OUTCOME DOCUMENTS FROM THE December 12, 2017 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

STAFF:  Deanna Pomije, Jacquelynn Kelzenberg, Anne LeRoy

OTHERS:  Shannon Rasinski – NRCS

1. Call to Order: Chair Hoppe called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

2. NRCS Report Shannon Rasinski provided the District Conservationist’s Report. Rasinski reviewed recent NRCS activities that included conservation planning, contract reviews and modifications for the EQIP and CSP programs. Payments are being made on both of these programs. Rasinski recently attended the MASWCD Convention, Snake River Watershed Landscape Planning Meeting, and completed two conservation plans for highly erodible land compliance sites. In regards to the NRCS re-organization and the four local counties: she expects direct re-assignments for everyone this next spring, followed by a move next summer. The Mora field office is rumored to remain the NRCS seat for the four counties. Rasinski also presented a modification to the operational agreement with the SWCD – see agenda item 5.3 below. The NRCS has announced that Curtis Elke will begin as the Acting State Conservationist on December 24th.

3. Consent Agenda

Pomije requested to add 2.1 Civic Organizing and an update on activity with the District land, under the Business section.

3.1. Financial – receipts & disbursements
3.2. Outcomes Document - November
3.3. Staff Reports
3.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

M/S/Approved – Carda/ Sawatzky to approve the agenda with the addition of discussions about civic organizing and an update on the District land.

4. Approve Disbursements

Treasurer’s Report

M/S/Approved – Anderson /Sawatzky to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Disbursements as presented.

5. Business

5.1. Individual ROLES: One of the civic organizing principles is that we all have a ROLE to play, individually in our given community in which we work and live. We can use these individual roles to engage as active citizens for the common good. What is your ROLE here within the Kanabec SWCD Board? Pomije discussed this briefly and encouraged all to think about their individual roles.

5.2 2018 District Budget – 2nd review  Pomije explained that she fine tuned the infrastructure costs compared to the actual costs from 2017. She confirmed that the forestry services are planned to be done on a
contractual basis, rather than taking on an additional full-time employee. The budget will be revised in January, when grant balances are confirmed. No voting action needed at this time.

5.3. **Operational Agreement with NRCS** – addition of Mary K. (TSA) computer seat to the agreement

Pomije and Rasinski explained that due they are changing the operational agreement to include the TSA computer seat. NRCS would like the SWCD stand-alone phone included in this revision at a value of $4015 / year. Due to this high valuation, the SWCD will be looking to migrate the SWCD phone system to be independent of the NRCS system. This will mean no longer being able to transfer calls between the two agencies. Since modifications are still under consideration no voting is needed at this time.

5.4. **Resolution adopting the Kanabec County Water Plan** as the SWCD Comprehensive Plan, through 2018.

Pomije requested that the board grant a 1-year extension to adopt the Kanabec County Water Plan as the SWCD Comprehensive Plan, because the plan is still being modified.

**M/S/Approved** – Belkhom/Anderson to approve extending the adoption of the County Water Plan through 2018.

5.5. **Contract with The Nature Conservancy** – Contract forester for more forest stewardship planning and forest management practices in the Snake & Kettle Watersheds. ($20,000)

Pomije updated the board with information that the SWCD is still waiting for The Nature Conservancy to present the actual contract that would provide funding to be used for forester services. No voting action is needed at this time.

5.6. **CWF – Ann River FY14** – request for grant extension through 12/31/18 - $12,600 remaining in unencumbered funds.

Pomije requested a second extension on the Clean Water Fund Ann River Grant through 12/31/18 to cover costs for projects that will be completed during the summer of 2018. By extending the Ann River grant we’ve been able to further the grant moneys available under the CWP grant, as the CWP grant expires June 30, 2018. We did this knowing the CWP grant funds would not be fully utilized. We have funded projects jointly using both grants where feasible, thus extending the grant funds further.

**M/S/Approved** – Anderson / Carda to approve extending the CWF – Ann River FY14 grant through 12/31/2018.

5.7. **Resolution in Support of the ‘One Watershed One Plan’ for the Rum River Watershed**

Pomije asked to support the One Watershed One Plan for the Rum River Watershed. Counties within this Watershed include Mille Lacs, Aitkin, Isanti, and Kanabec to a lesser extent. The Lewis Lake area of Kanabec County lies within the Rum River Watershed.

**M/S/Approved** – Belkhom/Anderson to approve support of the Rum River One Watershed One Plan.

5.8. **Forest Stewardship Plan** funding from the CWP grant:

- **Swenson, Daniel** – Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) 179 acres, Brunswick 17

  Available CWP 50% funding for FSP, $250, total cost $1100 ($300 from DNR)

  The Stewardship plan was completed during the summer of 2017.

**M/S/Approved** – Anderson / Sawatzky to approve payment in the amount of $250.00 to Daniel Swenson.
5.9. Civic Organizing dues request:

Pomije requested funding of $500 for the annual dues for membership with the civic organizing group Minnesota Active Citizens Initiative (MACI). MACI is a professional association that includes other groups working to use and test civic organizing practices within their jurisdictions. Benefits of membership include networking to accomplish the District goals and learning opportunities to test the process of civic organizing together. The civic organizing process is encouraging; meant to create more local buy-in, which may help in grant writing. The dues were increased from $180 to $500.

M/S/Approved – Sawatzky / Carda to approve payment of $500.00 for membership annual dues with Minnesota Active Citizens Initiative.

5.10. District Land Update

Pomije updated the board on recent discussions with Kellie Kelling. Kelling is still interested in operating the land and possibly planting it to Kernza. Colton Marohn was offered the opportunity to operate the 2.8-acre field SE of his place. Pomije is planning to meet Kelling in Jan. to discuss the District Land in more detail. She will continue to work with the County Assessor’s office to clarify the tax obligations of the property as it will have multiple parties involved.

6. Project Updates –

6.1 Sorensen, James & Gail, Peace twp, sec. 2 – new application / contract – streambank erosion, estimate $14,156, funding split 75% - $7,078 CWP 2015 (needs to be completed by June 30, 2018); 25% - $3,539 Snake Watershed Project Grant

Pomije and Kelzenberg presented photos and explained the benefits of relocating a stream to reduce erosion on a bend of a small tributary to the Snake River in Peace Township. We recognize this as a high priority project.

M/S/Approved – Belkholm / Sawatzky to approve the Sorensen application and contract for $7,078 through funding from the existing CWP 2015 grant. The remainder 25% of the funding is being sought through the Snake River Watershed project grant. Weinermann (BWSR) has already approved the project under the Snake grant, as it is outside the scope of the grant.

7. General Discussion / Public Input

- Congratulations to Jacque – successfully applied for a scholarship to the Soil Health Summit with the Sustainable Farming Assn. Feb 14-15. ($400 value). This will entail hosting a soil health workshop in 2018 for local producers (jointly with NRCS).

M/S/Approved – Carda / Sawatzky to approve payment for mileage as needed to attend the Soil Health Summit if the District vehicle is not available.

Set Next Meeting Dates / Committee Reports

8.1 Personnel Committee – next meeting, after 12/20 - Date was not verified for this at the meeting. Anderson and Belkholm will schedule in January, to include staff performance reviews.

8.2 Forestry Association Report – Hoppe attended the meeting held on November 14th. Discussion included future grant funding for areas 3 & 8. The next meeting will be 1/18 in McGregor.
8.3 **MASWCD Convention** – Dec 3-5, Hoppe, Pomije, and Rasinski attended and reported briefly on their experiences.

8.4 **Landscape Stewardship Plan (LSP)** – Dec. 8, Snake 1st meeting (Pomije & Hoppe) Both reported this was a good meeting and a good start to the planning process for the Snake’s LSP.

8.5 **COLA – AIS Next Meeting** 12/14, 5pm in Courthouse (Kelzenberg and Sawatzky)

8.6 **Regular SWCD Board Meeting**; Jan. 9, 3:00 PM, committee selections for 2018

8.7 **Snake River Board** 11/27, (Hoppe) – next meeting 1/22

8.8 **Technical Service Provider - Area 3**, Jan 24, 10 am Duluth – (Pomije)

**Two Forestry Training Opportunities:**

1. Jan. 20 **Forest Management Day for Timber & Wildlife**, at the Audubon Ctr. in Sandstone, 8-4:30 pm, $15 fee, RSVP at 320-216-4245

2. Feb. 28 **Managing the North Woods for the Future**, at the Audubon Ctr. in Sandstone, 8:30-3, walking tour afterwards, $35 fee, on-line registration <https://stcroixforestryconference.eventbrite.com>

7. **Evaluate the Meeting** – What worked? What needs further discussion?

Anderson thanked everyone for agreeing to move the start time up to 3pm. The board discussed the meeting start time and had consensus that 3pm would work for the winter months, but that it should be confirmed with everyone on a month by month basis. Sawatzky, Carda, and Belkholm stated that they thought the meeting went well. Hoppe encouraged all board members to prepare for the board meetings by reviewing the agendas that are mailed a week prior to the meetings and to ask questions as needed.

8. **Adjourn M/S/Approved** – Anderson / Belkholm to adjourn at 4:42 pm.

**Civic Governance** is a new approach to organizing to facilitate change for the common good, creating effective and stable organizations.

The purpose of Civic Organizing is to organize people to the obligation of being an active citizen; providing the opportunity for them to impact decision making in their role and in day to day work; learning what is good and growing in that knowledge.

- To broaden governing responsibility to include those impacted but not replacing existing governing responsibilities of board members and supervisors. We need to work together; no one group can alone solve our environmental concerns.
- Organizing comes with the obligation of active citizenship.
- Active citizenship is developed in the way institutions and projects are governed in the process of carrying out their mission/purpose/achieving goals.

Approved: ___________________________________ Date: ___________________________