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## Outcomes Documents – Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday July 20, 2021 2:00 pm

Location: SWCD Conservation Office 2008 Mahogany St Ste 3 Mora MN 55051  
Or Remote Webex Meeting

**SUPERVISORS:** Jon Sanford, Kevin Belkholm, Kim Johnson

**STAFF:** Deanna Pomije, Jerah Mattson, Shannon Rasinski,

**Others:** Ryan Carda

**Absent:** Norma Heggernes, Gene Carda, Josh Votruba

Prior to the meeting Ryan Carda from Kanabec Co. Environmental Services was present to seek a SWCD Supervisor as a representative for the planning re-write of the Kanabec Co. Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor Johnson volunteered to represent the SWCD in this planning effort. Ryan Carda left prior to our meeting start. Once the meeting started Johnson updated everyone on his volunteering for this committee. The other two Supervisors concurred.

### 1. 2:11 Roll Call – \*Approval of Agenda

Belkholm was chairing the meeting in the absence of Heggernes.

**Motion by Johnson, second by Sanford** to approve the agenda as presented with adding a discussion on the district land under item 7 and additional AIS expenses under item 5.1.

**Affirmative:** Belkholm, Johnson, Sanford

**Opposed:** None      **Abstain:** None

2. NRCS Report (Shannon Rasinski) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract deadline is July 23<sup>rd</sup>. No new budget as of yet for 2022 EQIP. Staff is continuing to meet with producers developing conservation plans for 2022 EQIP. Resource Conservation Planning Partnership (RCPP) has 2 Golden Winged Warbler and 0 MAWQCP applications. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has a re-enrollment priority for expiring 2017 CSP contracts, but none in Kanabec County. As applicable, CSP needs to be in source water protection or Historically Underserved Producer (HUP). General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) applications are due July 23<sup>rd</sup>, continuous CRP deadline is August 6. Local work group meetings are completed. Their summaries will be sent to the SWCD manager and then submitted to the NRCS state office. Soil Health Field Day in Pine County will be held August 27<sup>th</sup>.

### 3. \*Consent Agenda (no discussion unless Supervisor requests)

- 3.1. Financial – receipts & disbursements, balance sheet, profit & loss reports
- 3.2. Outcomes Document:
  - Kanabec SWCD Board –June 15, 2021
- 3.3. Staff Reports
- 3.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

Johnson highlighted a needed correction in the June outcomes – NRCS report. Correction made to clarify that the top 5 priority concerns for each of the land uses...

**Motion by Johnson, second by Sanford** to approve Consent Agenda as corrected

**Affirmative:** Belkholm, Johnson, Sanford

**Opposed:** None      **Abstain:** None

**4. \*Approve Treasurer’s Report**

**Motion by Sanford, second by Belkholm** to approve Treasurer’s Report as presented

**Affirmative:** Belkholm, Johnson, Sanford

**Opposed:** None      **Abstain:** None

**5. Business**

5.0. Fair sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to sign-up for time slots.

5.1. \*AIS – miscellaneous expenses approval (new total \$11,098.02)

- Newsletter article \$94.56,
- Fair candy \$7.48,
- Hand sanitizer, boat inspectors \$4.58
- +Knife Lake Improvement District (KLID), curly leaf pond weed control, \$6601.21
- +SWCD staff time 2021 Qtr. 2, \$4,390.19
- +New items added at meeting

**Motion by Sanford, second by Johnson** approve AIS expenses in the amount of \$106.62 with an added expense of Q2 staff time of \$4390.19 and \$6,601.21 to Knife Lake Improvement District for spraying of curly leaf pond weed.

**Affirmative:** Belkholm, Johnson, Sanford

**Opposed:** None      **Abstain:** None

5.2. Snake 1W1P Planning Update. Pomije provided an update on the Snake planning process. The local staff recently reviewed our planning timeline. We’re a bit behind schedule, but making good progress. Will keep abreast of the timeline as adjustments may be needed. It was asked how other 1W1P are doing? LGU staff input will go over what needs to be changed. Two public input sessions on a draft strategic implementation table are being planned for possibly Dec. and Jan. It was suggested to keep in mind the snow birds when gathering public input. From the last PC meeting – all the LGU Boards re meeting individually to come up with a preference for either a Collaboration or Entity for our future implementation organization. The PC is planned to meet again 9/27.

5.3. \*Draft 2022 Budget, approval on Co allocation

Pomije reviewed the draft 2022 budget and updated the board on the discussion from the finance committee (Johnson & Belkholm) meeting from 7/19. This included a brief discussion on the proposed Co. land Hyw 65 / Fish Lake Project, which is seeking ~\$30,000 in county funds for this shoreland protection, public land’s project.

**Motion by Johnson, second by Sanford** to approve the draft 2022 budget with a Co. allocation request of \$31,000.

**Affirmative:** Belkholm, Johnson, Sanford

**Opposed:** None      **Abstain:** None

**6. Project Updates**, in consent agenda – any questions. An update was provided on the upcoming Soil Health Field Days in Kanabec with a focus on reduced tillage options. Hoping to facilitate a good producer sharing and discussion session. The plan is to visit 2 producers; Rye Carlson and Bill & Luke Olen. Tentative day set up for Friday, September 10th. The 2021 Soil Health Field Day Scholarship (\$900) will be used to supply lunch, provide a toilet and for other expenses as needed. A soil pit was suggested with a soil scientist to speak.

## 7. Board Discussion

Johnson asked: What is the current way of managing the District Land? Does a written contract need to be drafted up as to who is the operator of the land and are there liability concerns?

Belkholm requested: Approval on a ditch clean out on the District Land on a private ditch through the eastern hay land, draining to the northeast.

The District Land Committee consists of Carda and Belkholm.

Both District Land items were discussed. There is currently no contract between the renter (current – Belkholm) and the District. In the past the District has been seeking a producer to operate the 16.2 acres (3 fields) using various conservation practices. This has proved difficult, but an advertisement has not been sought. Practices sought have included cover crops and small grain (Kernza – perennial grain). Recent producers on this land have been Dean Heitke and Colton Marohn growing corn / soybeans, conventionally farmed. There is no written plan on how to specifically manage this cropland. On taxes – we are tax exempt with the exception of the crop land, due to its' cropping status. The District has been paying the tax and either charging the producer the amount of tax in rent or a minimal rent amount. Last year with Belkholm starting to operate the crop land the board decided to cover the taxes completely while Belkholm was seeking to grow Kernza, a new perennial grain as an agricultural demonstration. Last year he was not able to obtain Kernza seed and planted cereal rye instead. Liability was discussed; possibly similar to other owned land with producers operating the land and charged a rental fee. Concerns were brought up on the possibly lack of liability coverage with a producer on the land. We have coverage with MCIT and the producer generally carry insurance of their own. It was suggested to require the producer to provide proof on insurance, possibly of a certain amount. Pomije will seek out advice from MCIT on the liability risk here. On the requested ditch clean out – it was discussed that review and approval of the work would be needed on any potential wetland impact from both the USDA and Environmental Services. Belkholm requested to do the work soon, as dry conditions persist. The ditch area is predominantly Reed Canary Grass and Belkholm is haying the area. Pomije briefly brought up on the screen the deed and conservation plan for the District Land, listing the covenants and how the land is to be managed.

**Motion by Sanford, second by Johnson** to authorize the clean out to maintenance levels of the private ditch on the District Land contingent upon approval from the wetland authorities; USDA and the Environmental Services in regards to any potential wetland impact and to minimized any liability the district may incur on any work completed.

**Affirmative:** Johnson, Sanford      **Motion failed for lack of quorum vote.**

**Opposed:** None      **Abstain:** Belkholm

**Deanna will seek input from Heggernes and Carda on this matter.** Motion pending approval; in leu of pending full approval. *Since this meeting, Pomije has discussed the matter with all 5 Supervisors – it has been decided to hold this topic for a full board discussion at our August board meeting.*

## 8. General Discussion / Public Input

Johnson brought up the Snake River bridge on Olympic St. in Ford Township – the gravel on the road shoulder is washing into the river through the grates on the bridge deck. This was a site of a previous project with the SWCD where a road treatment was applied to control the runoff for a few years. The township has been discussing options on how to address this erosion. Pomije attended their meeting in June with their annual meeting set for 8/18. There is a proposal for the Ford Township grader to address this issue by maintaining the shoulder, preventing gravel build-up, capping the bridge grates in the summer/spring/fall to prevent the gravel runoff into the river and work to direct the runoff into the grass ditches just north of the bridge and most south of the bridge, as the bridge deck drains south.

**9. Set Next Meeting Dates / Committee Reports** – next meeting dates

- 7/14 – Finance / Personnel Cmte. Meeting, 2:30 pm (Belkholm, Johnson, Pomije, Mattson)
- 7/22 – Rum Policy Cmte. Meeting 5-7 pm (Johnson)
- 7/27 – Kanabec Co. Comprehensive Planning Meeting, 9 am courthouse (Johnson), 2 other planned meetings in August and October
- 8/17 – Tues **Regular SWCD Board Meeting**, Kanabec SWCD office **2pm** (all)  
Sanford mentioned that he'd be absent for our Aug. board meeting.
- 8/27 -3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Soil Health Field Day, Jon Stevens Pine Co.
- 9/10 – proposed date Kanabec No-Till Field Day (all staff)
- 9/16 – Forestry Assoc. Meeting (Carda)
- 9/27 – Snake River Watershed Mgmt. Board (SRWMB) Mtg., 9 am (Votruba, Pomije, Belkholm)
- 9/27 – Snake 1W1P Policy Cmte. Meeting, 10:30 am (Belkholm, Pomije, Mattson)

\*Seeking Supervisor report at Meeting

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

**11.** 4:22 pm Adjourn Regular Board Meeting

**Motion by Sanford, second by Johnson** to adjourn meeting at 4:22 pm

**Affirmative:** Belkholm, Johnson, Sanford

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

**\*Seeking Board Decisions**