OUTCOME DOCUMENTS FROM THE October 10, 2017 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

STAFF: Deanna Pomije, Anne LeRoy

OTHERS: Shannon Rasinski - NRCS

1. Call to Order: Chair Hoppe called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

2. NRCS Report Shannon Rasinski provided the District Conservationist’s Report. She mentioned that the previous Ultima, clerical assistant position may be coming back to the Mora office. Rasinski reviewed with the board the equal rights and non-discrimination policies. They have 3 applications for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and the deadline to apply is Mar. 2.

3. Report on the Ann Lake Study Presentation 10/8 – Jeff Hamme reported on the Ann Lake Study Presentation to the Ann Lake Watershed Alliance. There were about 35 people in attendance. Some of the questions brought up at this presentation were discussed. More outreach/education would be needed prior to treatment options being pursued. Wenck Associates presented four treatment options to deal with the internal high phosphorus (P) load in the lake sediment. The cheapest option, aluminum sulfate has a price tag of $651,000. Hamme explained the impact this treatment would have on phosphorus reduction. It would reduce the internal phosphorus by 75% or nearly 4,100 #/year. He explained the high internal phosphorus loading as compared to the watershed contribution. Based on the Ann Lake TMDL study only 25% of the existing internal P load is allowable for release into the lake. Hamme and Hoppe expressed the great cost effectiveness of an Alum. treatment. Hoppe said it would cost between $3-5 per # of P reduction per year, based on the life expectancy of 30-50 years on the Alum.

4. Consent Agenda (no discussion unless Supervisor requests)

Pomije requested to add approval of the September Board Meeting Minutes.
M/S/Approved - Carda/Sawatzky to approve the agenda with adding a review and approval of the September Board Meeting Minutes.

4.1 Financial – receipts & disbursements
4.2 Outcomes Document
4.3 Staff Reports
4.4 Upcoming Staff Meetings/Outreach/Training

5. Approve Disbursements

M/S/Approved - Sawatzky/Anderson to approve the Disbursements.

Approve Treasurer’s Report – Pomije reviewed the different component parts of the treasurer’s report with the board. M/S/Approved - Belkholm/Carda to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

6. Approve September Board Meeting minutes

M/S/Approved - Anderson/Carda to approve the September Board Meeting minutes.
7. Business

5.1 Operational Agreement: NRCS & Kanabec SWCD
This agreement created locally, lists the equitable sharing of equipment and services between the two agencies. Pomije reviewed the agreement. NRCS is providing 2 computer software seats to the SWCD. In turn the SWCD is contributing a copier maintenance agreement, the coordination of 3 outreach events, office clerical support and 5 toolkit conservation plans with practice check-outs. Pomije said she was wary about contributing too much staff time towards planning as we have limited staff time available. However Rasinski mentioned that the conservation plans will also work towards the SWCD staff acquiring/maintaining ‘Conservation Planning Certification’.
M/S/Approved - Anderson/Sawatzky to approve signing of the operational agreement between NRCS and Kanabec SWCD.

5.2 Potential New Renter – District Land: Colton Marohn, neighbor to the north, conventional grain farmer – place an ad. for a new renter? (16.2 acres)
Pomije mentioned bring the District Land educational ideas to the multi-county Soil Health team to provide more input. She explained that the current renter has confirmed that they are no longer interested in operating the District Land. The land was originally donated to the SWCD to be used for educational purposes. Pomije would like to use the land to demonstrate no-till, and other conservation based practices. The limited field sizes make profitability of crops a challenge. Currently the land is rented for $35 per acre. The average in Kanabec County is $60 per acre. Possible options discussed included the following.

- Trying to find an operator who would be willing to incorporate conservation practices such as no-till and cover crops to the farming operation.
- Belkholm
- Renting in exchange for operating with conservation practices as prescribed by the SWCD, with the operator taking profits from the harvested.
- Exploring options for collaborating with the school districts for agricultural education activities.
- Introducing a new crop such as Kernza, a perennial wheat.

No vote was taken at this time, as options will continue to be investigated.

5.3 Budgeting Options for New Forester
Pomije explained the financial requirements for adding a full-time forester to the SWCD staff (hand-out provided). Uncertainty for long term funding is a concern. Hoppe suggested investigating the sharing of a forester with another SWCD, or contracting services from a private forester. There may be possibilities of contracting for forestry services with Mille Lacs in future. This position will continue to be explored.

5.4 Agenda Item Ideas for our Strategic Planning Session
Pomije questioned the board on what topics they’d like to cover at the upcoming Strategic Planning Session. The hope is that this planning session will evaluate our SWCD activities against our strategic planning priorities and possibly decide on a focus for our conservation work in 2018. At the end of the meeting Pomije provided a draft agenda and a 2017 staff activity summary for review prior to the planning session. The Strategic Planning Session is scheduled for 10/17/17.

5.5 MASWCD Resolutions (20) – Voting - Please review prior to our meeting.
The board discussed and each member voted on all of the MASWCD resolutions. The official votes will be mailed to the MASWCD. A copy of the voting will be retained with the historical board meeting minutes. Carta had to leave early due to twp. work. He will submit his resolution votes at a later date.
5.6 **Weed Wrench**: The Kanabec SWCD loaned one of our wrenches to Mille Lacs SWCD last year, after their buckthorn educational workshop. The Mille Lacs SWCD inquired about the possibility of them purchasing the loaned wrench for their own rental use. In 2010 we purchased five for $139.80 ea.

The board discussed current pricing for comparable tools and verified that we have enough equipment for public rental. Pomije requested approval to sell one of the weed wrenches to Mille Lacs SWCD for $120. *M/S/Approved* - Belkholm/Anderson to approve the sale of a manual weed wrench to Mille Lacs SWCD. They gave Pomije leeway in setting the price of the wrench with Mille Lacs.

5.7 **AIS funding** approval for Pomroy’s Plant Survey for $4,680.69 done by Barr Engineering.

The Coalition of Lakes Assn. (COLA) meeting on 10/12 discussed the 2018 funding. Pomije mentioned that she is recommending a change with the AIS budget. We are looking into cutting back on using the funds for spraying for curly leaf pond weed. Instead use some of the funding to hire a boat inspector. Maybe through hiring an intern for the summer. *M/S/Approved* - Anderson/Belkholm to approve reimbursing Pomroy for the completed plant survey for $4,680.69.

5.8 **Monitoring Completion of 5 RIM Easements** - Sept. No compliance issues were noted. One easement has now been split into three. No motion needed.

6. **Project Updates**

5.1 Six Projects lined up for 2018 spring construction. This may be a busy spring construction season. No motion needed.

7. **General Discussion / Public Input**

Hoppe reported that the AREA III meeting was poorly attended. Organizers are looking for ways to improve attendance and increase participation. Historically the meetings have been attended by most of the areas SWCD supervisors. The Area III Assn. is set up to support and provide collaborative opportunities for supervisors.

8. **Set Next Meeting Dates / Committee Reports**

8.1 COLA – AIS Next Meeting 10/12, 5pm in Courthouse (Pomije)

8.2 Forestry Association Report - Hoppe reported that the Emerald Ash Borer is a growing concern. The best-case scenario is to naturally eradicate pests through temperatures sustained below zero for two weeks through the winter. The next meeting will be held in November. Meetings are held every other month.

8.3 Snake River Board 9/25, (Kelzenberg, Hoppe) – next meeting 10/23

8.4 East Central Landscape Stewardship Committee – Legislative Field Tour 11/1, Audubon Center in Sandstone – requesting supervisors to attend, as this is in conflict with SWCD staff at the BWSR Academy. RSVP is due by 10/27/17.

8.5 Regular SWCD Board Meeting: November 14, 4:00 PM

8.6 BWSR Academy, Cragun’s Resort in Brainerd, Nov. 1-3 (all 3 staff will attend)

8.7 Kanabec SWCD Strategic Planning Session 10/17, 3:30 pm

9. **Evaluate the Meeting** – What worked? What could be more efficient?
Belkholm had no comment. Sawatzky stated that it took longer because of the resolutions – which couldn’t be avoided. Anderson thought the voting of the resolutions didn’t take too long.

10. Adjourn - M/S Approved Sawatzky/Belkholm Adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Civic Standards:
1. All those impacted by the problem are stakeholders. Together they define the problem, set goals and work toward solutions as active citizens.
2. The stakeholders are accountable for contributing resources (leadership/time, knowledge, constituencies and dollars) to solve the problem for the common good.
3. All stakeholders are engaged in making decisions and policies that contribute to the common good.
4. All stakeholders agree to be transparent throughout this process. We agree to implement policies where we individually have the authority to act.

Approved:

_________________________________________________________  Date: _________________________