SUPERVISORS: Jan Anderson, Kevin Belkholm, Gene Carda, Paul Hoppe, Joyce Sawatzky

STAFF: Deanna Pomije, Jacque Kelzenberg, Kyle Weimann

OTHERS: Shannon Rasinski, NRCS
          Dennis McNally, County Commissioner

1. Call to Order: Chair Hoppe called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.
   Approval of Agenda: M/S/Approved Carda/Anderson to approve the agenda as written.

2  Consent Agenda (no discussion unless Supervisor requests)
   2.1  Financial
        2.1.1  Treasurer’s Report for March
        2.1.2  March Disbursement
        2.1.3  March Receipts
   2.2  Outcome Reports
        2.2.1  March 14, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
        2.2.2  Water Plan Presentation - Priority Concerns Scoping Document
        2.2.3  Soil Health Presentation
        2.2.4  Tree Sale Report
   2.3  Staff Reports
        2.3.1  District Manager
        2.3.2  Technician
        2.3.3  Administrative Assistant
   2.4  Upcoming Staff Meetings/Outreach/Training
   M/S/Approved Sawatzky/Carda to approve the consent agenda.

3  Approve Disbursements: Anderson asked about the disbursement for AgBMP Loan management; Pomije said that the joint agreement contract still needed to be updated. M/S/Approved Anderson/Sawatzky to approve the March disbursements.

4  Old Business
   4.1  Administrative Assistant – Pomije said that the position description was being posted online, local newspapers, and other job posting websites. Applications will be accepted through May 1st. The shared services agreement was approved by the Isanti SWCD board, accepting the shared liability for unemployment. It was also reviewed by the County Attorney. The interview committee may include a Supervisor and Manager from each District.

5  New Business
   5.1  NRCS Report – Rasinski provided a report on NRCS activities. CSP renewal signup will run from April 13 – December 1st for 2013 contracts. 1 application for EQIP (MAWQCP) for a dairy farm in South Fork Township. Modifications needed for forestry practices that didn’t get completed in the winter due to weather conditions. The newsletter brought a few new landowners interested in site visits and
potential projects. No news about NRCS workforce planning; meeting on April 20th.

5.2 **District Credit Card** – Weimann provided Supervisors with six options for a business credit card. Discussion of fraud liability versus debit cards. **M/S/Approved Belkholm/Carda to pursue the US Bank – Edge credit card.** A use policy will be reviewed in May.

5.3 **State Surplus Services and Purchase Co-Operative** – **M/S/Approved Carda/Anderson for State Surplus Services; M/S/Approved Sawatzky/Belkholm for the State Purchase Cooperative.** Belkholm asked about a timetable for a vehicle; Pomije said that with monitoring and the apprentice starting next month, it will be within the next several weeks. Pomije said a used van or SUV is needed to carry three people with equipment.

5.4 **Plat Books** – Pomije asked for Board input for offering commission to the Recorder’s Office for selling plat books since they sell over half without any direct benefit. **M/S/Approved Carda/Belkholm to offer the County Recorder’s office a commission of $5 per book in exchange for their ongoing sales.**

5.5 **Buffer Law** – Pomije said that under the state buffer law, the District has until July 1st to pass a resolution declaring what the ‘Other Waters’ of the County will be. Pomije said that the other waters would not require a buffer unless the county agreed to enforce it. Staff created a proposal using existing information from the DNR, already public information to avoid the perception of bias or cherry-picking. The proposal also included recommending a 30’ buffer, in-line the NRCS filter strip standard. Staff proposed using the DNR map to focus on other water areas and then using the NRCS filter strip standard as guidance needed for site specific questions. Hoppe said that any decision to include or exclude should be based on resource needs. Belkholm asked what the gain would be by listing the other waters. Pomije said that it could provide additional voluntary conservation in intensive agricultural areas. Sawatzky mentioned the importance of protecting high quality water rather than more expensive restoration later on.

5.6 **Annual Membership** – Pomije requested that the Board consider paying membership fees to the St. Croix River Association ($75) and the MN Active Citizenship Initiative ($190). These membership amounts would keep total dues expenses at the 2017 budget level. **M/S/Approved Belkholm/Sawatzky to approve $190 membership to the Minnesota Active Citizenship Initiative. M/S/Approved Carda/Anderson to approve $75 membership to the St. Croix River Association.**

6 **Project Updates**

6.1 **Aaron Habeck Amendment** – Feedlot improvements: Stream crossing, fencing, and a nutrient management plan. The amendment would offer 75% funding coming from both the CWF13 Feedlot grant and the 2016 capacity grant. Pomije said that the landowner is committed to completing the crossings – knowing that, the amended contract states that the crossings wouldn’t be paid until the fencing is complete (benefit from the crossing isn’t fully seen until the cattle are excluded). One of the stream crossings will require two culverts and the other will be an in-stream crossing. **M/S/Approved Carda/Anderson to give Pomije signature authority on an amended contract with Aaron Habeck to extend it and increase the project cost with funding from the CWF and FY16 Local Capacity grants.**

6.2 **David Reiser** – This project upstream of Fish Lake was completed in the Fall of 2016 but the seed did not take. Erosion has occurred over the winter with the rains. A rough estimate is $4,719 with 75%
cost-share from CWF-Ann River (NRCS assisted with the project last fall but likely do not have repair money available). Pomije asked permission to sign off being that the estimate is incomplete and needs to be finalized (possibly closer to $5,000). M/S/Approved Carda/Sawatzky to grant Pomije signature authority on the repair contract for David Reiser.

6.3 Deb Donley - Kelzenberg said that landowners on Ann Lake would like to do a native buffer on 200’ of shoreline. The watershed is impaired for excess nutrients. The estimate is pretty high based on an installed project by the contractor but there is the possibility of using volunteer labor at an educational workshop. It has a high plug installation rate rather than seeding. M/S/Approved Anderson/Belkholm to grant Pomije signature authority on an installation contract for the Deb Donley.

7 General Discussion / Public Input
- Hoppe asked about McVay. Belkholm has met the operation manager. Hoppe said that the District needs to make an attempt in planning conservation practices with this operation.

- MASWCD Resolutions: Weimann mentioned that resolutions are due to the Area meeting by July 21st so the District will have to approve prior to that.

8 Set Next Meeting Dates / Committee Reports
8.1 Regular Meeting: May 9th, 4:00 PM
8.2 Legislative Day: March 21, Hoppe and Belkholm attended. Belkholm reported that they met with Sen. Andrew Matthews. Hoppe also checked in with Rep. Cornish and Rep. Rarick; Rep. Erickson was sick. He was able to speak with Sen. Laurie and Sen. Johnson. Hoppe said final outcomes for SWCD priorities (capacity funding, buffers, etc.) will depend on negotiation between the chambers and governor.

8.3 Snake River Board: March 27th, Hoppe said that Dan Stewart and Mitch Lundeen gave presentations on the importance of protecting forest cover. A future meeting will include a follow-up from the Nature Conservancy about easements.

8.4 Forestry Association: March 16th; Pomije asked for clarification of per diem payment on attendance at the Forestry Association. Discussion tabled until May when Carda is present.

8.5 Personnel Committee (One Supervisor) – Set schedule for Administrative Assistant interviews (May 10, 12, 15) - Anderson

8.6 Conservation Corp Apprentice – Julia Peterson to start May 23rd. Julia worked in Isanti with AIS work.

9 Evaluate the Meeting – What worked? What could be more efficient?
Hoppe said that the consent agenda eliminates about an hour of discussion. The danger is that something is being missed. Hoppe likes hearing about Treasurer’s Report. Anderson said that there is the opportunity to discuss if any Supervisor has questions.


Approved:

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Date: ____________________