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Outcomes Documents – Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday March 20, 2024, 2:00 pm

Location: SWCD Conservation Office 2008 Mahogany St., Ste #3 Mora MN 55051

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

STAFF: Deanna Pomije, Jerah Mattson, Emily Larsen, Josh Tank, Shannon Bodle, Mary Krueger

***Remote Attendees** **Others:** Peter Ripka **Absent:**

1. 2:03 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

2. *Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Sanford, second by Belkholm to approve the agenda as presented with the following additional addition/updates: 6.5 Conservation Corp. contract approval added to end of business section. 6.6 Update on Kettle Watershed Plan & 8.0 Tree Planter Update

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Heggernes, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

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

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

4.2. Outcomes Document:

- Kanabec SWCD Board Mtg. – February 21, 2023

4.3. Staff Reports

4.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

4.5. AIS funding requests

Pomije reviewed the 4 Snake Watershed Statement of Work contracts she requested Heggernes to sign on 2/28. These were contracts previously reviewed by this board. Bodle mentioned a couple of items in the projects development update that are due for updating.

Motion by Sanford second by Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with a discussion of various items.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Belkholm, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

4. *Approve Treasurer's Report

Motion by Belkholm second by Sanford to approve the January 2024 Treasurers report presented by Johnson

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Belkholm, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

Motion by Belkholm second by Heggernes to approve the February 2024 Treasurers report presented by Johnson

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Belkholm, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

5. NRCS Report (Bodle) Zero Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications have been received. Pre-approved applications are TBD (April 12th ranking deadline), Mora staff will be assisting other counties in the team that have CSP.

26 EQIP applications have been received. 12 have been pre-approved. The funding total is TBD.

2 Resource Conservation Planning Partnership (RCPP) applications have been received with 1 pre-approved.

Hiring certificate has been sent out to the individual offered the Non-Supervisory District Conservationist spot in Cambridge.

On March 27th Milaca High School will be conducting a job fair for the 9-12th graders. NRCS will have staff present.

6. Business Section

6.1. Snake Watershed Partnership Update.

*Kanabec SWCD approval on watershed statement of work (SOW) contracts, requesting District Mgr. signing authority

Motion by Johnson, second by Sanford to authorize the Kanabec County SWCD District Manager to sign the Snake Watershed SOWs as the representative, regardless of the dollar amount

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

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

*Potential SOW for watershed-wide forest stewardship planning (seeking \$5,000 for Kanabec alone) – Are we willing to contract this for the whole watershed? Tank reviewed with the board the benefits of forest stewardship planning and the proposed Snake Watershed policy for offering funding for these plans. In return for funding offered for completed plans we are proposing two requirements from the landowners; 1) enrollment into the SFIA program for land protection and 2) the completion of one project within the first 5-years of the forestry plan. He also reviewed the proposed landowner contract for offering plan funding. These proposals are to go before the Snake Partnership board at their March meeting.

The board seemed favorable for the Kanabec SWCD to contract forest stewardship planning through Josh Tank for this work watershed-wide. No vote.

Watershed Coordinator position, interviews being scheduled. 3 candidates will be having interviews with the personnel committee tomorrow, 3/21.

*Seeking approval for the personnel committee to offer this position, pending full board approval at our April board meeting

Motion by Sanford, second by Carda to authorize the personnel committee to offer the Watershed Coordinator position, pending full board approval at our April board meeting. The position was re-evaluated at a level 12 according to the county guidelines. The pay scale offered will be a salary position ranging between \$28.76-\$35.23/hour

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

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.2 *Draft 2024 Kanabec SWCD Annual Work Plan – Pomije provided an overview of the draft 2024 SWCD Work Plan. She reviewed the 3 focus areas for the year: 1) increased effort for more direct landowner contacts 2) increased project development for the new Snake WBIF funds 3) increased staff technical development and partner development. This item is tabled until next meeting to allow more revisions on the goals to align with the Snake Watershed goals.

6.3.*AIS Expenditures

Motion by Sanford, second by Johnson to approve the AIS proposed expenditure of \$600 for educational giveaways.

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

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.4. *Seeking funding approval on our 2024 spring Newsletter, projected - \$3,000 expense

Last year 2023 expenses: Publishing \$1,250

(Printed 6,670) Mailing \$1,245

Only 38% (\$936) charged to District, grants covered most of the expense, also used Pokegama donated funds

Motion by Sanford, second by Heggernes to approve funding as reviewed above for the 2024 spring Newsletter.

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

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.5. *Conservation Corp. Contract

Motion by Johnson, second by Belkholm to approve the District Manager authorization to sign the Conservation Corp. Contract. For the 2024 summer intern position

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.6 Kettle River Watershed Update. Johnson updated with the board on the Kettle Watershed planning. This 5-member partnership will be a collaboration and not a joint powers entity. Soon to come before our board will be the joint powers agreement to form a partnership collaboration. The Kettle Partnership expect watershed funding in July, 2024. The group has also been drafting their initial watershed biennial budget.

7. **Public Input –none present**

8. **Project Updates**

Seeking Board input on Kanabec-SWCD staff servicing low-income septic installation, funding through the Snake Watershed WBIF funds.

Motion by Sanford, second by Johnson to authorize Pomije to pursue the low-income septic system program with funding from the Snake Watershed

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

A few other project in development were mentioned such as 2 potential manure pit closures, 2 streambank restoration projects,

Tree Planter Update: The previously contracted tree planter manufacturer, Detco Inc. has decided to no longer sell us a planter due to product issues. Josh is seeking other options and companies to purchase a different vendor, pending approval by the DNR and a new DNR contract. The new proposed tree planter has the ability

to be pulled behind a truck and does not require the purchase of a trailer. It was recommended to use seat covers to lengthen their life.

Motion by Sanford, second by Belkholm to authorize Tank to pursue the purchase of a different tree planter and to sign a contract to order a tree planter thru Miller in Clarkfield MN (vendor), pending that the DNR approves the funding with a renewed contract with us for the funding.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

9. Discussion Session

A board comment was made requesting signage put up on the District land. The board also commented to use selection criteria this fall for the selection of a renewed operator on the District land. Belkholm may be looking to plant sorghum in the food plot area on the District land with aid from the local Pheasants Forever chapter.

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

- 3/8/24 – Snake/Kettle RIM Easement Tech. Committee (Mattson)
- 3/13/23 – Day at the Capital (Belkholm, Sanford)
Sanford shared some of the details of their trip to the capital visiting with four of our legislators. They also met with some of the Carlton SWCD.
- 3/14/24 – COLA/AIS Meeting, 5pm (Larsen, Sanford)
- 3/14/24 – Kettle PC Meeting, 9am, Sandstone (Johnson)
- 3/15/24 – Annual Grant Reporting to Website Deadline
- 3/21/24? – Forestry Assn. Meeting, 10am, McGregor (Carda or Sanford, Tank)
- TBD – SRWMB Meeting, 9am, Courthouse (Pomije, Belkholm)
- 3/25/24 – Snake Watershed Partnership Meeting, 10am, Courthouse (Pomije, Belkholm)
- 3/26-28 – Leadership Training, St. Paul (Pomije)
- 3/27/24 – TSA Area 3 Meeting, 10am, remote (Johnson, Pomije)
- 4/8/24 – Snake Steering Meeting, as needed 9-11am (Pomije)
- 4/17/24 – **Regular SWCD Board Meeting, 2pm**
- 4/22/26 – Open House, Private Well Nitrate Testing (staff)
- 4/25/27? – Rum RRWP Meeting, 4:30pm, Milaca (Johnson)
- June 7 or 14 – proposed dates for the Area 3 Resolution Meeting, Cloquet Forestry Ctr. – any conflicts?

*Seeking Supervisor report on meeting attended

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

Agenda items for next month

12. 4:18 Adjourn Regular Meeting

Motion by Sanford second by Belkholm to adjourn Regular Board Meeting at 4:18pm

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

***Seeking Board Decisions**