



Kanabec Soil & Water Conservation District

2008 Mahogany Street, Suite 3
Mora, MN 55051
(320) 679-3982

OUTCOME DOCUMENTS – May 8, 2018 - REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

STAFF: Deanna Pomije, Jacquelynn Kelzenberg, Anne LeRoy

OTHERS: – Dennis McNally – Kanabec County Commissioner

1. Call to Order - Approval of Agenda - Chair Sawatzky called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

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

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

2. NRCS Report

The NRCS report was given in writing. The MN Reorganizational report was announced May 11. Rasinski thanked Hoppe for chairing the recent local work group meeting. Planning and ranking continues for Regional Conservation Planning Partnership Program applications: 4 forest health enhancements & 1 Ag Water Quality Certification Program project.

3. Consent Agenda (no discussion unless Supervisor requests)

- Pomije explained 12 bundles/300 trees from the tree sale were donated to the DNR's Arbor Day event with children.

3.1. Financial – receipts & disbursements

3.2. Outcomes Document - April

3.3. Staff Reports

3.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

M/S: Anderson/Carda Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, financial receipts & disbursements, and staff reports.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

4. Approve Treasurer's Report

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

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Belkholm, Anderson, Hoppe

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

5. Business

5.1. 4:25-4:35 Capacity 2016 Grant – audit results by BWSR from April 16

Pomije reviewed the BWSR reconciliation of the Capacity 2016 funds. Pomije handed out a comparison year to year that shows the fund balances. Balances are trending upwards since 2015. It was recommended to have 6 months of funding in reserves to be more fiscally stable.

Recommendations were given for improvements on time tracking to become more grant specific in our activities. These improvements have been implemented. Recommendations to adjust our billable rates were also recommended. Belkholm questioned the pension liabilities figures. Pomije will research pension liabilities to report at our June meeting.

5.2. *Billable Rate Adjustment as per BWSR, effective Jan. 28, 2018

Pomije is working with BWSR to calculate the new billable rate due to reassignment as a recommendation from the BWSR 2016 Capacity audit. Invoicing to BWSR will be adjusted back to January 28, 2018. M/S tabled until next meeting.

5.3. *Seasonal Conservation Assistant – hiring approval

M/S: Anderson/Belkholm Motion to approve hiring of Kyle Frederickson for the position of Seasonal Conservation Assistant. Pay rate will be \$12 per hour, 40 hours per week, no benefits.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Anderson, Belkholm, Hoppe

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

5.4. *AIS Expenses for education & sampling materials (total \$2,906.95 + shipping)

5.4.1. Veliger sampling net (zebra mussel larvae) – \$167.48 + shipping

5.4.2. 300 Coasters (can choose design) - \$105 + shipping

5.4.3. 1800 Placemats -1 box \$250

5.4.4. SWCD staff time invoice Qtr. 1 - \$2,384.47

M/S: Carda/Hoppe Motion to approve the AIS expenses and billing as presented.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Anderson, Belkholm, Hoppe

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

5.5 *AgBMP Septic Loan request – Blake Johnson, Comfort twp. combined house & building septic,

bid \$40,720 - Decision was tabled until next month pending more recent bids and clarification of location and purpose.

5.1. Tree Sale Update, tree distribution, Fri. 5/4, 2-7 pm (more detailed report coming in June)

Only 8 buyers didn't pick up during the tree sale. 12 bundles/300 trees were donated to Tony Miller for distribution to youth for an Arbor Day Event.

5.2. Boy Scout, Logan LaBeau – proposal to improve 3 SWCD county entry signs (north, east & west)

The staff and board introduced themselves to Logan and Randy LaBeau. Logan presented details for refurbishing 3 existing Kanabec SWCD Signs. Funding may be available from different sources. Belkholm suggested purchasing new signs with a current logo. May need to simplify the current logo to be visible at highway speeds. Logan briefly reviewed costs for the project with different options. The cost of the new signs still needs to be quoted, SWCD will seek bids. Commissioner McNally suggested seeking funding from the Pokegama Lake Association. The next Pokegama Lake Meeting is May 19th at 9am. Hoppe and Belkholm think the project is a good idea. Possible sign vendors: Kevin Troop – Color by Craig sign company by Pine City – Jacque has a contact for the AIS signs, Anne has a contact east of Cambridge. Anderson voiced a preference for rock over mulch below the signs so maintenance is minimal. Denny McNally will see Kevin Troop's wife on Monday and will inquire his contact information. Braham Moose and Grasston Lions, and Ogilvie Lions may also be

sources for funding. Logan will secure the landscaping materials. Materials may be sought in donations from local businesses, such as Oslin Lumber.

M/S: Hoppe/ Carda Motion to support Logan LeBeau’s Eagle Project to replace 3 SWCD signs and possibly add a new sign on Highway 65 south of Mora – location to be determined. No funding sources determined yet.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Anderson, Belkholm, Hoppe

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6 5:10-5:35 **Project Updates:**

- *Mike Boster (seller) / Brian Graber (buyer)– Contract - waste closure with CWP 50% funding (\$24,555.21) pending sale, includes recording fee

M/S: Belkholm/Anderson Motion to approve the Bolster/Graber contract funding of the waste pit closure using CWP funds in the amount of \$24,555.21 with clause as recommended by Kanabec County attorney that will absolve the seller of maintenance liability.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

- *Wilcocks, Heidi & Jeff – new application lakeshore restoration on Fish Lake funding through CWP 50% (\$2,175) and CWF Ann River 25% (\$1,087.50) (\$4,350 total cost estimate), planting for 2,130 square feet - 25’ back from the lakeshore

M/S: Belkholm/Carda Motion to approve the contract for the shoreland restoration project on the Heidi & Jeff Wilcocks property on Fish Lake using 50% funding from CWP (\$2,175) and 25% (1,087.50) from CWF Ann River. Heidi & Jeff Wilcox will fund the balance. Installation will be done by Heidi and Jeff Wilcocks / and volunteers recruited by the Wilcocks’.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6. 5:35-5:45 **General Discussion / Public Input**

Hoppe requested to establish parameters on spending guidelines on projects. To be continued in discussion. Often there is a distinction between restoration practices, meant to clean up an existing pollution concern and protections practices, meant to protect from pollution an already clean water resource. Restoration and protection practice projects often cannot be compared to one another for their pollution reduction numbers. Pomije explained that often grants will specify certain practices for implementation and certain focus area locations in the county to focus our efforts with a water quality goal in mind.

Hoppe requested to be added to the East Central Landscaping Committee (organized by Lindberg Ekola) meetings list of attendees. He would like to attend the quarterly meetings. Kelzenberg would also like to attend the East Central Landscaping Committee meetings, as needed to ensure representation. Pomije will request that Hoppe and Kelzenberg be added to the list of invitees.

M/S: Belkholm/Anderson Motion to appoint Hoppe as the SWCD board member as the official representative to the East Central Landscaping Committee.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

Hoppe discussed private forest land management. He would like to support the Aitkin County Resolution at the June 6th Area 3 meeting in Carlton. Hoppe would like to attend.

M/S Hoppe/Anderson Motion to pay the registration for supervisors who would like to attend the Area 3 Meeting.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe, Belkholm
Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

Belkholm questioned the status of the rental of the District land. Pomije will reach out to the potential operators. Belkholm asked if we would offer rent free options with the producers if Kernza grain was grown.

Hoppe asked for clarification of the goals for the Water Plan meeting on May 23rd. Pomije mentioned the goal would be to review additions made to the plan with the hope to finalize the plan shortly. BWSR comments to the Water Plan Inventory are currently being addressed.

8. 5:45-6:00 Set Next Meeting Dates / Committee Reports

8.1 Forestry Association Report – next meeting May 17 in McGregor (Hoppe, and Carda will attend.)

8.2 COLA – AIS next Meeting 6/14, 5pm in Courthouse (Kelzenberg)

8.3 Snake River Watershed Board 4/23 report – next meeting 6/25, skipped May’s meeting

8.4 TSA Area 3 Meeting - next meeting 6/27, Duluth

8.5 Regular SWCD Board Meeting: Tues. June 12, 4:00 PM

8.6 Area 3 Meeting – save the date, Wed. June 6, Carlton Transportation Bld.

8.7 *Conservation Boot Camp– Sept. 11-27, funding sought through NACD, Kelzenberg
M/S Hoppe/Carda Motion if Kelzenberg is selected for this training to approve funding for expenses and training time. Pomije will supply a letter of recommendation to support Kelzenberg’s application to this national training.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe, Belkholm
Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

9. 6:00-6:10 Evaluate the Meeting – What worked? What needs further discussion?

There were no evaluation comments.

Carda gave an update on the Knife Lake Improvement District’s (KLID) attempt to work with the land owner near the outlet of Knife River into Knife Lake. There is an undercutting bank of concern near a backwater pond in danger of breaching. The KLID financial offer to the land owner was declined. Without a willing land owner to do the practice; this project is in a holding pattern.

10. Adjourn

M/S: Anderson/Carda To adjourn the meeting at 6:13 PM.
Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Anderson, Hoppe, Belkholm
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:** _____