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Outcomes Documents - Regular Board Meeting

Location: Kanabec SWCD Conference Room, Tuesday February 11th, 2020 3:00 pm

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

STAFF: Deanna Pomije, Nick Smetana, Shannon Rasinski, Kay Smith, Absent: Jerah Mattson

OTHERS: Dennis McNally

1. 2:30 Closed Session – Pomije, Performance Review Clarification
2. 3:00 Call to Order - ***Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Carda, second by Hoppe to approve the agenda with two additions. An item to discuss the District Land and another an update on the Rum 1W1P.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Hoppe, Belkholm, Anderson

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

3. NRCS Report – Verbal Report (Rasinski) – Staff currently working on 13 EQIP applications in Kanabec Co. with a variety of practices; Rotational Grazing, Access Control, Tree & Shrub Establishment, Pest Management, Conservation Cover, Cover Crops, and Seasonal High Tunnels. Staff recently completed Conservation Desktop training, an EQIP 2020 training webinar, and on the 20th will receive training on the Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CART). The NRCS all employee meeting is the week of February 24th. The tentative furniture moving date for NRCS is scheduled for the week of February 24th as well. The new desks are due to arrive 3/2.
4. 3:20 ***Consent Agenda** (no discussion unless Supervisor requests)
 - 4.1. Financial – receipts & disbursements, balance sheet, profit & loss report
Anderson asked about check #s 65-67. Pomije thought they were voided checks. She plans to follow up with Anderson on these details. Anderson also asked for more details on the Receipts Register, most listed were tree sale receipts. Will have Mattson present a more detailed version of our monthly receipts.
 - 4.2. Outcomes Document – Jan. 14, 2019
 - 4.3. Staff Reports
 - 4.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

The following were pulled out from the consent agenda for further discussion:

Ann River Grant – McVay's – Arthur Twp., Section 7; Last week spoke with Jacob Stegner (McVay Mgr.) regarding an interest in rotational grazing, components of grazing such as interior fencing and watering facilities. May seek these grazing practices through NRCS – EQIP; more extensive planning needed. From our current Ann River grant; seeking TSA to assist on plans to address erosion control on the two sites. Continuing to discuss these options with Jacob.

*Approval of a letter from our board to NRCS requesting a site visit from a Grazing Specialist to the McVay Farm. The visit is scheduled for planning around an interest in rotational grazing and needed grazing components. The board approved the signing of this letter to NRCS.

Hoppe wanted to hear a status update on the planning activity with McVay's and Jacob Stegner (Land Manager). Smetana mentioned Stegner was interested in a watering facility in their NW pasture and was hoping to implement rotational grazing on that pasture and several others in 2020. He's asked for consultation with an NRCS rotational grazing specialist to start this planning. The board discussion included details of a watering facility including power, pipeline costs, watering tank size and heavy use protection area. Smetana and Stegner both agreed a June 30th deadline for this project was not feasible. Stegner had mentioned interest in two erosion sites; gully and cattle crossing along the Ann River. Smetana explained that this will now be the focus of the Ann River Nutrient Reduction Grant. Smetana and TSA have a date set in late February to visit both sites with Stegner.

- Barton Heitke – Knife Lake Twp., Section 11, S ½ of the NE ¼; Continuing to work with Mary (TSA) & Donna (NRCS) on Barton's pit closure plan. Completed his ranking sheet for funding through the SRWMB and plan to present the project at the February meeting. Also seeking additional funding options in consultation with Barton. Estimated Phosphorus Reduction = 6,025 #/year

Smetana presented Heitke's Manure Pit Closure as a project for the Snake River Watershed Management Board (SRWMB) which will be proposed for funding & voted on at the February SRWMB meeting.

Peter Ripka – 1/30 – South Fork Twp, Section 21, NW ¼ of NW ¼; Ryan Clark (Area Certification Specialist) met with Peter to discuss his operation to certify him through MDA's Water Quality Certification Program. He sold his heifers and is currently transitioning to beef cattle (~20 cow/calf pairs). He currently has ~150 tillable/pasture/hay acres, the tillable acres (67 ac) are in a corn/soybean/alfalfa rotation. After running his operation through the assessment tool, we will need to implement a couple practices in order to certify his place – a 30 ft filter strip on a private ditch, and a cover crop mixture following corn in his rotation.

Hoppe asked for an update on current projects with Peter Ripka. Smetana mentioned he was working with Ryan Clark (MAWQCP Certification Specialist) on getting Ripka certified through MDA's Water Quality Certification Program through implementing a buffer and cover crops on 3 fields in his operation.

Motion by Anderson, second by Carda to approve the Consent Agenda.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Hoppe, Belkholm, Anderson

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

5. *Approve Treasurer's Report

Motion by Belkholm, second by Anderson to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Hoppe, Belkholm, Anderson

Opposed: None **Abstain:** No

6. 3:40 Business

- 6.1. Snake 1W1P Update – Pomije provided an update summary. The steering cmte. of staff have been meeting monthly discussing the pre-planning documents, planning grant budget and policy cmte. by-laws. We have started discussing the Consultant Request for Proposal (RFP).

Our 1st Policy Cmte. meeting held 1/27 was quite successful. The cmte. approved all the pre-planning documents, (budget, timeline, workplan) which will now be presented to BWSR for their approval – prior to obligating the planning grant. Jason W. (BWSR) gave a 1W1P orientation presentation.

6.5. *Rosnow Contract approval, includes Kanabec SWCD

Motion made by Carda, second by Belkholm to approve the Kanabec SWCD signature on the presented Rosnow access agreement

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Hoppe, Belkholm, Anderson

Opposed: None **Abstain:** No

The board requested a similar access agreement between Kanabec SWCD and Gene Carda for access through Carda's property for the Rosnow project.

6.6. Grants Summary – Pomije presented a status of our existing grants; including current balance, expiration dates and a separate sum of our BMP project funds. Belkholm asked about unfunded projects – none currently. Project under development. Heike's manure pit closure was discussed, seeking SRWMB funds. We have \$17,870 is state cost share that will expire 12/31/20 and the Ann River N Reduction Grant with ~\$39,000 with a new expiration date of 12/1/20.

6.7. *Billable Rate Correction per BWSR, effective 12/29/19

DM: \$58.46 (\$53.18, previous)

DT: \$51.89 (\$46.65)

AA: \$47.33 (\$42.09)

Request to correct our billable rate from 4/2019 to present as per BWSR – to report details in March.

Motion made by Anderson, second by Belkholm to make the billable rate correction retroactive from December 29, 2019 – present.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Hoppe, Belkholm, Anderson

Opposed: None **Abstain:** No

6.8. *2 New Computers (laptops) Needs (Pomije, Smetana), proposal ~\$5,800 total (Detailed cost breakdown with options provided.)

Pomije's and Smetana's computers were purchased in 2015 and they are due for an upgrade. Pomije mentioned she has been experiencing slowdowns and troubles with her current computer. She has been in discussion with the USDA and the County IT Specialists. They provided her with recommendations on machines, software, and memory for our respective workload necessities. Pomije provided a detailed cost breakdown for both machines based on those recommendations. She proposes to remove herself from the USDA network, which would save \$4,000 in the Operational Agreement with NRCS. Smetana will continue to stay on the USDA network, as it provides valuable resources (ArcGIS mapping) to clients requesting technical assistance. Belkholm expressed concerns over the high cost, the need for memory, and extended warranties. Sawatzky and Smith mentioned that the cost seemed appropriate.

Carda mentioned the cost seemed appropriate but questioned the need for extended warranties. Carda said it's vital for staff to have fast running computers. Belkholm wants staff to investigate the need for additional memory as outlined in the cost breakdown.

Motion by Carda, second by Belkholm to approve the purchase of two new laptop computers for Pomije and Smetana, up to a total of \$5,300. The added cost of extended warranties was omitted from the original request.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Hoppe, Belkholm, Anderson

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

- 6.9. *2020 Budget, final approval – Pomije summarized the final District budget for the board. Two items for correction were mentioned; Supervisor per diem/mileage to be adjusted to \$9,800 and the computer expense for \$5,300 as approved above.

Motion by Belkholm, Second by Anderson to approve the 2020 budget with corrections as noted above.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Hoppe, Belkholm, Anderson

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

- 6.10. BWSR grant agreements – Pomije signed

6.10.1. FY 2019 Conservation Delivery, fully spent in 2019, \$18,710

6.10.2. FY 2018 Buffer Cost Share, expired 12/31/19, returned remaining funds, \$1,334

- 6.11. **District Land** – Kernza Planting 2020

Belkholm mentioned he has been in contact with Constance Carlson with U of MN Extension for Kernza seed availability. U of M has around 1000-1500 acres of seed available for 2020 and Belkholm is on their waiting list for 17 acres of seed for the SWCD Land. Planting techniques were discussed including planting oats for hay prior to implementation, as a late August-early Sept seeding is recommended. Belkholm had the District Land's soil tested with the results indicating the need for liming. Belkholm is planning a lime/ash application.

Motion by Hoppe, second by Carda to allow a demonstration Kernza perennial grain planting in 2020 with Kevin Belkholm as the operator on the 16.2 acres of cropland on the District Land. The Soil and Water Conservation District will allow this planting on the District Land and cover the expense of the property taxes. Belkholm will be the listed operator, managing the Kernza crop and be responsible for expenses and eligible for income from the crop.

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Hoppe, Anderson

Opposed: None **Abstain:** Belkholm

7. 4:25 Supervisor Check-In (Supervisors weigh in on topic)

Topic:

8. 4:40 **Project Updates:**

The consent agenda includes details on project developments.

9. 4:50 General Discussion / Public Input

10. 5:00 Set Next Meeting Dates / Committee Reports – next meeting dates

- 1/23 Rum 1W1P Policy Cmte. Meeting (Belkholm) – Belkholm provided a brief update on his attendance at the last policy cmte. meeting for the Rum. He mentioned 2 competing agenda items; the proposed projects for structures to allow fish movement around dams (Anoka dam) and the invasion of Asian Carp. McNally also expressed concerns over liability in the planning process versus the expected funds received.
- 2/21 – East Central Landscape Cmte. Meeting (Hoppe)
- 2/24 - Snake River Watershed Board, 9am (Hoppe, Pomije, Smetana)
- 2/24 - Snake 1W1P Policy Cmte. 2nd Meeting (Hoppe, Pomije, Mattson)
- 3/10 - Tues. Conservation Office, **Regular SWCD Board Meeting**, 3 PM (all)
- 3/12 - COLA-AIS Meeting, 5 pm, courthouse basement (Sawatzky)
- 3/19 – Forestry Assoc. Meeting, McGregor 9:30 am (Hoppe, Carda)
- *3/27 – St. Croix Forestry Conference, Audubon Ctr. \$35 registration, no action taken
Both Hoppe and Carda are interested in attending.
- April – TSA Area 3 Meeting, 10 am, Duluth (Anderson)

11. 5:10 Evaluate the Meeting – What worked? What needs further discussion?

Agenda items for next month?

12. 5:20 Adjourn Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Anderson, second by Carda to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 pm

Affirmative: Sawatzky, Carda, Hoppe, Belkholm, Anderson

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

***Seeking Board Decisions**