



2008 Mahogany St Ste 3
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Outcomes Documents – Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday June 21, 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, Mary Krueger

*Remote Attendees

Others: Darren Mayers

Absent: none

1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

2. ***Approval of this revised Agenda**

Johnson requested to include a discussion on the Grindstone dam removal and Talon metals mining in Tamarack for section 9 in the agenda.

Motion by Johnson, second by San to approve the revised agenda with the addition of the two discussion items listed above

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Belkholm, Heggernes

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

3. NRCS Report (Shannon Bodle) – A written and verbal report was provided. The recent Local Work Group from 6/20 was discussed where resource concerns were discussed for the whole 5 county NRCS team area. They are trying to increase funding for pit closures. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds continue to be rolled out. A new team forester, Robert Tulgren has been hired out of Hinckley. They are working to fill a Soil Conservationist position in Mora and Mille Lacs.

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 – May 17, 2023
- Kanabec Special Board Mtg. (copier) – June 6, 2023

4.3. Staff Reports

4.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

From page 2 the status of food plots was asked about. Belkholm and Carda will be talking about this yet. The AIS education to 4th graders at the Library Park was encouraging to see. Our Area 3 Supervisor Director position is to be open soon after the Sept. annual meeting. The status of follow-up on a streambank project on the Knife River was asked about – no update yet.

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 Heggernes second by Johnson to approve the May 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.

6.1. Lawn to Legumes payment reimbursement requests:

Pomije provided a brief report on these 2 completed pollinator projects. Sanford requested to see photos.

1) Contract #L2L.2002.01 – 4,400 sq. ft. planted pollinator garden, requesting \$1,500

2) Contract #L2L.2002.02 – 3 acres, pollinator meadow planted, requesting \$620.60

Motion by Johnson second by Carda to approve payment on contract #L2L.2002.01 for \$1,500 and contract #L2L.2022.02 for \$620.60 for their completed projects.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

New Soil Health – State Cost Share, \$14,175

This was mentioned briefly as a new funding source to promote ag. soil health practices such as no-till and cover crops. \$9,000 of the above funding is available for these incentive flat rate payments.

6.2. *Non-Structural Land Management Practice Payment Policy – update (Paulsen)

Paulsen presented a new revised policy for our flat rate non-structural land management practices. It is now proposed to include pasture and hay land planting to encourage inter-seeding over plowing and the planting of perennials from a row crop operation. It was decided to lift the proposed \$4,000 cap. Language will be added to allow the 3 years of implementation to be rotated around the client’s land so long as the contracted amount of acres are completed. The potential conflict over clients using our no-till drill was explained. This policy removes any preference in using our drill – the funding is a wash.

***Approve Non-Structural Land Management Practice Policy -**

Motion by Belkholm second by Johnson to approve Non-Structural Land Management Practice Policy with the recommended changes specified above.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

7. Public Input -no public input

8. Business Section

8.1. MASWCD Legislative Update

Mayers presented on the new legislative updates from BWSR. Our sought after SWCD State Aid has been awarded (Kanabec \$158,490.89 for FY2024) in two installments, July and Dec. More and more funds are expected to continue promoting soil health practices. Our MN Statute 103.C has been revised. Generally

speaking, the changes do not impact us unless we choose to make changes. Those practices allowed for use of our State Cost Share funds has been lifted, to now include a wider range of eligible practices.

*SWCD Aid resolution for website posting

Our MASWCD Association has compiled a template resolution for us to review and approve. This is proposed to be posted to our website listing our SWCD activities to be completed using the new SWCD Aid funds.

Motion by Belkholm second Sanford to approve the guideline resolution depicting our activities for the use of the new SWCD State Aid.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

8.2. *Snake Watershed personnel options

Pomije presented a power point providing an overview of the watershed plan's activities planned for the first 2-years. She stressed past lessons learned with the SRWMB in needing a good watershed project manager to aid in coordinating implementation throughout the watershed in order to put the anticipated funds to good use implementing conservation. The watershed partnership roles were reviewed. Options were discussed. Johnson mentioned wanting to see a diagram showing Kanabec SWCD's interaction with the Snake Partnership for the flow of work and project between the two.

Pomije provided a brief update on the latest Snake JPA draft document. Section 3.1 Funding of Operation, on page 7 was discussed on whether or not to include a sentence to opening the door for membership dues to be collected to help pay for administrative operations. The board input was split on this. This is to be discussed at the next Snake PC, 6/26.

Motion by Sanford second to Heggernes approve the Snake Watershed personnel option to employ Deanna Pomije 1/3 time for coordination activities and to hire a full time Watershed Project Manager – 2/3 funding through the watershed and 1/3 funded by Kanabec SWCD for technical work.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

8.3. *Purchase request – Forester supplies, up to \$500

Motion by Sanford second by Johnson authorize to purchase up to \$500 in supplies for the forester to be used in Kanabec Co.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

8.4. *No-Till Drill transport reimbursement

Gene Carda's 2 days per diem plus

Jon Sanford, 1 day per diem, aid in drill assembly

Motion by Johnson second by Belkholm to approve to per diems paid to Carda and Sanford and the \$2.50 per mile for loaded mileage reimbursement for Carda to be paid for hauling the new no-till drill from Melrose Implement to Carda's home.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

8.5. *AIS Expenses, total \$26,630.12

1) SWCD staff time, 2023 Qtr 1

a. Adm/Coordination, \$3,313.30

- b. Edu./Outreach, \$710.19
- 2) Fair booth expense, \$120
- 3) Boat Inspector ID training, \$75
- 4) AIS placemats – laminating expense reimbursement, \$33.82
- 5) New Boat Inspector tablet and case, \$166.41
- 6) Curly leaf pond weed spray control: (subtotal \$22,211.41)
 - a. Lewis Lake, 29.7 acres, \$3,197.05 (we pay first)
 - b. Knife Lake, 50.3 acres, \$11,463.04
 - c. Ann Lake, 11 acres, \$5,514.16
 - d. Fish Lake, 17 acres, \$2,037.15

Motion by second Sanford by Johnson approve the above AIS expenses listed above totaling \$22,211.41.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

8.6. County Fair presence this year. It has been decided to opt out of our presence at the county fair this year.

8.7. *Leadership Training Request, Aug. 2023 – Aug. 2024

It was suggested to request a donation from our area association to help cover this training expense..

Motion by Johnson second by Belkholm approve Pomije to attend the MASWCD Leadership Institute Training for \$5,800.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Heggernes, Carda

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

9. 3:50 **Discussion Session:**

Sanford’s update on a tree planter – sharing with Isanti SWCD

Sanford met with our shared forester, Josh Tank to pick an appropriate tree planter to fit our rental needs. They chose a simple 3-point hitch type that could be pulled with a small 25 horse power tractor without any hydraulics. They opted against a planter that could be pulled behind a 4-wheeler because we do actually need the tractor power to ensure the furrow is opened for planting. This request was submitted to Ekola, the manager of the LCCMR Rum Watershed funds.

Paulsen is planning to send out a doodle poll to pick a date for Supervisors to view a completed toe-wood structure in Pine County.

Johnson sought comments on the Grindstone Dam removal, Kettle Watershed. A few benefits for the dam removal were mentioned by staff. A few opinions were expressed.

The Talon Metals proposed nickel mine in Tamarack was mentioned as a potential impact to the watershed’s resources. It was asked in which watershed it resides. *Later is was determined to be in both the Kettle River and Mississippi River Watersheds.*

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

Pomije is seeking a finance / personnel committee between now and July 19 to start our 2024 budget.

- 6/13/23 – SRWMB work session, 8:30am (Belkholm)
- 6/19/23 – Juneteenth Holiday

- 6/20/23 – Local Work Group Meeting, 10am, Courthouse Basement (Sanford, Paulsen, Pomije)
- 6/22/23 – (4th Thurs.) – Rum Watershed Partnership Meeting, Milaca, 4:30pm (Johnson)
- 6/22/23 – Ann Lake Watershed Alliance (ALWA) 2022 core study presentation, RSVP if attending (Pomije)
- 6/22/23, (4th Thurs.) – Rum Watershed Partnership Meeting, Milaca, 4:30 pm (Johnson)
- 6/26/23 – SRWMB Meeting, 9am, Courthouse basement (Pomije, Belkholm)
- 6/26/23 – Snake PC Meeting, 10:30am, Courthouse (Pomije, Belkholm)
- 6/28/23 – TSA Meeting, 10am (Johnson)
- 7/4/23 – 4th of July Holiday
- 7/13/23 – (2nd Th.) Kettle PC Meeting, 9am (Johnson)
- 7/13/23 – COLA / AIS Meeting, 5pm (Pomije, Sanford)
- **7/19/23 – Regular SWCD Board Meeting, 2pm**
- 7/20/23 – Forestry Association Meeting, remote option, 10am (Carda or Sanford)

*Seeking Supervisor report on meeting attended

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

12. 4:30 pm Adjourn Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Sanford second by Johnson to adjourn meeting at 4:30pm

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

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

***Seeking Board Decisions**