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## Outcomes Documents – Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday September 14, 2021 2:00 pm

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

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

**STAFF:** Deanna Pomije, Jerah Mattson, Josh Votruba, Shannon Bodle

**Others:** Dennis McNally **Absent:** Gene Carda

### 1. 2:00 Roll Call – \*Approval of Agenda

**Motion by Belkholm, second by Sanford** to approve the Agenda as with two additions. One discussion of a proposed new checking account through Spire after Treasurer's Report #4, and County Comp plan, 5.6 and eliminate 5.4 on State Cost Share.

**Affirmative:** Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

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

### 2. NRCS Report (Shannon Bodle) Staff is working on certifications for Golden Wing Warbler and Cover Crops. No deadlines for EQIP 2022 have been provided yet. There are 2 approved contracts for RCPP for Golden Wing Warbler in Kanabec County. The office COVID protocols have changed. 50% staff capacity is allowed in the office and vaccinations are being mandated.

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

Questions arose on the proposed planned toe-wood structure on the Hwy 65 project vs. rock installation and this was discussed. Deanna explained with photos the proposed plan to install a toe-wood shoreline erosion control project on Fish Lake/Ann River. The ultimate decision on the type of project installed lies with the landowner (Kanabec County), as the responsible party for maintenance. A question was posed on why the DOT isn't providing funds for this project, as it is part of their road right of way. The DOT has not committed to funds for this project but are in favor of the project. They could be consulted again.

An update on the Rosnow project mentioned awaiting contact with Mr. Rosnow on potential changes to the 10-year access listed in the land access / project acceptance contract.

3.1. Financial – receipts & disbursements, balance sheet, profit & loss reports

3.2. Outcomes Document:

- Kanabec SWCD Board –August 24, 2021

3.3. Staff Reports

3.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

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

**Affirmative:** Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

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

**4. \*Approve Treasurer’s Report**

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

**Affirmative:** Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

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

- Proposed new Spire business checking account to eliminate a \$10-dollar monthly fee, due to inactive debit card. Request to add Votruba to account as check signee.

**Motion by Belkholm, second by Sanford** to approve Votruba as a check signer on the Spire account. Continue using the Classic checking account and reactivate the debit card and use for future fuel purchases.

**Affirmative:** Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

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

**5. Business**

5.0 Soil Health Field 1/2 Day, reduced tillage focus, 9/10 Evaluation.

25 people attended, including 10+ producers. Photos of the event were shared. Different practices were discussed and viewed from each of the 2 sites. Rye Carlson shared his experiences with organic crop production with challenges in weed control and tight diverse rotations with varied cover crop species. The 3-generation Olen Farm shared their 0-5 years of experience in practicing no-till. At the end, a farmer (4) panel discussion was held sharing their experiences and challenges in soil health. Much staff time was devoted to coordinating and promoting this event. Staff commented that distributing the event flier earlier (about 3 weeks prior) would help. Another stated that great producer conversations were had prior to and in anticipation to this event. If this were to be done again, (possibly not every year) it’s preferred to get local producer input on what sort of workshop event they’d like to see (speakers, focus of event, etc.). One suggestion for a future event was a soil pit and a more in-depth presentation on soil health.

5.1. Starry Trek Event Evaluation, starry stone wart educational volunteer event – AIS, morning of 8/21  
12 people attended this event with 6 lakes monitored. New this year was the participation of our 2 boat inspectors who joined in to monitor access sites for AIS species. This is an annual volunteer educational event on AIS. Seeking new volunteers annually is a challenge, but it’s a good AIS educational / awareness event.

5.2. \*AIS – payment approval, new display board for county fair, total \$177.07

**Motion by Johnson, second by Belkholm** to approve payment of \$177.07 for a new AIS display board to be used at the county fair.

**Affirmative:** Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

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

5.3. Snake 1W1P Planning Update

The plan is progressing. Organizational options are continuing to be discussed. The Advisory Cmte. with local staff is progressing through water quality reports seeking priority areas and fine tuning our goals for each of the 7 issues. We’re ready for the PC approval on goals and priority areas for the following issues: Surface Water Quality, Soil Erosion/Soil Health, Groundwater and Habitat. The next Policy Cmte. Meeting will be held 9/27 after the SRWMB meeting. This will be a 3-part meeting; SRWMB meeting, a joint meeting of both boards discussing organizational structure and to end, the PC meeting.

5.4. State Cost Share FY 2022-23 workplan, non-structural land management practices policy - tabled until next month.

5.5. City of Mora comprehensive Plan Open House 9/22

The City Comp. plan is being updated from the previous 2019 plan. It was discussed briefly what comments to present from our SWCD. Comments such as stormwater practice implementation from the Mora Sub-watershed Assessment, being open to rain garden developments (no contrarian ordinances) and being open to renewable energy development projects to combat climate change. An open house will be held September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5-7 pm. Sanford and Pomije plan to attend.

6. **Project Updates**, in consent agenda – any questions.

The bridge runoff in Ford Twp. has been looking significantly better. The crowning and other road bridge maintenance work helped eliminate the gravel from being pushed through the bridge deck into the water.

7. **Board Discussion**

\*District Land Management:

- Hunting Allowances, liability waiver

For liability protection as we allow public hunting; MCIT has made some recommendations such as: sign placement listing rules and signed liability waivers for hunters, etc. This was discussed briefly with the staff tasked to come back next month with some proposed recommendations.

- Contract with cropland producer

Pomije presented a draft contract between the SWCD and a cropland operator. It is recommended for this draft to be reviewed by our County Attorney. Colton Marohn has expressed interest in submitting a bid to operate our cropland and possibly harvest the hay land. Belkholm will continue seeking out Kernza seed for planting. The 3 fields are now in rye regrowth. Pomije will finalize a request for proposals in seeking a cropland operator for review at our October meeting.

- Proposal to manage the land: local Pheasants Forever & Deer Hunters.

Both parties, Pheasants Forever and MN Deer Hunters Association have shown interest in a proposal to managing the District Land. Both will get back to Sanford on a plan to present for future needs of the land. Sanford gave them a copy of our District Land covenants.

**Motion by, second by** to approve

**Affirmative:** Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford,

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

8. **General Discussion / Public Input** - none

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

- 9/10 – Mora Area Soil Health Field Day, 9-1 (all staff, Sanford)
- 9/14 – Kanabec Co. Comp. Plan Meeting, 6 pm (Johnson)  
Johnson updated the board on the planning progress with a proposal for more coordination on land use between the county and townships. The planning is progressing well with more time being allotted for public input. The SWCD fits well into the Natural Resources focus as a partner in managing water quality and natural resources.
- 9/16 – Forestry Assoc. Meeting (Carda)
- 9/21 – Area 3 Meeting, Duluth South St. Louis SWCD hosting (all Supervisors invited)
- 9/12 – City of Mora Comprehensive Plan Open House, 5-7 pm
- 9/27 – Snake River Watershed Mgmt. Board (SRWMB) Mtg., 9 am (Votruba, Pomije, Belholm)
- 9/29 – Ann Lake Treatment 1<sup>st</sup> Stakeholder’s Meeting, Ogilvie Civic Ctr. & Remote, 6:30 – 8:30 pm (Pomije, Sanford)
- 10/14 – COLA – AIS Meeting, 5pm library park (Sanford, Votruba)
- 10/19 – Tues **Regular SWCD Board Meeting, 2pm** (all)

\*Seeking Supervisor report on meeting attended

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

**11.** 4:45 pm Adjourn Regular Board Meeting

**Motion by Johnson, second by Sanford** to adjourn meeting at 4:45pm

**Affirmative:** Belholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

**\*Seeking Board Decisions**