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Outcomes Documents – Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday May 17, 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, Jerah Mattson, Stephanie Paulsen, Shannon Bodle

*Remote Attendees **Others:** Darren Mayers **Absent:** none

1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

2. *Approval of Agenda

Motion by Sanford, second by Carda to approve the agenda as presented

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Belkholm, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

3. NRCS Report (Shannon Bodle) – Brian is out so no written report was submitted. Shannon did a verbal report that NRCS is currently going through the obligation process of approving contracts. NRCS is receiving new pre-approved EQIP applications each week. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is expected to promote climate smart ag. practices.

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 – April 19, 2023

4.3. Staff Reports

4.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

Motion by Sanford, second by Carda to approve Consent Agenda as presented

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

5. *Approve Treasurer's Report

Motion by Carda second by Belkholm to approve the April 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 provided a brief update on the Knife River grant expiring Dec. 31, 2023. This is a priority for this year for project development and outreach as needed. Carda shared that the Rosnow property is for sale, if a project were to develop there.

7. **Public Input** - no public comments expressed.

8. Business Section

8.1. *Proposed new expenses:

- Co. staff services setting up ArcMap for forester
- No-till drill misc. equipment
- Copier black drum unit plus installation and maintenance service, part \$545-720 estimated

Motion by Johnson second by Belkholm to authorize payment for services for Kanabec County staff to set up an ArcMap layout template for the new forester for his work in Kanabec.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

Items discussed for purchase include: apple tags for location tracking, locking mechanisms, adapters as needed, rental signs, etc.

Motion by Johnson second by Sanford authorize Pomije to purchase miscellaneous equipment up to \$1000 for use on the no-till drill rental expenses

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

Motion by Sanford second by Johnson to approve the copier maintenance up to \$750

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

8.2. Snake Watershed Plan Update

Pomije provided a brief update on the latest draft Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and shared a synopsis of the Kanabec County work session from 4/21 on the Snake Watershed Plan implementation options for the SRWMB with other county partners present.

Motion by Johnson second by Belkholm to rescind our previous comment on (5.e. Amendments) the draft Joint Powers Agreement that included needing only a supermajority to approve an amendment to the JPA and now revert to the original language as needing all parties to approve an amendment. Also expressed their agreement with 4.d. of a party's withdrawal as simplifies to be effective within 90 days of receipt.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

8.3. *Snake Watershed personnel options

Pomije reviewed a handout listing some of the watershed's implementation roles and which parties have expressed interest in executing them. She stressed the need for added staff within the Kanabec portion of the watershed to do outreach, project development and coordinate this work watershed wide. This was further discussed.

Motion by Johnson second by Belkholm to let the new entity as it develops know that our board would like the Kanabec SWCD District Manager to fill the watershed coordinator role. In essence splitting the coordinator position into 1/3 coordination apart from the other 2/3 work in outreach and technical work.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

8.4. *New Great Plains 1206 No-Till Drill, approval on rental fee and form

Fee options were discussed including input on what other SWCD's charge for their drill rentals. Concerns were expressed on the rocky soil we have throughout the county that could lead to increased damage to the drill.

Motion by Sanford second by Belkholm to approve the rental fee (\$14/acre, minimum \$175, 50% paid as down payment at time of pick up) form as presented with an addition of including a \$500 damage deposit required at time of pick up.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

8.5 Tree Planter – rental unit

Pomije shared that a through large watershed LCCMR forestry grant within the Rum Watershed, we are being offered a tree planter paid for completely by this grant if we agree to maintain the tree planter rental for its' lifespan. It would be purchased by the DNR and gifted to us. It would be given higher priority for rent within the Rum Watershed. Isanti SWCD has expressed interest in a sharing option for the tree planter. More details to be worked out yet for any sharing option. Some suggestions were provided to purchase a very simple and versatile tree planter for easier maintenance and use.

Motion by Sanford second by Johnson to apply for one of the tree planters offered by the DNR through a LCCMR grant within the Rum Watershed of Kanabec Co. Authority was granted for Pomije to work with Sanford on what type of tree planter we would prefer.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

8.6. *Seeing a forestry policy on which private lands are chosen for Forest Stewardship Planning, so as not to compete with the private sector. Mayers provided input on what he did for marketing as a forester in Crow Wing SWCD. He provided clients a list of foresters, detailing their areas of specialty with himself listed last. For his specialty he listed forest stewardship plans for parcels <20 acres in size and for parcels with shoreland frontage. The board agreed with this marketing strategy in leu of passing any forestry policy on which lands to focus our forest stewardship planning efforts.

8.7. *District Land rental option – soil health practices with 5-year lease

There has been a request to rent our out 16 acres – 3 fields of cropland from Colton Marohn where he would plan to implement cover crops and no-till planting. He would ask for a 5-year lease. Due to the land having just been planted for 2023 by Kevin Belkholm this may be a mute question. Another question was asked on what length of rental agreement exists for Belkholm renting this land. Staff was asked to investigate past meeting minutes to verify and report back. No action taken.

8.8. *AIS Expenses for the 2023 Summer – education promotional AIS towels

Motion by Sanford second by Johnson to approve the towel purchase not to exceed \$300

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

9. 3:50 Discussion Session:

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

Johnson brought forward a few comments on the Area 3 TSA from the TSA last board meeting, 4/26. That this board may be seeking a Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) grant from BWSR for a

board retreat to provide more function within the group. He reviewed with the board his questions about the demands for technical services he posed for the TSA board.

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

- 5/12/23 – Tree Pick-Up scheduled at the Fairgrounds, 2-7pm (all staff, Mattson lead)
- 5/16/23 – Kanabec County Board, agenda item for Snake Plan adoption (Pomije)
- 5/18/23 – COLA – AIS Meeting, 5pm SWCD office (Sanford, Pomije)
- 5/18/23 – Forestry Association Meeting, remote option, 10 am (Carda or Sanford)
- 5/22/23 – SRWMB Meeting, 9am (Pomije, Belkholm)
- 5/29/23 & 6/19/23 - Holidays
- **6/21/23 – Regular SWCD Board Meeting, 2pm (all)**
- 6/22/23, (4th Thurs.) – Rum Watershed Partnership Meeting, Milaca, 4:30 pm (Johnson)
- 6/28/23 – TSA Meeting, 10am (Johnson)

*Seeking Supervisor report on meeting attended

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

12. 4:48 pm Adjourn Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Sanford second by Carda to adjourn meeting at 4:48pm

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

***Seeking Board Decisions**