



2008 Mahogany St Ste 3  
Mora MN 55051  
(320) 679-1391  
Deanna@KanabecSWCD.org

## Outcomes Documents – Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday April 19, 2023, 2:00 pm

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

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

**STAFF:** Deanna Pomije, Shannon Bodle, Brian Steffen \*Remote Attendees

**Others:** Nancy Heins, **Absent:**

Introductions were shared.

1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & photos taken of the Board for the website
2. \*Approval of Agenda

**Motion by Sanford, second by Johnson to** approve the agenda with three additions: item 8.5 has added AIS expense amounts, the addition of the Ford twp. bridge on Olympic St. over the Snake River and the approval of the new Soil Health equipment grant from MN Dept. Ag.

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

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

3. NRCS Report (Shannon Bodle & Brain Steffen) – NRCS just returned from a three day all employee meeting. Steffen mentioned that he's accepted the vacant team lead position and will be gone Aug.-Sept. on leave. A forester has been hired in the Hinckley NRCS office. Two new technicians are being hired in this area. The Conservation Stewardship Program in Kanabec has 4 low priority applications with no renewals. Currently in Kanabec 7 of 28 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications are being funded for \$258,074 with the anticipation that EQIP Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) will fund another 19.
4. \*Consent Agenda (no discussion unless Supervisor requests)
  - 4.1. Financial – receipts & disbursements, balance sheet, profit & loss reports
  - 4.2. Outcomes Document:
    - Kanabec SWCD Board – March 15, 2023
  - 4.3. Staff Reports
  - 4.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

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

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

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

5. \*Approve Treasurer's Report

**Motion by Belkholm second by Carda to** approve the March 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented by Johnson.

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

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

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

Pomije shared with the board the latest quarterly progress report for our Lawns to Legumes grant. She expects to work heavily on this grant over the next couple of months, developing projects with grant contracted funding. She asked for the board’s opinion on co-funding a meadow pollinator planting with an interested land owner OR letting NRCS fund it alone to let the Lawns to Legumes funds go further. Opinions to co-fund the project with NRCS were expressed.

Pomije clarified (from BWSR) that for RIM easements, the year of the application’s estimated market value (EMV) will be used for figuring the payment rate. Johnson expressed the concern that the counties’ EMV rose substantially for 2023, which will impact the RIM payments.

**7. Public Input - none public comments expressed**

**8. Business Section**

8.1. Snake Watershed Plan Update – Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)

- SRWMB – no decision as of yet on how this board wishes to be a part of the new Snake Watershed Plan’s implementation
- Attorney review of draft JPA – our County Attorney has declined the review of this draft JPA siting a conflict of interest with the county board’s preference in using a separate outside attorney for the Snake Watershed matters, one who does not represent the Kanabec SWCD. However, the template to this JPA was previously reviewed by many Rum Watershed attorneys and the Pine Co Attorney will be reviewing this agreement also.

\*Our comments on the draft Snake JPA – Pomije and Johnson explained the amendment process listed in the draft JPA. The wording on this was discussed, whether a 75% vote be the watershed board only was needed or the addition of each party adoption of the amendment after the watershed board’s resolution for an amendment. Each board member expressed their opinions with Carda abstaining. Three (Johnson, Sandford and Heggernes) preferred only a 75% watershed board JPA amendment approval without each parties’ board approval, Belkholm expressed the opposite opinion.

- Kanabec SWCD Roles for Implementation

For this discussion Pomije referred the board to page 3 of the consent agenda listing the Snake Plan’s implementation roles for consideration. In discussion all agreed that each party in the Snake Partnership should have the hiring authority for any watershed employees as they are all set up with personnel and human resources policies whereas the watershed has none.

In discussing a possible fiscal agent, it was generally agreed to offer or let Pine County pick up this role, in order to share around the watershed duties/roles and to help with greater accountability. Opinions were expressed for Pomije to continue in the coordination duties for the watershed. Discussion was started and due to continue on the additional watershed technical staff needed and where this will come from.

8.2. Update on shared Forester with Pine SWCD – Pomije said that Pine SWCD has hired Josh Tank as the new shared forester between our SWCDs, due to start in Kanabec soon.

8.3. 2023 Newsletter projected cost \$3,630, (\$2,000 available from PLA)

From 2021 mailed 6,473, printed 6,500

2021: Printing \$1,783

Mailing \$1,242.81

Total \$3,025.81

2023: Printing \$1,504

A survey was suggested with the eventual transition to an electric newsletter.

**Motion by Belkholm second by Carda** to approve the 2023 newsletter expenses as projected.

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

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

8.4. AIS Boat Inspector hiring update – Pomije updated the board in re-hiring Renell Pagel, now returning for her third year as boat inspector with us. Two other, Annabel McGriff and Brandi Wellnitx were also hired with a set hour limit for the summer to allow us to stay within our inspector budget for the year. Staff will work to ensure all their equipment is purchased and ready for their use. All three inspectors will be trained and authorized by DNR staff prior to starting inspections. SWCD staff will be coordinating their schedules over the summer.

8.5. \*AIS Expenses for the 2023 Summer – towels – awaiting towel quote for comparison

- Seeking funds for our 3<sup>rd</sup> AIS 6' banner, one for each inspector, \$385, from the education AIS fund
- 2 chairs, 1 with an umbrella, total \$104.98

**Motion by Johnson second by Carda** to approve the AIS expenses listed for a total of \$489.98, for the boat inspector's equipment as listed.

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

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

8.6. Ford Township Olympic St. bridge over the Snake River – Johnson brought this forward for SWCD involvement in providing options to address the road gravel washing down the road and into the river through the bridge grates. Pomije will provide Johnson with the options previously presented to the township and Johnson will present this to the township for discussion. Carda suggested an option to pipe the runoff water to the river.

8.7. MDA Soil Health Equipment Grant, \$20,450 awarded

**Motion by Belkholm second by Sanford** to approve Pomije in signing our newly approved MDA Soil Health Equipment Grant contract and approve the subsequent purchase of the Great Plains 1206NT drill for \$40,900 as previously presented.

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

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

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**9. 3:50 Discussion Session:** SWCD District Voting: County wide or by district

(Items brought forward for board discussion. Please bring items for the agenda ahead of our meeting for any board consideration prior to the meeting.)

Voting options for the SWCD Districts was discussed briefly, listing some pros and cons for either option. Currently the SWCD voting is set up county-wide. This differs from the county board, which votes by district. The board sought a deadline on when this decision would be needed ahead of the next election.

**10. 4:10 Set Next Meeting Dates / Committee Reports – next meeting dates**

- 4/21 – Kanabec County Board workgroup meeting on SRWMB, jail training room, 9 am (Pomije, Belkholm)
- 4/26 – TSA Meeting, in-person, 10 am (Johnson)
- 4/24 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday) - SRWMB, 9 am courthouse basement, (Belkholm, Pomije)
- None in April – Snake PC Meeting, Mora courthouse, (Pomije, Mattson, Belkholm)
- April 24-28 – Private Well Testing (nitrates) Open House (Mattson, Pomije)
- 5/9 – COLA – AIS Meeting, 5pm SWCD office (Sanford, Pomije)
- 5/9 (2<sup>nd</sup> Tues.) – Kettle PC Meeting, Sandstone, 9 am (Johnson)
- 5/17 – Regular SWCD Board Meeting, 2 pm (all)
- 5/18 – Forestry Association Meeting, remote option, 10 am (Carda or Sanford)
- **6/9 – Area 3 Resolution Meeting, Cloquet**
- 6/22, (4<sup>th</sup> Thurs.) – Rum Watershed Partnership Meeting, Milaca, 4:30 pm (Johnson)

\*Seeking Supervisor report on meeting attended

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

**12. 4:35 pm Adjourn Regular Board Meeting**

**Motion by Sanford second by Johnson** to adjourn meeting at

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

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

**\*Seeking Board Decisions**