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Outcomes Documents – Regular Board Meeting

Location: Remote Webex Meeting, Tuesday March 9, 2021 2:00 pm

SUPERVISORS: Jon Sanford, Norma Heggernes, Kevin Belkholm, Kim Johnson

STAFF: Deanna Pomije, Jerah Mattson, Josh Votruba, Betty Sorensen, Mary Krueger

Others: Dennis McNally, Eric Schneider, Russell Kurhajetz

Absent: Gene Carda

1. 2:05 Roll Call – *Approval of Agenda

Motion by Sanford, second by Belkholm to approve the Agenda as presented with 3 additional items. 1- Russell Kurhajetz will take the normal agenda spot of our NRCS report (Hermel absent), 2-Walk In Access “WIA” program discussion for item 6.0 under business, 3-Reimbursement for AIS expenses discussed for item 6.2 under business

Affirmative: Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

2. Farm Service Agency Loans. Betty Sorensen gave an update of available funding through the Farm Service Agency. She provided handouts of some of the loan options. It was asked if we could advertise these loan options in our annual newsletter. Yes, this could be added yet.

3. NRCS Report (Debra Hermel)-Hermel absent, written report provided.

Russell Kurhajetz (TSA Area 3 Director) introduced himself and spoke on some Area 3 updates and on the upcoming Legislative Day at the Capital, Mar. 18. Normally there are 2 Area 3 meetings per year; June is our resolution meeting and Sept. is our annual meeting (rotated host). He encouraged outreach to our legislators this month. Pomije will send Russell’s contact information to the board.

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

3.1. Financial – receipts & disbursements, balance sheet, profit & loss reports

3.2. Outcomes Document:

- Kanabec SWCD Board –February 9, 2021

3.3. Staff Reports

3.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

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

Affirmative: Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

5. *Approve Treasurer’s Report

Motion by Belkholm, second by Sanford to approve Treasurer’s Report as presented

Affirmative: Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6. Business

6.1. *Johnson’s approval to access on-line banking as Treasurer

Motion by Belkholm, second by Sanford to allow Johnson as Treasurer access to our 2 bank’s on-line banking

Affirmative: Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.2. Update on hiring 2 summer boat inspectors - Both part time positions have been filled. Kyle Miller and Renell Pagel have accepted the positions and are anticipated to start Memorial Weekend.

*AIS Reimbursement of \$75 for AIS training by volunteer Paul Weingart

Motion by Sanford, second by Johnson to allow \$75 to be reimbursed for AIS training

Affirmative: Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.2. Snake 1W1P Update. Pomije presented an update for the Snake 1W1P. The Advisory Cmte. (TAC) continues to meet monthly – setting up measurable goals for each of the issue statements. At our next TAC meeting 3/11 we’ll be discussing goals for social capacity, climate change and drinking water issues. There’s a planned agency meeting 4/15 to delve deeper into the water quantity issue and see what science is there to support solutions for this concern. Our next April SWCD Board Meeting I plan to have Jason W., BWSR here to aid in our 1st discussion on the organizational options for the Snake Watershed. There will be no March Policy Committee Meeting. The next PC meeting is set for April 26.

6.3. *Grant Clout Out – Conservation Delivery FY20 – to sign final financial report,

Motion by Sanford, second by Belkholm to authorize Pomije to sign off on the grant’s final financial report; to close out the Conservation Delivery FY20 grant.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.4. AgBMP recent loan approval for septics: (Mattson)

Mattson provided an update to the board on these recent approvals, both Bong and Nielson’s applications have been forwarded to bank lenders.

(AgBMP is a revolving loan program, funded through the MDA)

- Veronica Bong, \$16,500 Kanabec Arthur sec. 13
- Erik Nielson, \$15,500 Kanabec Whited sec. 31
- ~~Sharon Haggemiller~~ ~~\$17,500~~ ~~Kanabec Brunswick sec. 15~~ – opted out

6.5. *2021 Newsletter cost proposal for approval \$3,000, 2020 mailed to 6,417 Kanabec households.

Total 2020 - \$2,711. ~65% (\$1,762) SWCD cost - 2020

- Printing (\$1,485 – 2020)
- Postage (\$1,226 – 2020) (printing the tree order cost \$340 in 2020)

Motion by Sanford, second by Belkholm to authorize up to \$3000 for 2021 Newsletter printing/ mailing

Affirmative: Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.6. *Neighborhood Bank pledging collateral proposal to counter the FDIC limit.

Johnson and Pomije reviewed some of the details learned in researching the bank’s pledging collateral option. There is no cost to us, and we could access our funds at any time. The bank would invest our funds over the \$250,000 FDIC limit and retain any income. They would cover our assets by 110%. This would involve a 3-party agreement between us, Neighborhood Bank and US Bank, the investment company.

Motion by Johnson, second by Belkholm to approve Neighborhood Bank pledging collateral proposal to counter the FDIC limit, pending a favorable review of the agreement from the County Attorney.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.7. Draft Strategic Plan 2021-2025. Pomije reviewed the following 5-year goal and action steps for the primary work priorities:

- Protect Public Lands & Waters
- Provide Education & Outreach
- Improve Resiliency Against Floods / Severe Weather – Climate Change

Pomije reviewed the above three with the board and staff detailing 5-year goals and action steps. It was suggested to change Protect Public Lands & Waters to Protect Lands & Waters. Ideas provided on the Education & Outreach goal include educational videos for school kids. Engage teacher/class to help with videos, hold a conservation contest offering a prize of \$200 for best video. Johnson posed a question on our conflicting state mandates, preserving our tax base and protecting public lands. Pomije said she would ask Jason our BWSR Board Conservationist his input on this concern.

6.8. *Proposal to offer Jerah’s administrative assistance (paid time) to Mille Lacs SWCD in 2021 during their Adm. Position shortfall transition.

Motion by Belkholm, second by Johnson to approve Jerah’s administrative assistance to Mille Lacs SWCD in 2021 during their Adm. Position shortfall with Deanna monitoring her time.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.9. Local Work Group Chair, NRCS’ annual local input meeting, Supervisor volunteer. Pomije explained the importance of these annual local work group meetings. Heggernes volunteered to Chair this meeting with Sanford as the alternate. Supervisor remote training on this is set for 3/31.

6.10. Outreach Ideas / Plans for 2021

Pomije reviewed the list of proposed outreach activities that the staff drafted for 2021. Sanford suggested for AIS education to attend the Mora canoe race. Other suggestions included education with schools, develop videos and work with boy scout eagle projects.

6.11. *Walk In Access (WIA) program. Votruba reviewed with everyone the details on this program. The DNR will pay landowners \$18 per acres to allow public hunting on their land, with a 40-acre minimum. It was brought up that this program doesn’t directly meet our mission; however, the landowner contact could lead to other conservation discussion. It was suggested to collect data from these conversations to promote our other activities. Requesting Pomije authorization to sign the contract with the DNR.

Motion by Johnson, second by Belkholm to authorize Pomije to sign the WIA contract with DNR

Affirmative: Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

7. **Board Discussion:** District Land Update.

The District has 17 acres of tillable land in 3 fields. More details on our 120 acres conservation land were included in the board packet, including the original deed, listing our restrictive covenants. Last year Belkholm planted cereal rye as he was unable to obtain Kernza seed. Belkholm is reaching out to suppliers of Kernza in hopes of planting it this year, 2021. There is a 20-acre minimum for obtaining the seed. Belkholm suggested he could find 20 total acres to plant. Kernza is a newly developed perennial wheatgrass with low gluten. The Kernza producers are still growing more seed for experimental use. It does not require tillage to reseed annually. If unsuccessful in locating seed; he’ll plan to re-seed with rye again. Last year our board decided to

cover the taxes (~\$228) on this cropland while the land is being planted to Kernza or used for other conservation educational purposes. We are normally tax exempt except for the cropland. Belkholm still has a need for forage with some young stock he's maintained after selling off his dairy herd. He does not have a grain swather and may plan to harvest the Kernza as forage.

8. Project Updates, in consent agenda – any questions

9. General Discussion / Public Input

Eric Schneider asked to discuss the Ann Lake treatment further. Pomije gave an update in that we are planning for 2 stakeholder meetings through this summer with the intend to decide on which lake treatment option to pursue to address the high phosphorus content in the lakes' bottom sediment. Schneider suggested seeking out funds (ex: from townships) first before deciding on a treatment. It was suggested that Josh bring this topic up at the next COLA meeting.

10. Set Next Meeting Dates / Committee Reports – assume all remote meetings – next meeting dates

- TBD, as needed, 4th Mon. – Snake River Watershed Management Board (SRWMB-CAC), 9am (Belkholm, Pomije)
- 3/11/21 – Snake 1W1P Technical Advisory Cmte., (TAC) 1:30-4:30 (Pomije, Mattson, Supervisor – optional liaison from PC)
- 3/11/21 – COLA-AIS Remote Meeting, 5 pm, in person meeting Kanabec SWCD office (Sanford, Votruba)
- *3/18/21 – Remote Day at the Capital, MASWCD briefing 10-12 pm, (Belkholm, Pomije) Follow up remote meeting with our 4 legislatures. (Belkholm) This event was discussed briefly. The MASWCD briefing is in preparation for us setting up individual remote meetings with our legislators. Belkholm volunteered to set up some appointments with our legislators. Pomije will be putting together a Kanabec SWCD handout to use with our legislators. Belkholm suggested a video of a completed project for use with our legislators, but there would not be enough time to develop this prior to scheduling these meetings.
- 3/18/21 – Forestry Assoc. Remote Meeting, 10-12 pm (Carda)
- 3/25/21 – Rum Policy Cmte. Meeting 5-7 pm (Johnson)
- *4/20/21 – Tues. **Regular SWCD Board Meeting**, Kanabec SWCD office **2pm** (all staff) Proposal to change date to 3rd week, Tues. 3pm or Wed. afternoon or Th. afternoon
Motion by Johnson, second by Sanford to change meeting date and time to the 3rd Tuesday of each month beginning at 2pm
Affirmative: Belkholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford
Opposed: None **Abstain:** None
- 4/26/21 – Snake 1W1P Policy Cmte. Meeting, 10:30 am (Belkholm, Pomije, Mattson)
- 4/28/21? – Area 2 Technical Service Area Quarterly Meeting, 10 am (Johnson)

*Seeking Supervisor report at Meeting

Pomije reminded the Supervisors to submit their quarterly per diem forms by April 1st. These checks are cut together as a group.

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

Agenda items for next month – Jason Weinerman, BWSR to be on the call with us to start the discussion on the implementation organizational options for the Snake 1WIP.

11. 4:42 pm Adjourn Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Sanford, second by Belholm to adjourn meeting at 4:42 pm

Affirmative: Belholm, Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

***Seeking Board Decisions**