



2008 Mahogany St. Ste. #3
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Outcomes Documents – Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday April 17, 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, Shannon Bodle

*Remote Attendees

Others:

Absent:

1. 2:07 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

2. *Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Sanford, second by to Heggernes approve the agenda as presented with an addition of a request for a letter of support for high bush cranberry research and under 6.8 add a tree sale discussion – advertisement.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Heggernes

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. – March 20, 2024

4.3. Staff Reports

4.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

4.5. AIS funding requests

Motion by Sanford second by Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with continuing to have the project updates included monthly instead of quarterly.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

4. *Approve Treasurer's Report

Motion by Carda second by Sanford to approve the March 2024 Treasurers report presented by Johnson

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

5. NRCS Report - Bodle present, report provided by Steffen

- Mora staff will be assisting the other counties in the team that have CSP. Bodle will assist the SW with workload and Paulsen will assist in Bemidji if needed.
- EQIP has had 26 applications received in Kanabec County. 12 have been pre-approved and 4 are obligated so far.
- 2 RCPP applications have been received, 1 has been pre-approved.
- John Brezinka is the new Non-Supervisory DC in Cambridge.

- The Local Work Group planning has begun. June date is TBD, held in Chisago County.

6. Business Section

6.1. *Farm Home Publisher (FHP) and options: ¼ page - \$450, ½ page - \$550 or full page - \$650

Our SWCD details have been added to the govt. page and sent to FHP.

Motion by Johnson, second by Carda to authorize a ½ page ad be listed in the Farm Home Publisher for \$550

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.2 *Personnel Committee: approval on the Watershed Coordinator position offer, pay rate
Agenda item tabled until our May.

6.3. *District Manager draft position description, requesting Co. HR review into a pay scale

The personnel committee is working with Pine SWCD District Manager through this process.

Motion by Sanford, second by Carda to authorize the personnel committee to finalize the draft position description and submit to the county for evaluation into a salary pay scale.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.4. *Kettle Watershed Plan, update discussion and board action

Johnson provided an update report on the Kettle Watershed Plan. They are planning to form a coalition.

Will be seeking another resolution shortly to adopt and/or implement the plan.

Motion by Sanford, second by Heggernes to approve a resolution to approve the submitted of the final Kettle and Upper St. Croix Watershed Management Plan to BWSR for their review.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.5. *Draft 2024 Kanabec SWCD Annual Work Plan,

Motion by Johnson, second by Carda to approve the 2024 Annual Work Plan with a reduction of the soil saved goal to 45 tons instead of 85.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.6 AIS – Update of boat Inspector positions. The position has been offered to Heidi Seeland-Harper. She will accept or decline by the end of the month. (*Since this meeting she has declined to accept the position.*)

6.7. *Soil Health Staffing grant, approval and staffing options

Pomije provided two memos outlining two options for bringing on added staff for soil health and project development work, one detailing financial options to make this work.

Motion by Sanford, second by Johnson to approve and pursue option 1 of hiring one full time staff for the duration of the grant and accepting the grant, authorizing Pomije to sign the Soil Health Staffing grant agreement electronically. The hope is to seek continued funding to extend this new position long term.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6.8. Tree Sale update – advertisement

With 3 weeks until the tree pick-up, 80% of the ordered trees have been sold. The board was in agreement with posting newspaper ads, estimated at \$300.

7. Public Input –none present

8. Project Updates

*The U of MN has requested a letter of support for high bush cranberry research.

Motion by Johnson, second by Sanford to send a support letter to the U of MN for research on high bush cranberry.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

Lawns to Legumes – grant expiring 5/1/24, 2 projects encumbered yet with work completion due by 4/30/24.

9. Discussion Session – There were no proposed Area 3 resolutions for this year.

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

- 4/10/24 – Regenerative Ag. Conference, booth outreach, Braham (Pomije)
- 4/11/24 – Kettle PC Meeting, 9am, Sandstone (Johnson)
- 4/20/24 – Earth Day presentation, Mora Library (Larsen)
- 4/22-26 – Open House, Private Well Nitrate Testing, 8:30am-4pm (staff)
- TBD – SRWMB Meeting, 9am, Courthouse (Pomije, Belkholm)
- 4/22/24 – Snake Watershed Partnership Meeting, 10am, Courthouse (Pomije, Belkholm)
- 5/13/24 – Snake Steering Meeting, as needed 9-11am (Pomije)
- **5/15/24 – Regular SWCD Board Meeting, 2pm**
- 5/16/24 – Forestry Assn. Meeting, 10am, McGregor (Carda or Sanford, Tank)
- June – Snake/Kettle RIM Easement Tech. Committee (Mattson)
- June, date TBD – Local Work Group meeting with NRCS, multi-county location TBD, (staff, Sanford)

- 6/16/24 – COLA/AIS Meeting, 5pm (Larsen, Sanford)
- **6/19/24 – Regular SWCD Board Meeting, Need to reschedule due to Juneteenth Holiday -**
moved to Tuesday, June 18th 2pm
- 6/26/24 – TSA Area 3 Meeting, 10am, remote (Johnson, Larsen)
- 6/27/24 – RRWP Meeting, 4:30pm, Milaca (Johnson)
- June 7 – 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. 3:29 pm Adjourn Regular Meeting

Motion by Sanford second by Carda to adjourn Regular Board Meeting at 3:29pm

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Belkholm, Carda, Heggernes

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

***Seeking Board Decisions**