



2008 Mahogany St. Ste. #3
Mora, MN 55051
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Outcomes Documents – Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday June 18, 2024, 1:00 pm

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

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

STAFF: Deanna Pomije, Jerah Mattson, Emily Larsen, Austin Lee, Shannon Bodle

*Remote Attendees

Others:

Absent:

1. 1:00 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

2. *Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Sanford, second by Johnson to approve the agenda as presented with additions made to include discussion on the district land under 9, item 6.5. discussion on the Snake River SOW revision and item 8.2 to add a low-income septic funding request.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes, Carda, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

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

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

3.2. Outcomes Document:

- Kanabec SWCD Board Mtg. – May 15, 2024

3.3. Staff Reports

3.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

3.5. AIS funding requests – additions to the consent agenda below:

*Curly leaf pondweed control for the following:

Curly leaf pondweed control:

- Fish Lake-\$5,687.71 – less acres permitted
- Quamba Lake-\$4,724.36
- Knife Lake-\$10,138.08 – increased acres sprayed

Totaling: \$20,550.15

The spraying results this year were not as good as in the past, possibly due to water temperatures.

Other AIS Expenses:

- \$150-self-service sign tools
- \$235.59-education fund, AIS giveaways for fair

Totaling: \$385.59

Motion by Sanford second by Belkholm to approve the Consent Agenda as presented

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes, Carda, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

4. *Approve Treasurer's Report

It was discussed if we want to reinvest our current CD for another short-term deposit. Pomije requested to be able to run some numbers first to make sure we can tie up the funds. Will report back in July.

Motion by Belkholm second by Carda to approve the May 2024 Treasurers report presented by Johnson

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes, Carda, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

5. NRCS Report (Bodle, Steffen's report):

- CSP-Grazing Conservation Initiative (GCI) is returning for FY2025
- EQIP-most of the applications are approved or obligated, there are a few left to be completed
- RCPP 2 applications received, 1 has been obligated and 1 has been pre-approved
- Local Work Group for this 5-county NRCS team was completed June 5th. Staff compiled their priority resource concerns for each county.
- Soil Conservationist Certification was sent out, 2 positions in Team Cambridge
- All employee NE meeting was held May 29-30
- Compliance review for HEL and wetlands are being completed.
- Soil Health Academy will be held in Crookston June 20th
- East Central Regional Landscape meeting will be held at the DNR Forestry Center in Cambridge June 27th

6. Business Section

6.1. Personnel Committee:

Watershed Coordinator position offer approval, pay rate.

District Manager position posted now through June 30. It is recommended to post on a couple more websites.

*Soil Health Conservationist – the MRA consultant has completed a position description evaluation into a pay grade. This pay scale will be ranked at a grade 12.

6.2. Fair conservation booth discussion on hand-outs, pens. Staff will look into purchasing can koozies for up to \$200.

6.3. *Kettle Watershed Plan, seeking board resolution to join the collaboration by signing the Joint Powers Agreement

Motion by Johnson, second by Sanford to authorize Heggernes as Board Chair and Pomije as District Manager to sign off on the Kettle Watershed Joint Powers Agreement.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes, Carda, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.4. 2024 Tree Sale Results

For trees not sold yet at the time of the tree pick up; it was recommended to do a point of sale discount with no advertisement for the remainder. 7,200 trees and shrubs were ordered. Out of these 6,250 were sold. The remaining trees were donated to the Mora High School. After staff time and all

expenses the net profit was (\$188.63). This is a significantly lower amount than past years due to ordering all tree stock from the DNR.

6.5. Snake revised SOW revision – project development add \$1,000 priority maps

Motion by Sanford, second by Johnson to approve the proposed SOW revision, an additional \$1,000 under the grant's project development category to update the priority maps as requested by the Steering Committee

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes, Carda, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

7. **Public Input** –none present

8. **Project Updates**

8.1. *Soil Health SCS funds, cover crop application – July planting, South Fork Twp. sec. 9, \$9,000 request on ~160 acres, \$60/acre rate (Belkholm asked a good question on whether or not we would offer incentive cover crop payment on land that is in prevent plant status, with no cash crop planted due to the wet spring. Staff will look into this question.)

Motion by Johnson, second by Carda to approve a cost-share contract for the requested client in South Fork Twp. sec. 9, with a payment request in the amount of \$9,000 at the \$60/ acre incentive flat-rate, pending confirmation they are not enrolled in EQIP, granting the DM authority to sign the contract.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes, Carda, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

8.2. *If approved by the Snake Steering Committee on 7-8 – requesting to contract the following Snake Watershed projects, with Pomije seeking contract signing authority:

- Funding of \$12,216 for the completion of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) in Brunswick sec. 20; a CNMP is a requirement to partner funding a feedlot manure runoff system

Motion by Belkholm, second by Sanford to recommend the funding of \$12,216 for a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan in Brunswick sec 20, granting the DM authority to sign the contract.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes, Carda, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

- Funding of \$2,309.50 for livestock watering system (pipeline and tanks) on cropland to pasture conversion, Brunswick sec. 14

Motion by Belkholm, second by Sanford to recommend funding in the amount of \$2,309.50 for a livestock watering system, as part of a cropland to pasture conversion in Brunswick sec. 14, granting the DM authority to sign the contract.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes, Carda, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

- Low-income septic, this will require approval by the Snake Partnership Board, as it is over \$20,000 in cost:

Motion by Johnson, second by Carda to recommend approval to fund of the pending application received for a low-income septic in a non-compliance status, in Kanabec twp. sec. 9, granting the Watershed Coordinator authority to sign any necessary paperwork, including the payment voucher upon completion.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes, Carda, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

9. Discussion Session

- o We are in rotation to host the Area 3 annual meeting in September 2025 – this is generally an Area Meeting with a tour, 1-2 days. This is a chance to highlight Kanabec County. Suggested locations were the Jail meeting room, Goose Garden in Kroschel twp., or the Ann River Winery.

The Area 3 Association is seeking a new secretary – to be voted on at the September 2024 meeting.

- o Discuss having a SWCD Supervisor attend all/most County Board Meetings (Sanford current liaison) Sanford will continue to attend the County Board Meetings on an as needed basis, representing our SWCD.
- o District Land discussion. The food plot has not been planted yet due to it being in a low spot. Belkholm as the operator requested a solution to a wet spot preventing access to the south most field. It was suggested to seek out the outlet to the USFWS created wetland and possibly direct it to the west-east culvert under the lane, to get the water to drain through the hay fields east and northeast. The approach off hwy 70 could also use more gravel. A load runs \$250-300. Someone volunteered to contact the DOT contact, Mark Renn and see if they would be able to do this.

Motion by, second by to authorize

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes, Carda, Belkholm

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

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

Seeking updates from Supervisors on Committee Meetings they attended since last month:

- 6/5/24 – Local Work Group meeting with NRCS, 1-4pm, North Branch Library, multi-county, (staff, Sanford)
- 6/7/24 – Area 3 Association Meeting, 9-2, Cloquet Forestry Center (Supervisors, Sanford)
There were two resolutions presented and voted on. Sanford questioned how the voting structure is set up for Area 3 meetings. Pomije looked it up and confirmed it to be all present supervisors have a right to 1-vote each.
- TBD - Kettle PC Meeting, 9am, Sandstone (Johnson)
- 6/24/24 – SRWMB Meeting, 9am, Courthouse (Pomije, Belkholm)
- 6/26/24 – TSA Area 3 Meeting, 10am, remote (Johnson, Larsen)

Johnson sought to step down from this committee and Heggernes volunteered to step up and cover these quarterly committee meetings, representing our SWCD.

- 6/27/24 – RRWP Meeting, 4:30pm, Milaca (Johnson)
- 7/4/24 – Independence Day Holiday
- 7/11/24 – COLA/AIS Meeting, 5pm (Larsen, Sanford)
- **7/17/24 – Regular SWCD Board Meeting, 2pm**
- ~7/18/24 – Forestry Assn. Meeting, 10am, McGregor (Carda, Sanford)

Sanford reported that the Forestry Assn. is in need of a coordinator with BWSR staff stepping down from these duties.

- 7/22/24 Snake Watershed Partnership Meeting, 9:30am, Courthouse (Pomije, Belkholm)
- 7/24/24 – 2024 Audit in-house with Peterson, 1pm (Mattson)

*Seeking Supervisor report on meeting attended

Pomije sought a finance committee date between now and the July board meeting to review a draft 2025 budget.

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

Agenda items for next month

12. 2:48 Adjourn Regular Meeting

Motion by Sanford second by Belkholm to adjourn Regular Board Meeting at 2:48pm

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

***Seeking Board Decisions**