



# Kanabec Soil & Water Conservation District

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## OUTCOME DOCUMENTS – April 10, 2018 - REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**SUPERVISORS:** Jan Anderson, Joyce Sawatzky, Kevin Belkholm, Gene Carda, Paul Hoppe

**STAFF:** Deanna Pomije, Jacquelynn Kelzenberg, Anne LeRoy

**OTHERS:** – Donna Walters-Nelson NRCS, Sue Ericson – NRCS, Dennis McNally – Kanabec County Commissioner

**1. Call to Order** - Approval of Agenda - Chair Sawatzky called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

**M/S:** Anderson/Carda Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

**Affirmative:** Sawatzky, Belkholm, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

**2. NRCS Report**

Walters-Nelson presented the report from the NRCS. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications are in the process of being obligated. The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) has 5 eligible applications that are in the review process. One Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification application is also being processed. Walters-Nelson introduced Sue Ericson, the new administrative assistant, Ultima employee who started on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Marv Kunkel attended the Fond du Lac Career Fair for secondary students as a representative of the NRCS and the field of engineering. The current acting State Conservationist, Mr. Elke will be with us for only another 90 days, until a new Conservationist is in place. The NRCS will be participating in a local work group meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.

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

- Hoppe requested a review of the March Board Meeting Outcomes since he was unable to attend.
- Hoppe requested that the March minutes be corrected to remove his name from item 3.0 since he was not present to vote.
- Hoppe inquired about grant lifecycles and funding deadlines. Pomije explained that the Clean Water Protection (MN PCA) grants ends in June and our Ann River Clean Water Fund grant ends in Dec. 2018. Looking to apply for Accelerated Implementation Grant (AIG) from BWSR to onboard a forester. Also looking to apply for a grant for a project grant resulting from the Mora Stormwater study. A Water Plan re-write meeting is scheduled for May 23, where we intend to finalize and submit the plan to the state for review. Besides the variety of county wide projects and work we do; as per our SWCD strategic planning session last fall, we are working to focus efforts on the Ann River Watershed for greater impact.
- Grant Applications Comments (brought forth from consent agenda): As we are nearing the end of a couple of grants this year, 2018. We are looking at new grant applications. We currently have a couple of grant application opportunities and more to follow in June with the release of the BWSR grant's requests for proposals. There is a potential (even part time position – towards a forester)

Farm Bill assistant for wildlife habitat and conservation reserve program (CRP) work. These applications are due shortly with any grants awarded already in July 2018. This may not be a valid option unless we were certain of hiring someone. We also have a current Lake St. Croix Improvement request for grant proposal out, due May 15. This is for up to \$40,000 to reduce Phosphorus in the St. Croix Watershed with a 25% match. If awarded this grant could start July 1, 2018. Planning to put in an application. Coming in June BWSR may release the Accelerated Implementation Grant. This would be a potential grant to provide longer term funding for about 3 years toward a forester. If awarded we'd find out early 2019. We're also looking at a potential project grant for a storm water implementation project grant in the City of Mora. With the City Administration yet vacant there has been a slow-down in coordinating pre-grant application details. In regards to a treatment on Ann Lake I'm using 2018 as a preparation year to check into details and barriers to an aluminum-sulfate treatment in coordination with residence on Ann Lake and ALWA. Plan to put in a partial grant application for a treatment in 2019. With a cost of \$651,000 over 14 year this would have to be multiple and possibly creative grant applications with issues trying to meet grant required matches.

- 3.1. Financial – receipts & disbursements
- 3.2. Outcomes Document - March
- 3.3. Staff Reports
- 3.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

**M/S:** Hoppe/Anderson Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as with Hoppe's request to correct the outcomes with the name correction he specified.

**Affirmative:** Sawatzky, Belkholm, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

#### 4. Approve Treasurer's Report

**M/S** Belkholm/Carda Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

**Affirmative:** Sawatzky, Belkholm, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

#### 5. Business

- 5.1. Staff Training Budget 2018 - \$2,750 – request permission for Pomije to approve 2018 training costs for registrations, staying within budget.

**M/S** Anderson/Hoppe Motion to approve the 2018 staff training budget not to exceed \$2,750.00.

**Affirmative:** Sawatzky, Belkholm, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

- 5.2. Capacity 2016 Grant – fully spent \$115,337, audit by BWSR April 16<sup>th</sup>

- 5.3. Seasonal Conservation Assistant Re-Posting – update

Pomije explained that position opening closed on April 2<sup>nd</sup> with only 1 applicant. Pomije interviewed the applicant but would like to re-open the position until it is filled, to allow for more applicants.

**M/S: Anderson/Carda** Motion to re-post the position until it is filled.

**Affirmative:** Sawatzky, Belkholm, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

5.4. AIS Reimbursement for education materials (total \$402.33)

5.4.1. Prize wheel display – Fair \$177.33

5.4.2. 300 can cozies - \$225

**M/S** Carda/Belkholm Motion to approve expense of AIS education materials in the amount of \$402.33.

**Affirmative:** Sawatzky, Belkholm, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

5.5. Biennial Budget Request (BBR) review

Pomije handed out a draft of the Kanabec SWCD Biennial Budget Review that will be submitted to BWSR. It is not a grant application. The current BBR is for the 2020-21 period. The primary purpose of the BBR is to generate information in a common format necessary to support the State-Local partnership by ensuring that local water management implementation priorities are used in the development of the State budget. By demonstrating that our local government partners are prepared and capable of identifying, developing and implementing prioritized, targeted and measurable water quality projects and activities identified through the BBR. Through the BBR report State decision makers have increased confidence that State funds appropriated for water management projects and activities will achieve their purpose to protect and improve Minnesota's waters. Discussion from the board included review of the topics detailed on the BBR. The BBR is due on April 13, 2018. Pomije specifically asked the board their preference on funding waste closure, as this is an item to be included in the BBR.

**M/S** Belkholm/Carda Motion to continued funding the closure of waste storage units at 50% funding, as detailed in the BBR.

**Affirmative:** Sawatzky, Belkholm, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

5.6. Audit 2017 – Peterson bid \$2,250 (previously \$1,925)

**M/S** Carda/Anderson Motion to approve continued contracting with Peterson to conduct the audit for 2017.

**Affirmative:** Sawatzky, Belkholm, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

6. Forester Position - long term funding options – update

Pomije updated the board. New since last month, the St Croix River Assn. Fish and Wildlife Service grant amount available is now only \$10,000. This is to go toward forestry capacity within the Kettle and Snake Watersheds. Pomije would like to hold off on hiring for now and use private foresters as needed on a contract basis to spend down the current \$20,000 available under contract with the Nature Conservancy.

## 7. Project Updates:

- Mike Boster / Brian Graber – Contract - waste closure with CWP 50% funding (\$24,555.21) pending sale, includes recording fee, in planning stage yet.

Pomije reviewed the Boster/Grabber contract. Pomije has been seeking legal advice to assure that the contract is written properly. A clause has been suggested in the contract to clarify no liability to Boster (seller) after the sale and full completion and payment of the waste closure project.

- Fischer, Tim – new application for waste closure using CWP 50% funding (\$7,985.17)

Kelzenberg described Tim Fischer's request to close the above ground waste storage pit and provided a written copy of the application. The pit hasn't been used since January, 2018.

M/S Hoppe/Belkholm Motion to approve funding of \$7,985.17 for the Fischer project. Funds will come from the CWP grant.

**Affirmative:** Sawatzky, Belkholm, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

## 7. General Discussion / Public Input

District Land – Belkholm asked for clarification on who will be producing on which fields. Pomije has been trying to contact both of the parties who have previously expressed an interest.

Café Chat - Kelzenberg summarized the event stating that 14-15 producers came from mainly Carlton and Pine Counties with only a few coming from the local area.

## 8. Set Next Meeting Dates / Committee Reports

- 8.1 Forestry Association Report – next meeting May 17 in McGregor –

Hoppe reported previous meeting featured agroforestry. He will be attending the 5/17 meeting.

- 8.2 COLA – AIS Meeting 4/12, 5pm in Courthouse (Kelzenberg / McNally will attend)

- 8.3 Snake River Watershed Board 3/26 report – next meeting 4/23

Hoppe reported that on the 3/26 meeting Jason Weinerman reviewed the purpose and focus of the Snake River Watershed Management Board. This was an important review as we are anticipating starting the 'One Watershed One Plan' planning process.

- 8.4 Technical Service Area (TSA) Area 3 Meeting 3/28 report – next meeting 6/27, Duluth

Pomije summarized highlights of the 3/26 meeting. Hoppe questioned the role that TSA has in granting job approval. Pomije explained that job approval authority will remain with NRCS as specified by the state training committee. Standards for training and skills for job authority will be set by the NRCS. In the NE Area we do have some unique conservation practices such as shoreland restoration or rain gardens without clearly defined NRCS standards for acquiring job approval. We are hoping the state training committee continues to discuss and address these concerns.

- 8.5 Regular SWCD Board Meeting: Tues. May 8, 4:00 PM

- 8.5 Area 3 Meeting – save the date, Wed. June 6, Carlton Transportation Bld. (Resolution Meeting) All supervisors are encouraged to attend.

- 8.6 Cattlemen's Meeting - April 19<sup>th</sup> – Courthouse 6:30 PM Kelzenberg was not able to attend.

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

Anderson thought there was good discussion. Pomije appreciated the comments on the BBR report. Hoppe said that he appreciates being able to discuss topics for better understanding. All board members thought the meeting length was acceptable and all topics were discussed. McNally expressed some recommendations to improve our meeting structure.

**10. Adjourn**

M/S Belholm/Carda To adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM.

**Affirmative:** Sawatzky, Belholm, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Civic Governance** is a new approach to organizing to facilitate change for the common good, creating effective and stable organizations.

The **purpose** of Civic Organizing is to organize people to the obligation of being an active citizen; providing the opportunity for them to impact decision making in their role and in day to day work; learning what is good and growing in that knowledge.

- To broaden governing responsibility to include those impacted but not replacing existing governing responsibilities of board members and supervisors. We need to work together; no one group can alone solve our environmental concerns.
- Organizing comes with the obligation of active citizenship.
- Active citizenship is developed in the way institutions and projects are governed in the process of carrying out their mission/purpose/ achieving goals.

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_