



# Kanabec Soil & Water Conservation District

2008 Mahogany Street, Suite 3  
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## OUTCOME DOCUMENTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**SUPERVISORS:** Mike Johnson, Betty Wilkins, Gene Carda

**STAFF:** Deanna Pomije, Jacque Olson, Kyle Weimann

**OTHERS:** Shannon Rasinski (NRCS), Dennis McNally (Kanabec County Commissioner),

1. **Call to Order.** Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.
2. **Consent Agenda** (no discussion unless Supervisor requests)
  - 2.1. Financial
    - 2.1.1 Treasurer's Report for August
    - 2.1.2 August Disbursements
    - 2.1.3 August Receipts
  - 2.2 Outcome Reports
    - 2.2.1 August 17, 2016 Rescheduled Board Meeting Minutes
  - 2.3 Staff Reports
    - 2.3.1 Administrative Assistant
    - 2.3.2 Technician
    - 2.3.3 District Manager
  - 2.4 Upcoming Staff Meetings/Outreach/Training

Pomije reported that the Ann Lake loading study (EPA 319 grant) was held Sunday 9/11. Wenck came early to pull the sediment cores. They explained the purpose of the study to test treatments to bind with or eliminate phosphorus and how it would affect wild rice (ppm of sulfate). Any funded treatment for the lake (BWSR) would require no wake for aluminum sulfate for 6 months and assurance that inflow of P is not problematic. A follow-up meeting will be conducted next spring to present results. Discussion of role of boat motors in causing turbulence. **M/S/Approved Carda/Wilkins to approve the consent agenda.**

3. **Approve Disbursements: M/S/Approved Wilkins/Carda to approve the August disbursements.**

### 4. Old Business

- 4.1. Interseeder – Olson researched options for interseeders/no-till drills/food plotters that can be pulled by an ATV/UTV for smaller projects. One option that functions as a full no-till interseeder (Casco Plotters Choice: 4' width, 950 lbs) costs approximately \$11,000, including the native plant hopper and broadcast seeding capability. Alternatively, a Plotmaster would cost less but would work up the ground much more (not ideal for shorelines). Additionally, Olson consulted with Pheasants Forever and DNR, who emphasized that any equipment would need to be targeted and marketed appropriately to avoid rental just for foodplots. After discussion, consensus to not pursue such a purchase at this time.

Due to not acquiring District equipment, Pomije said it was worth reconsidering a donation to Mille Lacs SWCD to ensure ongoing access to their new interseeder; Pokegama Lake

Association might be willing to donate toward the access agreement. Per Wilkins request, consideration was tabled to next month pending additional information from Mille Lacs.

## 5. New Business

- 5.1. Buffer Implementation – Pomije explained the current status of buffer implementation and upcoming deadlines. The County will need to decide by March 31, 2017 if they will assume enforcement responsibility. Staff have met with the County to begin the discussion. If voluntary compliance fails, landowners would have to be assessed an Administrative Penalty Order. Pomije does not believe that there will be much enforcement required in Kanabec County. The District will be responsible for assessing alternative practices and maintaining a parcel inventory of buffers and checking compliance. Wilkins expressed some concern about local enforcement in cases of conflict of interest. Johnson said it was important that adjacent counties have similar requirements. The SWCD must designate ‘Other Watercourses’ not currently on the DNR map by July 1, 2017.
- 5.2. Easement Resolution – Five Districts in the St. Croix watershed have been seeking BWSR support for RIM in the northern ecoregion. In response, BWSR asked for additional details which have been provided. This resolution is to indicate each District supports the effort.  
**M/S/Approved Wilkins/Carda to approve Resolution in support of a St. Croix Basin RIM Healthy Watershed Protection Program.**
- 5.3. NRCS Report – Rasinski reported on CSP and EQIP activities. Based on the recent Knife Lake Dam hazardous rating change to ‘High’, the Knife Lake Improvement District can now request assistance for a watershed rehabilitation plan and an emergency plan.
- 5.4. Health Care Coverage – Johnson and Belholm met after the August meeting to discuss health care and what is being offered in neighboring Districts/Counties. They recommended providing \$450 per employee per month to be used toward health care expenses (premiums or HSA) at the discretion of the employees. Capacity funds can cover that expense through the end of 2016. Starting in 2017 the billable rate will be updated to cover the cost. Johnson said that it was an employee retention issue. **M/S/Approved Carda/Wilkins to adopt the Personnel Committee recommendation of \$450 per month per employee.**
  - 5.4.1 Pomije provided an updated Personnel Handbook as a result of the past 2 committee meetings: provision for part-time employment with prorated benefits, clarified comp time, unpaid time off, health benefits. Tabled until next month for final approval.
- 5.5. Budget Update - Pomije and staff went to a work session of the County Board to request increased funding of \$30,000 to access the \$37,500 in matching Capacity funds. The additional funds could be used to address water resource issues that the County has wanted to pursue but has not had funding available. The Board will continue deliberations until a final decision is made in December.
- 5.6. Annual Area III Meeting (9/22-23) - The Area 3 MASWCD meeting will be held 9/22 – 9/23 in Two Harbors. Pomije is planning to attend on Friday for the annual meeting. **M/S/Approved Wilkins/Carda to pay expenses for Supervisor or staff to attend the meeting, including hotel if required.**

## 6. Project Decisions

- 6.1. CWF14 Ann River – New contracts for Tentis and Erickson projects due to required repairs from the rainfall in excess of design capability. The original contracts were cancelled last month and repair costs have been approved: Tentis - \$5,008 (75% - \$3,756) [clay liner to prevent sinkholes

from opening in Township right-of-way]; Erickson - \$4,556 (90% - \$4,100) [seed half this fall w. winter wheat, half in spring]. **M/S/Approved Wilkins/Carda to approve new contracts for Tentis in the amount of \$3,756 and Erickson in the amount of \$4,100.**

- 6.2. CWP15 – The approved contract for waste pit closure for William Olen was \$19,212 but final costs were only \$11,860 (landowner did work). EQIP will cover \$6,815.32 with SWCD covering the remaining \$2,079.68 to reach 75%. **M/S/Approved Wilkins/Carda to approve payment of \$2,079.68 to William Olen for waste pit closure.**
- 6.3. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): Olson reported that the September COLA meeting discussed how to handle remaining 2016 AIS funds. An October meeting should finalize the procedure. 2017 expenditures will require a grant application and 10% match from each association. Olson plans to attend and AIS Summit Oct. 5-6, \$165 registration. The COLA committee will soon have in-hand the approved AIS educational floating keychains, 1,300 for \$975.17. **M/S/Approved Carda/Wilkins to approve Olson training and keychain purchase for County AIS reimbursement.**

## 7. Committee / Meeting Reports

- 7.1. Personnel Committee: Aug. 17. Covered in New Business

## 8. General Discussion / Public Input

Weimann said that a retirement party for Ray Schultz, Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor (1999-2015), will be on September 17<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm at the Page Town Hall.

Wilkins asked about individuals filing as write-in candidates.

Pomije said that state emergency funding might be available for public infrastructure that the SWCD could be involved with (Falcon St, Forest Shores). Pomije recommends possibly covering 50% of the cost of what would not be covered.

McNally asked about the possible culvert inventory Pomije mentioned at the County Work Session. Pomije said having a good map helps in engineering design and erosion prevention. Another use of the county/capacity money could be septic compliance in shoreland areas.

## 9. Set Next Meeting Dates

- 9.1. Finance Committee: TBD, after Sept. 20 (Tuesday or Wednesday first week of October)
- 9.2. Regular Meeting: October 11, 4:00pm

## 10. Adjourn M/S/approved Wilkins/Carda to adjourn. Adjournment at 6:01pm

Approved:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_