (NRCS); Lloyd Skogstad, Georgia Growette, Al Meadows, Myrna Meadows

**OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:** None.

Chair Voigt called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

**2025/7-1      Motion by Lewis, seconded by Aitchison to approve consent agenda items as presented: 7/7/2025 Agenda, 6/2/2025 Minutes, Ratification of paid bills May 2025 totaling \$79,389.29, Treasurer Report ending 5/31/2025, and to allow payment of ordinary and necessary bills not to exceed budget.  
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Reller. Motion carried.**

**Guest Introductions:**

Georgia Growette, Myrna Meadows, Al Meadows, and Lloyd Skogstad expressed concerns about the results of the Hybrid Cattail Removal and Water Flow Enhancement, particularly regarding debris around their docks.

**2025/7-2      Motion by Voigt and Second by Lewis to move New Business and Public Comment items up on the agenda.  
Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Reller. Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Letter received from Property Owners of East and West County Road 134.

Voigt acknowledged receipt of the letter dated 6-10-2025 and confirmed distribution to staff and supervisors. Tomevi commented that the letter was also forwarded to local and area DNR staff, MN Pollution Control Agency staff, and the County Attorney. Voigt commented that an official Board response to the property owners regarding concerns outlined in their letter would be provided after consultation with the County Attorney. Voigt commented that he contacted County Highway to inquire about the removal of residual material from the bypass road that may be hindering water flow through the culvert and was informed it would be done either in the fall of 2025 or spring/summer of 2026. Voigt also commented that he reached out to the Koochiching County Sheriff's Office about property owner concerns related to low water hazards and was informed that requests to mark shallow waters that may be a hazard should be forwarded to the Sheriff.

**Supervisor Reports**

Lewis reported on his attendance at the Area 8 Meeting; discussion included budget tracking, AIS funding cuts, state required wages for contractors, and SFIA not eligible for Ag. land designation.

Voigt reported on his attendance at the Area 8 Meeting and on the amount of time he has spent on gathering information on the cattail removal project. Voigt asked the board to approve one per diem for this work.

**2025/7-3      Motion by Reller, seconded by Atchison to approve one per diem for Voigt for cattail project work.**

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

Atchison reported on his attendance at the Big Fork and Little Fork 1W1P policy committee meetings.

**Public Comment:**

Skogstad expressed that he was frustrated that the agencies involved couldn't collaborate to fix the property owner's concerns.

**Committee Reports**

**2025/7-4      Motion by Voigt, second by Lewis to accept the Budget Committee's recommendation regarding the 2026 County Allocation Request as presented.**

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

**NRCS District Conservationist Report**

Peek reported on operations updates. Federal IRA funding has been canceled. Out of 4,000 practice/project applications, 400 may be able to be funded. Screening and priority setting are being developed. Staffing losses will make processing difficult. Atchison inquired about Baudette office staffing and Peek explained that limits on travel have affected the ability to staff that office.

**Forest Resource Report**

Discussion included May and June conservation project slide show and conservation project descriptions

**Resource Conservationist Report**

Discussion included North Jackfish aerial images and June slide show and conservation project descriptions.

**District Administrator Report**

Discussion included program and project descriptions, ongoing financial audit, and 1W1P administration.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on Vacant District IV Supervisor Position**

Tomevi reported that no submissions have been received to date but outreach will continue. Atchison asked the board what actions could be taken to encourage interest. Tomevi will provide information at the next board meeting regarding supervisor district boundaries.

**Update on Vacant Water Resource Specialist Position**

Tomevi reported that the updated job description for the Water Resource Specialist was sent to the Personnel Committee for review and approval. Tomevi informed the Board that she has reached out to Koochiching County to inquire about options for providing SWCD staff with county health insurance benefits and is waiting for additional information.

**Cost Share Vouchers**

**2025/7-5**      **Motion by Lewis, seconded by Reller approving amended amounts and payments of**

- **SHCS25-1 – authorized amount amended to \$800 with payment amount of \$761.98 on the basis of 75% of total project cost as outlined in the original contract;**
- **SHCS25-2 – authorized amount amended to \$700 with payment amount of \$665.18 on the basis of 75% of total project cost as outlined in the original contract.**

**Details on file.**  
**Voting yes: Lewis, Aitchison, Voigt, Reller. Motion carried.**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**2025/7-6**      **Motion by Lewis, seconded by Reller authorizing all Supervisors and staff to attend the following meetings:**

- 1. Little Fork River Public Kickoff Meeting – Tuesday, July 22 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the Cook Community Center or Thursday, July 24 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the Littlefork Community Building.**
- 2. Big Fork River Public Kickoff Meeting –Wednesday, July 23 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the Pizza Parlor, Bigfork, MN**

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

**Permits:**

None.

**General Business:**

None

**Confirm Next Meeting Date:**

The next regular board meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on **Monday, August 4, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. at the Cobblestone Hotel & Suites.**

**Adjourn Meeting:**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.**

**Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chair, Eldon Voigt**

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