



LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

616 THIRD AVENUE, TWO HARBORS, MN 55616

P: (218) 834-8370

WWW.CO.LAKE.MN.US/SWCD

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors

Thursday, August, 9 noon

408 1st Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:12 PM by Chair Todd Ronning.
Present: Ronning – Haus- Omarzu -Sagen-Brodigan
Absent: None
Guests: Jon Sellnow
Staff: Tucker-Passe-Smerud-Stewart
- Agenda: **Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve the agenda with additions. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Minutes: **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Sagen to approve the minutes for July 12, 2018 meeting as printed. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Financial and administrative reports:
- Treasurers Report: **Motion by Brodigan and seconded by Omarzu to approve the treasures report as presented. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
Audit will take place on September 19
- **Guest Updates:**
- NRCS Report: Jon Sellnow reported that they are still waiting on funding to fund Eligible contracts. They have a new State Conservationist. The three-year \$400,235 grant agreement was approved to utilize existing capacity and obtain additional capacity.
- District Manager:
- **Cost-Share: Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve and sign the Ion Cost -share contract for \$1000. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- After discussion it was decided to table the Spies Cost Share contract request until we have more information.
- Passe gave an update on the Beaver River project. The bids came in over budget. Stantec was able to work with the contract to reduce the total amount to \$335,000. Some of the planting will be done by our Office possible using some of our crew days and working with the City of Silver Bay. The Silver Bay Council will be approving the bid at their meeting on Monday August 13th.
- **Cost-Share: Motion by Sagen and seconded by Haus to approve and sign the City of Silver Bay Cost-Share Voucher for \$9,188.25 for Stantec Invoice on the Beaver River Project. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- The budget request for Lake County was sent out for review we will ask for the full amount that would be matched by the State. \$52,410 and up to \$18,200 which would be matched by the state. **Motion by Sagen and seconded by Omarzu to approve the 2019 Budget request to the County. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**

- We will again have a booth at the fair. They didn't send out reminders, but we got the application on line and sent in our request.
- The Board was informed about the fact that we are a drop off/pick up site for RMB labs for well testing kits. We have promoted it on our website and facebook page.

Correspondence:

Staff Report: Zach Stewart did a presentation on the E.coli project. The grant will start on September 1st. Zach has worked with the grant manager to revise the budget and finalize the agreement.

Zach offered a proposal to the Board to extend his employment until the end of the E.coli grant reporting requirements. Staff were asked to leave the room at 2:29 and returned at 3. **Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve the employment of Zach Stewart under the terms of the proposal starting September 1, 2018 and ending February 1, 2020. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**

Supervisor Committee Reports and Concerns:

Audit Committee: Motion by Sagen and seconded by Brodigan to approve the Audit Committee signed 19 Checks and 12 direct payments for a total of \$48,597.01. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.

RC&D: Ronning attended and they were updated on the River Conference this fall. We may have up to five staff or supervisors attend the tour and barbeque on Sunday night at the cost of the meal.

Waste Treatment plant: Ronning also stated that he talked with Luke Heitila and he offered a tour of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. We will add it to the Staff meeting agenda to see who would be interested in a tour and a time will be set to do this.

Annual Area III meeting September 20th in Mt Iron: The deadline to register is Sept 7th. **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to approve up to 5 staff or Supervisors to attend at a cost of \$15 per person. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.** Haus, Sagen and Tucker will plan to attend, others who wish to should contact Karen.

Property Owner's Resource Guide: Smerud stated that this is a part of the Waterplan and that it is in the plan to update it. All Supervisors were encouraged to review a copy and bring some changes to the September meeting. Smerud stated that we could update the digital copy for now while the complete update will be probably handled by the Waterplan Committee. She will investigate the cost of printing, Tucker will investigate how many boxes we still have.

Service Agreement with the University for lab costs. It was pointed out that the date should be changed to September 1st. **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Brodigan to approve and sign the agreement pending the date change: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**

Motion to adjourn, next meeting will be September 13th at Noon at 408 1st Avenue.

Special Strategic planning meeting at 11AM

Todd Ronning, Chairman

Doug Haus, Secretary

Submitted by:

Karen R. Tucker, District Manager

For:

Doug Haus, Lake SWCD



August 9, 2018

NRCS Conservation Report: Lake SWCD

Jon Sellnow, District Conservationist

Programs:

- 17 Active EQIP Contracts
- 1 Active CSP Contract
- 2018 EQIP Applications
 - Carlton: 34 – **28 Eligible → 17 Contracted**
 - Cook: 16 – **15 Eligible → 12 Contracted**
 - Lake: 33 – **21 Eligible → 8 Contracted**
 - South St. Louis: 45 – **34 Eligible → 12 Contracted**
- 2018 RCPP-EQIP Applications
 - Carlton: 12 – **4 Eligible → 3 Contracted**
 - South St. Louis: 17 – **11 Eligible → 1 Contracted**
- 2018 CSP Applications
 - Carlton: 4 – **4 Eligible**
 - Lake: 1 – **1 Eligible**
 - South St. Louis: 7 – **7 Eligible**

Meetings, Trainings, and Events:

- May 10 – Lake SWCD
- June 6 and 7 – Leadership Team Tour
- June 23 – Breakfast on the Farm
- July 5 to 13 – Try #2 to take a few days off
- July 18 – South St. Louis SWCD
- July 20 – NSFC Meeting (Conference Call)
- June 23 – EOD Troy Daniell, Minnesota State Conservationist
- July 23 to 30 – Leave
- July 26 – Area Northeast All Employee Meeting
- July 31 – Locally Led Workshop, Grand Rapids
- July 31 to August 3 – 2018 Conservation Planning Course
- August 2 – Cook SWCD
- August 8 and 9 – SM-1 Training
- August 9 – Lake SWCD

Upcoming Items:

- August 10 – Last day for Kris Mueller
- August 13 – Carlton SWCD
- August 14 to 16 – Grand Portage

- August 28 and 29 – Forest Ecology and Management Training
- September 6 – Cook SWCD
- September 13 – North Shore Forestry Collaborative Meeting
- September 13 – Lake SWCD

NRCS Conservation Collaboration Grants – Arrowhead Forest Partnership

- Grant agreement approved
 - \$400,235
- Combined application for NRCS funds to implement Farm Bill programs
- Agreement runs three years
- Utilize existing capacity
- Obtain additional capacity

Acronym Codes

- EQIP = Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- WHIP= Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
- CSP = Conservation Stewardship Program
- GLRI = Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- RCPP = Resource Conservation Partnership Program
- ACEP = Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- WRE = Wetland Reserve Easement
- LWG = Local Work Group
- ARC = Area Resource Conservationist
- DC = District Conservationist
- RFP = Request For Proposal
- FPAC = Farm Production and Conservation
- CIG = Conservation Innovation Grant



DISTRICT MANAGER MONTHLY UPDATE JULY TO AUGUST

KAREN TUCKER, DISTRICT MANAGER
LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Minutes and agenda (Up-loaded to the website for last month)
- Payroll/reviewed timesheets
- Staff meetings held on Tuesdays
- Sorted more files and scanned and saved files
- Balance checking and savings
- Invoiced for grants

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- Working on Budget request for the County
 - Working with staff to gather information to present to the County Board to show the value we bring to the County.
- Derrick and I met with Jamie Juenemann about the damage on the Stewart River Project (Several email chains discussing concerns about how to repair the damage from the 4.5 inches of rain-BWSR, Karl Kolar, Jamie - DNR, TSA, myself and a landowner)
- Met with Sonja and Christine about next year's AIS Budget and contract with the County
- Met with County about the website update, they will plan to move forward with the update
- Derrick, Emily and I met with Tom and Amy to evaluate the MPCA current contract and looking forward at the next one.
- Worked with Derrick on the budget for the Beaver River project, pulled all the numbers together with the bid price. We are looking at some of our options.
- We had 4 crew days this week, they worked a variety of things including some clean up at the Knife River Projects.

ITEMS OF NOTE AND/OR MOTION NEEDED

Cost share- Barb Ion cost share for 75% of \$1000
Approve (Beaver River) Silver Bay Voucher

CORRESPONDENCE

Camped the week of July 16th to July 22nd in Cross Lake. We had a great time with great weather and time on the lake and rivers with my kayak. (The picture is on Mississippi)





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July 2018 Forestry Report

Tim Byrns

Forest Stewardship Plans

- Jacoby FSP inventory/planning- 95.7 acres
- Quetico FSP mapping- 40 acres
- Roger Anderson FSP request- 40 acres
- Barb Omarzu small acre stewardship plan review and delivery- 9.6 acres

NRCS Practice Planning

- Schlangen forest stand improvement and woody residue plan delivery- 28 acres
- Zoff forest stand improvement and woody residue plan delivery- 3 acres
- Johnson forest stand improvement and woody residue plan delivery- 3 acres

CWF Conservation Corps Crew Days

- Kaupa tree planting- 12 white pines/white spruce
- Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center- pruning for white pine blister rust, tree planning, and cage maintenance

CWF Balsam Site Monitoring

- Releve surveys where small plots in areas treated for balsam have been analyzed as samples for wider treated areas at the Anselment and Juenemann properties. This is part of a wider effort to collect long-term plant community data in areas where dense balsam cover is removed.

General Forestry Assistance

- Ken Ribe Tree planting site visit
- Gail Reynolds spruce budworm assessment

Grant Updates

- NRCS Conservation Collaborative Grant for the Arrowhead Forest Partnership in the amount of \$400,235.00 has been awarded to Lake, Cook, Carlton, South St Louis, and North St. Louis Counties

NRCS Service Agreement

- Invoice submitted for 4 balsam treatment projects in the amount of \$2,000.00

Engineering Assistance

- Lovely streambank stabilization start date August 6-10
- Crown Creek road project is on hold, landowners are discussing implementing the project independently
- Wright Subdivision Culvert improvement assessment. Request for technical service has been submitted to TSA3 for site reports and cost estimates

Other Assistance

- Culvert assessment and grant opportunity planning with Zack

Training

- Seeding Workshop July 3, Two Harbors
- Woodland Stewardship Plan Writers Workshop August 21, Detroit Lakes



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT JULY 5 – AUGUST 4, 2018

PREPARED BY: SONJA SMERUD, AIS COORDINATOR
LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

OUTREACH

- Heritage Days Booth
 - Heritage Days Parade (many staff + Doug) - July 7th
 - Olivia (Wolf Ridge) staffed Saturday
 - Sonja aided some setup on Friday – lead and partner MN SeaGrant
 - approx. 700 conversations
- Bay Days Booth
 - Sonja staffed Friday and Saturday AM; Olivia, Allie, and Zach staffed Saturday; Emily staffed Sunday
 - 130 conversations
- Blueberry Festival
 - Sonja staffed Friday; Zach, Liz, and Olivia (Wolf Ridge) staffed Sunday
 - 1,487 conversations
- BioBlitz Outreach Event with Haley and Mac - July 18th
- AIS Sentry Program
 - Liz taught and Sonja helped - Sentry Training, Farm Lake – July 21st
 - 5 participants
 - Finalized “toolbox” for sentries at HAK ELY
- Lake Profile Printing and Distribution
 - Liz designed Lake Profiles
- Water Watchers wrapped up August 5th – success!
 - Partnered with Finland Fisheries (MNDNR) to demonstrate careers in Natural Resources; fish monitoring for streams
- Increased Social Media Presence – Instagram, Twitter, Facebook Posts
- Arrowhead Invasives Website – up and running again (Mac), 4 new posts under “News”
- Ordered more stickers, towels
- Kannebec County borrowed costumes – brought back new SWF costume hat
- Farmer’s Market Event in Ely – July 26th - Liz

WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS

- Ordered trail camera for traffic surveys in Fall Lake Township
- Fall Lake Decontaminations going well with MNDNR
- Provided inspections at Silver Bay Salmon Classic (DNR + SWCD partnership)

- Staff training – MAISRC Research Showcase, MISAC in September

MONITORING, ASSESSMENTS, GRANTS

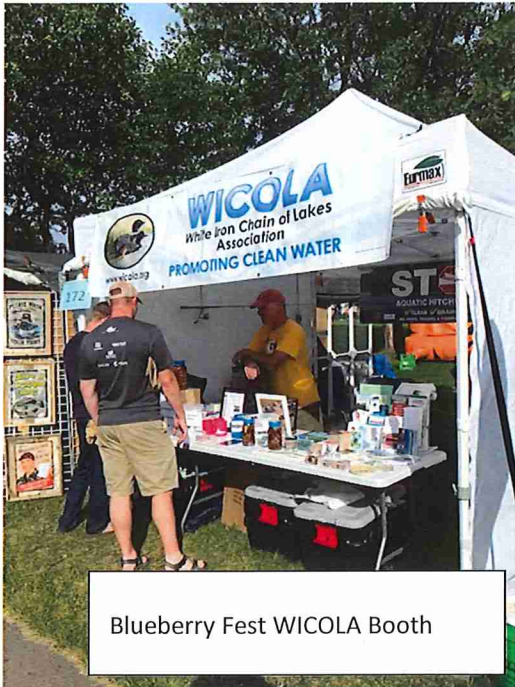
- **Paul Trygstad** -
- Monitoring at Agate Bay with the USFWS - July 17th
 - Gill Net, Fyke Net, Sweep Net, D Net Vertical Tows, and Electoshock Surveying conducted to monitor for AIS in Agate Bay
 - Confirmed sightings of Eurasian Ruffe, no Round Goby or Sea Lamprey found during sampling
 - tentative *Hemimysis* found in sweep net surveys, must be confirmed by DNA analysis
 - Established partnership with USFWS-Ashland – a result of a *Hemimysis* Rapid Response Meeting this May 2018
- 2019 Initial Budget Draft Prepared - Meeting with Lake County Environmental Services
- Purple Loosestrife Management – See *Mackenzie Update/September Board Packet*
- Sucker Processing – additional crayfish bait from Finland Fisheries

LIZ ANDERSON– AIS

ZACH STEWART– AIS

UPCOMING - HIGHLIGHTS

- Starry Trek – August 18th
- Management
- Aquatic Vegetation ID Workshop with EFN – August 15th
- Farmer's Market Crayfish Boil – August 14th



Blueberry Fest WICOLA Booth



Water Watchers with Finland Fisheries identifying Brook Trout at Baptism River



96cm Northern in Agate Bay – USFWS AIS Monitoring



The team at the Heritage Days Parade



BioBlitz 2018 at Wolf Ridge, Sawmill Creek



WATER PLAN REPORT JUNE 11 – JULY 5, 2018

**PREPARED BY: SONJA SMERUD, WATER PLANNER
LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Completed PRAP Report
 - Met with Derrick and compiled list of cost-shares/TAs/variance reviews
 - Met with and compiled Environmental Services Report on Water Plan Accomplishments
 - Met with Emily and compiled outreach accomplishments for water plan
 - Digitized and organized old water plan files
- Presentation to WICOLA at July Board Meeting

LAKE SUPERIOR NORTH ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN

- 1W1P PRAP Report also completed
- Pursued National Coastal Resilience Fund initial application ideas
 - Coastal Wetland Restoration Project
 - Future grant
 - Green infrastructure/Stormwater BMPs (Cook)
- Submitted (through Cook SWCD) final payment for 1W1P Planning Grant
- Aided some coordination of tree planting with CCMI Crew (Wolf Ridge connection)
- Phone Call about Coldwater Collaborative and Culvert Replacement Funding Options

ITEMS OF NOTE AND/OR MOTION NEEDED

- Per BWSR, PRAP extended to September board meeting presentation

Lake County SWCD Board Report – July 2018 – Paul Trygstad

I investigated 28 lakes in Lake County in July, 2018. Each lake involved three overnight traps for crayfish. Inspection for milfoil, zebra mussels, spiny water fleas and other AIS was also involved. Boaters encountered were met with discussion of AIS or subjected to boat inspection. I spent several hours at Lake Superior Agate Bay access with similar discussions and inspections with boaters.

I participated in Heritage Days outreach events. I also spent time with equipment maintenance and bait preparation for the upcoming busy months.

I anticipate August to be busy with many of the targeted AIS becoming more apparent.

Thank you,

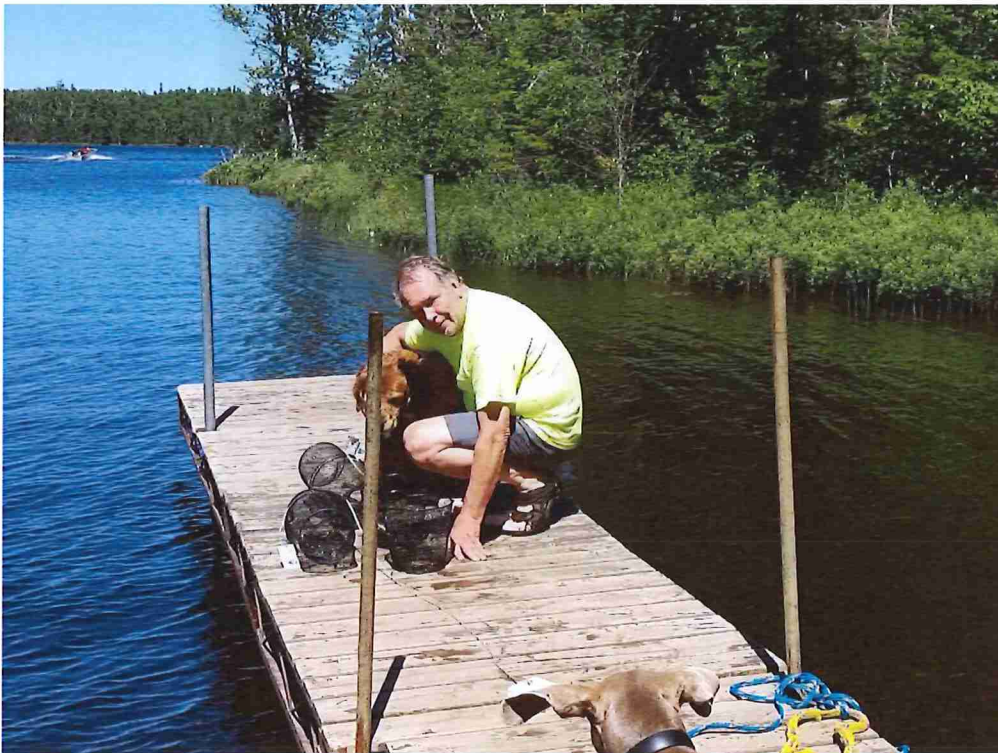
Paul Trygstad



Calico Crayfish from 18 Lake (July 2018)



Native Milfoil from Benson Lake (July 2018)



Sampling with Assistant on Harriet Lake (July 2018)

Zach Stewart

Water Resources Technician

Board Report 8/1/2018

E. coli Source Investigation (Skunk Creek and Burlington Bay)

- Zach wrote timeline establishing 24-month work plan for E. coli Investigation
- Established formal collaboration with UMD and NRRI – Zach will serve as academic co-advisor for a graduate student who will assist with E. coli investigation lab work
- Purchased incubator to improve accuracy of E. coli culturing
- Compiled and analyzed preliminary 2018 E. coli data

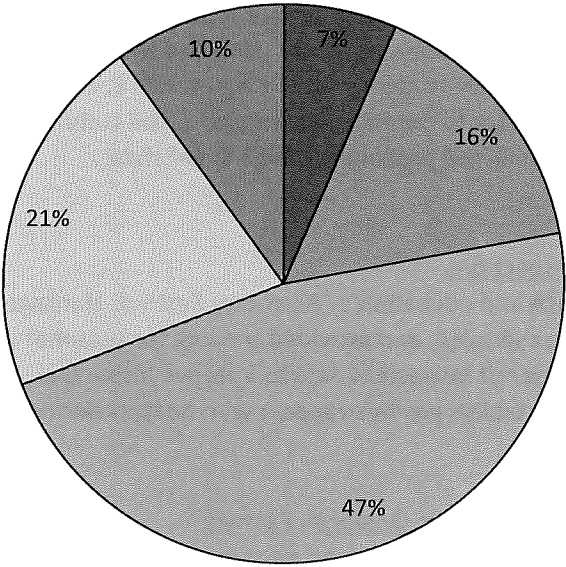
AIS and Watercraft Inspections

- Public outreach and education at Blueberry Festival, Heritage Days, and Bay Days
- Coordinated, scheduled, and provided training for seasonal watercraft inspectors
- Analyzed watercraft inspection data to improve inspection program in the future
- Continued to establish positive rapport with boaters during watercraft inspections

Culvert Replacement and Aquatic Organism Passage

- Assessed and reported on 2 culvert sites in Wright Development
- Coordinating with US Fish and Wildlife, MPCA, and MN DNR to pursue RCPP grant opportunity for culvert replacements and water quality improvement on streams
- Zach is pursuing funding for staff-time and culvert projects using USFW prioritization algorithm
- Planning collaboration with Ashland area US Fish and Wildlife

Zach Stewart July Staff-time Allocation



- Coordination and Staff Meetings
- AIS Outreach
- AIS Watercraft Inspections and Scheduling Seasonal Inspectors
- E. Coli Source Investigation
- Culvert Assessments and Pursuing Funding