



LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

616 THIRD AVENUE, TWO HARBORS, MN 55616

P: (218) 834-8372 F: (218) 834-8545

WWW.CO.LAKE.MN.US/SWCD

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors

Thursday, February 9, 1pm

408 1st Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chair Todd Ronning.
Present: Ronning -Brodigan – Haus- Omarzu
Absent: Kovach
Guests: Erin Loeffler, BWSR and Jon Sellnow, NRCS
Staff: Tucker-Schutte-Byrns-Passe-Smerud-Olson-Lilja
- Oath of Office: Ronning gave the oath of office to Barb Omarzu, new District 4 Supervisor.
- Agenda: **Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve the agenda with additions. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Minutes: **Motion by Brodigan and seconded by Haus to approve the minutes for January 5, 2017 meeting as printed. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Financial and administrative reports:
- Treasurers Report: **Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve the treasures report as presented. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Pay Equity report: **Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to approve the Pay Equity Report. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried.** Tucker reported that we may have to revise the report.
- Annual Training: Tucker requested permission to attend to make sure the PERA part of the report is accurate. **Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve the expenses for Karen to attend. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Billable Rate: **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to approve the BWSR spreadsheet billable rates as presented. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Audit Update: The Hard copies received from the Auditor were handed out.
- **Guest Updates:**
- NRCS Report: A written report from Tom Gervais that was shared. The Acting DC, Jon Sellnow stated he met with Tim Byrns before the meeting and that we have a strong partnership with them. He reviewed the Annual Civil Rights Policy and the Board members present signed and returned it.
- **Staff Updates:**
- **District Manager's Report:** Schutte has been working on the work plans for the new grants including Timber Improvement, Storm water Assessment and Local Capacity. **Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve and sign the work plans. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried.** Schutte reviewed his report. **Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to approve submitting an application to Sustain Our Great Lakes for sediment and *e. coli* reduction efforts in Skunk**

Creek. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried. After review by the personnel committee, Courtney Olson's position as Lake SWCD GIS Specialist will be increased to full time. **Motion by Brodigan and seconded by Omarzu to approve the offer letter. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried. Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to approve and sign the final financial reports for Buffer, Conservation Delivery and 2015 Cost Share with a repayment of \$244 for unused funds on the 2015 Cost Share. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried. Motion by Brodigan and seconded by Haus to sign and approve the increased AIS Contract with Lake County for \$80,000. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried. Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve the \$2,155.81 partial payment to Silver Bay for Engineering costs. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried. Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to sign the CCMI crew contract, to be paid via the Forest Stand Improvement CWF grant that was awarded. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried. Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve the printer contract with Metro Sales, INC for 60 months at \$117.82 per month plus costs per-sheet. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried.** This will include all maintenance fees and ink costs. Schutte is taking the lead on an application for a 1W1P for the Rainy River Headwaters. We will plan to have a grand opening at our new office in June.

- **Rainy River Coordinator:** Passe reviewed his report
 - Darren Lilja was introduced to the Board and he updated the Board on his work with Ely public school students with a cyanoscope to assess sample for the presence of cyanobacteria. We are working on a change order on the RR/Cloquet grant to used money left over after the Sonde purchase to get our own cyanoscopes to work with students in Ely and Two Harbors/Silver Bay.
- **Outreach Coordinator:** Nelson's report was reviewed.
- **Conservation Technician:** Byrns has attended several trainings and shared some of the highlights. He gave an update on his forestry work and Engineering.
- **GIS Technician:** Olson shared a map and the status of the Culvert inventory. She anticipates being done with data clean up in the next couple of weeks.
- **AIS Coordinator:** Sonja Smerud was introduced to the board and she updated on the projects she has started working on. **Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve the postings for contracted Summer help for the AIS Ambassador program. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Haus, Omarzu. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- **BWSR:** Erin Loeffler from BWSR introduced herself to the new Board members. She explained a new process for auditing any grants over \$50,000. BWSR will be assessing the risk factor of the grant, and will be reviewing documents on-site. Districts have until July 1st to add anything to the Buffer Maps. SWCD will be meeting with County staff to discuss additional waterways to include on the map; SWCD staff will have a motion to the Board prior to the July meeting to state additions or state that there are no additions. No new additions are anticipated in our County.
- **Correspondence:**

Supervisor Committee Reports:

Audit Committee: **Motion by Ronning and seconded by Haus to approve and sign 19 checks and 8 direct deposits totaling \$42,632.52. Affirmative: Haus, Ronning, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**

Forestry: Haus attended with Byrns.

RC&D: Brodigan was unable to attend because of weather.

TSA: Ronning and Schutte attended the TSA 3 annual meeting. Staff from Districts around the area presented some of the projects they have worked on.

The total station was approved for purchase, split equally between Lake and Cook SWCD's and TSA 3. Lake SWCD's portion of the cost will be \$11,901.07, to be paid at the March meeting from the Culvert Grant.

Envirothon Donation: It was felt that Emily Nelson's time was our donation; no cash will be donated at this time.

NACD Membership: It was decided not to join this organization.

Area III Dues: **Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to pay the \$225 dues. Affirmative: Haus, Ronning, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**

Legislative Briefing March 21-22: **Motion by Brodigan and seconded by Omarzu to approve Ronning, Schutte and one other Supervisor (If able) attend to attend. Affirmative: Haus, Ronning, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**

Motion to adjourn at 5:30 next meeting will be March 9, 2017 at 408 1st Avenue.

Todd Ronning, Chairman

Submitted by:

Karen R. Tucker, District Clerk

For:

Doug Haus, Lake SWCD

Doug Haus, Secretary



DISTRICT MANAGER MONTHLY UPDATE

JANUARY 6 – FEBRUARY 9, 2017

DAN SCHUTTE, DISTRICT MANAGER
LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Office space setup– thanks to Paul, Gail, Max, Karen, Derrick, Sonja, Courtney, Tim, Glen, and others!
- BWSR Grant Reporting (Final Financial signature motion on agenda)
- Work Plan development for various grants (Approval of work plans on agenda)
- Coordinating County match and land ownership transfer – documented and submitted

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- Review Coastal Annual Grant Application
- BWSR informational meeting/eLINK training workshop
- 1W1P BWSR Northern Region Committee presentation – Brainerd
- TSA III meeting – Total Station Purchase approved, we'll pay Cook SWCD in March
- Meeting about E. Beaver River in Silver Bay, Flood project.
- GIS tools for subwatershed land cover type assessment meeting @ MPCA
- Meeting with County Admin/IT staff about the new office space setup
- Facilitated table at the Environmental Congress, St. Paul
- Governor's Committee for Pollinator Protection meeting, St. Paul
- Participated as a panelist at the Water Summit, Morris.
- Lake Superior South MPCA meeting
 - Meetings with Two Harbors, MPCA, MDH, engineers to discuss *e.coli* and sediment impairments in the Skunk and Two Harbor's bays
 - Developing SOGL grant to address sediment inputs and augment funding for stormwater assessment

ITEMS OF NOTE AND/OR MOTION NEEDED

- See agenda items
- 1W1P in the RRHW/Vermillion
- Additional funding for stormwater and forested land GIS analysis for protection via 1W1P - \$18K
- Staff evaluations upcoming – April meeting, personnel committee meet prior to Board meeting
- Grand opening – June? Other thoughts?

Rainy River Coordinator Monthly Update

January 6, 2017 – February 1, 2017



Rainy Headwaters Citizen Engagement Contracts

- NSLSWCD CE
 - Talked to Vermilion and RRHW Lake Associations about Cyanobacteria monitoring
- Lake County Civic Engagement - RRHW/Cloquet Watersheds
 - Talked to MPCA about Interns that they are hiring
- Vermilion/Cloquet Grant (2015 SWAG)
 - Still going back and forth about sampling costs
- AIS
 - Worked to train Sonja.
 - Sentry Program
 - Met with Wicola, Sonja, Darren and Vermilion to discuss implementation of AIS Sentry Program in Ely Area
 - Discussed manual preparation/style
 - Reporting
 - Got Curly Leaf Pondweed report in Lake County corrected (GLEDN)
 - Advertising
 - Lake Superior Angler Advertisement
 - Working with Wildlife Forever on Ely Summer Times advertising
 - AIS Costumes
 - Got them back from UM - Extension
 - Attended Midwest Invasive Species Council Meeting
 - Includes both Aquatic and Terrestrial Reps (40/60 Breakdown)
 - Carpoled with Doug Jensen (MN Sea Grant) and Sonja
 - DNR Access Editor
 - Completed editing Lake County accesses.
 - Added 90 Trailer Spaces and 1 boat Launch, potentially \$9000 more in AIS funding at current rate.
 - IMA-AIS TAC Committee
 - Chaired conference call, asked to present at IJC Meeting at International Rainy Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Forum in March.
 - DNR Inspection Meeting
 - Attended Meeting with Sonja, Carpoled with Cook AIS Director and discussed cooperative activities.
 - Met with LOW, NSL, Cook and Kooch SWCDs after DNR Meeting



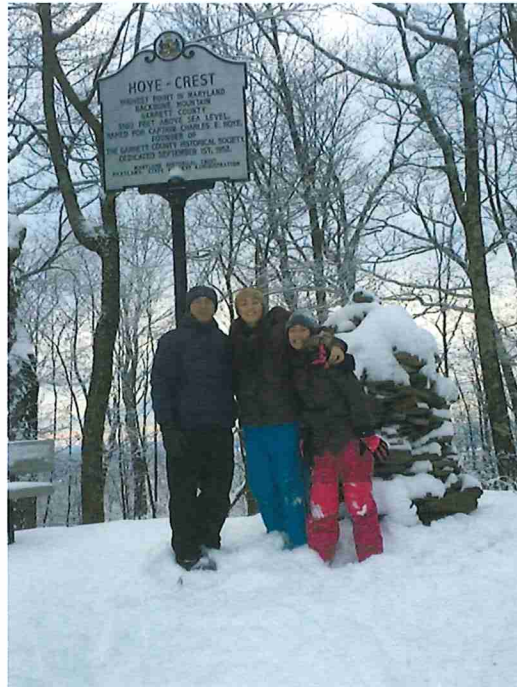
February 9,
2017

- Initiative Foundation
 - Submitted Annual Report
 - Worked to compare data between 2015 and 2016 Trapping seasons.
 - Setting up crayfish trapping for WICOL and Birch Lakes

Lake County Activities

- Skunk Creek/Two Harbors E. coli Impairments
 - TMDLs being completed by MPCA
 - Skunk is Due in 2017
 - Beach Impairment TMDLs aren't scheduled until 2020
 - Looking at ways to shortcut the MPCA Process so that City can move forward on their street/Harbor Improvement Projects
 - Met with Two Harbors Mayor to discuss working cooperatively with the City's Consultant.
 - Researching monitoring program possibilities
 - WI DNR is doing DNA testing on St. Louis River Area of Concern.
 - May be similar sources for Agate and Burlington Bay.
 - Other TMDLs
 - Metro Area Creek Impairment indicated +80% due to Cats and Dogs, 18% due to SSTS and Sanitary Sewers and > 1% from Wildlife
 - Beach Monitoring Program
 - Should have Sanitary Assessment for each site
 - Visual record of conditions that they saw identifying potential sources.

New Years was a 14 day roadtrip with two mexican girls that had never seen snow before



**Rainy River Headwaters Coordinator Monthly Update (Darren, not Derrick)
January, 2016**



Rainy River Citizen Engagement

- MPCA Advanced Citizen Lake Monitoring Program
 - Adding Browns and/or Cedar Lake to the program for 2017
- Ely Community Resource AIS monitoring project
 - Kicking off a new winter project aimed at characterizing the current plankton community in Shagawa and Fall Lakes to see how that changes as Spiny Waterflea colonize in the years to come. Still working out the details with ECR staff, but will be exposing several students per week to AIS/plankton sampling protocols, laboratory techniques, microscope use, and dichotomous key use.
 - Planning to use the materials included in the "CyanoScope" program kit (\$600) for this project. Planning to buy a kit or two, but borrowing one from SeaGrant now.
 - The Kit will also be used for its intended purpose during the open water season. (CyanoScope citizen science program through iNaturalists.org.
- Met with WICOLA member Mary Setterholm and Jeff Lovegren of Vermilion Sportsmans Club about developing AIS Sentry program in Ely area. We are currently customizing existing training materials to NE Minnesota biology and have planned to put on 4 classroom/field trainings in the USFS classroom and on area lakes.
- Wrote a letter of support for 1854 Treaty Authority as part of a grant proposal.
- Attended WICOLA meeting and gave updates on plans for upcoming field season.
- Attended MPCA meeting in Duluth on deliverables.
- Set up radio interview with USFS Aquatic Biologist, Jason Butcher.
- Signed up for the International Lake of the Woods/Rainy Forum in International Falls.

Rainy River Basin AIS

- AIS General
 - Entered Rusty Crayfish data into online database EDDMapS
 - Consolidated multiple agency's AIS data into spreadsheets

Forest Stewardship Program

- Met with Tim Byrns on the subject. We are planning to work together on these plans in the future. Depending on demand, I may possibly apply to become a certified stewardship plan preparer in the future.



Conservation Outreach Coordinator Report

January 6, 2017 – February 9, 2017

Lake Superior North & South Civic Engagement

Radio Program

- Old episodes archived at: <http://ktwh.org/conservation-corner/>
- Recruited Darren to complete two radio episodes for February.

Other

- Meeting with Cook SWCD to discuss civic engagement activities in the Lake Superior North watershed.
- Lake Superior South core team meeting – joined via WebEx.
- Semi-annual report and invoice.

RRHW/Cloquet Civic Engagement

- Cloquet River Watershed core team meeting at MPCA offices in Duluth.
- Semi-annual report and invoice.

North St. Louis Civic Engagement

- Cyanobacteria presentation for the Ely Area Invasives Team.

Coastal Program

- Progress report and invoice.

Envirothon

- Sent out registration materials to teachers in Area III.



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January, 2017 Forestry Report

Tim Byrns

Meeting/Conferences

2017 Forestry Wildlife Research Review Jan. 10

- Characterized timber salvage operations on public forests in MN and WI
- Factors affecting soil mercury, carbon and nitrogen disturbance in seasonal pond basins within Northern Hardwoods forests
- Summary of factors affecting timber sales in MN
- Management for Drought Susceptibility of northern MN forests under future climate change
- A History of Beaver Management in Salmonid Streams in the Western Great Lakes Region
- Examining factors associated with private landowner behaviors and intentions to treat invasive forest species

MASWCD Forestry Meeting Jan. 19

Neighbor to Neighbor STAR Grant Northshore Forest Collaborative Teleconference Jan. 25

2017 Forest Health Workshop Jan. 31

- Transitioning Black Ash Wetlands to an EAB infested future
- Forest Health Predictions for 2017

Forestry

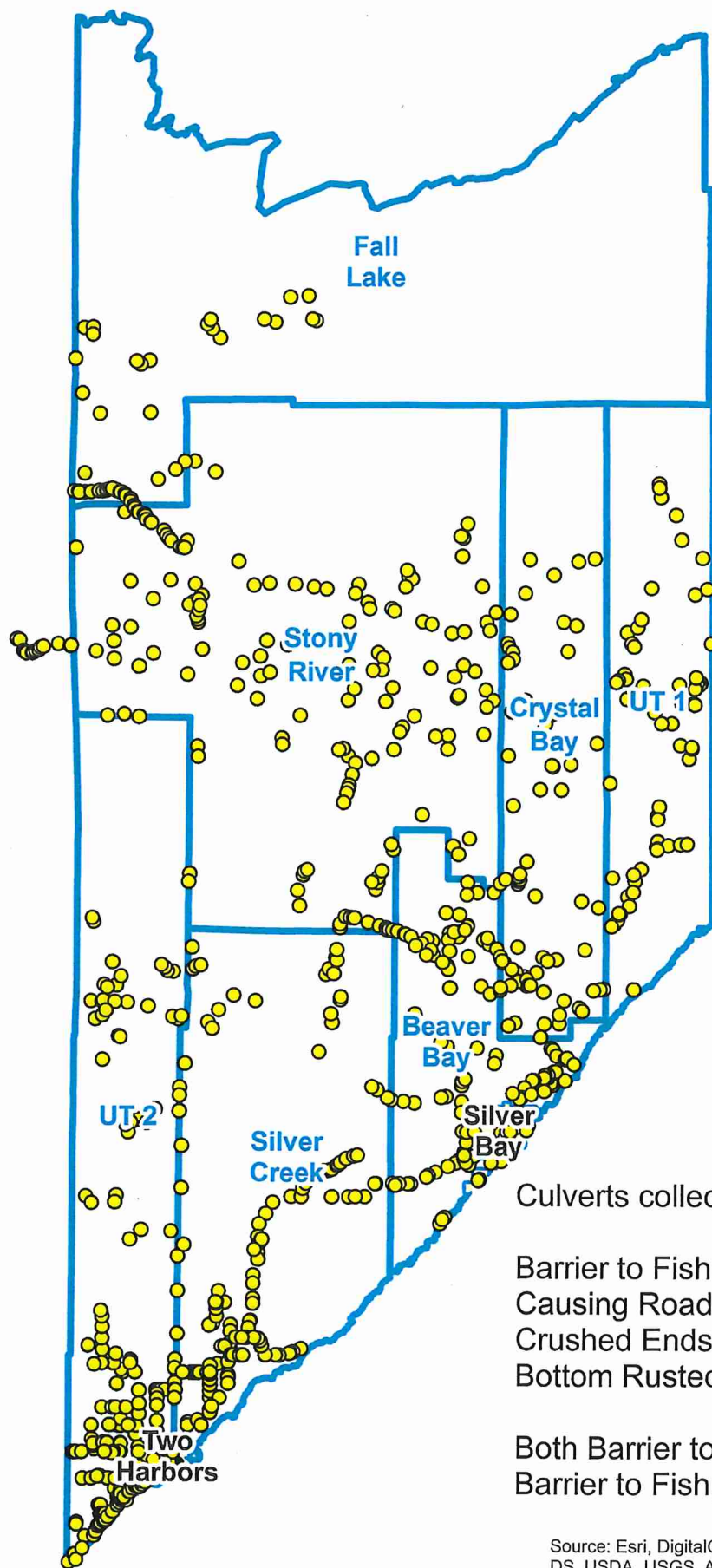
- David Bergman 2016 tree planting 20 acres
- Deb and Larry Johnson tree planting 3.5 acres
- John Coultier Woodland Stewardship Plan request, EQIP Plan
- John Burchfiel FSP-Cancelled
- John Christiansen FSP 300 acres
- CCM chainsaw training walk through at Jaimie Juenemanns

Engineering

- GIS to CAD data conversion- Geoprocessing Lake county GIS data for CAD production
- Front end planning documentation
- Typical details for BMPs



Courtney Olson
GIS Specialist
January Report



Culverts collected as of 2016: 849

Barrier to Fish Passage: 214 (25.2%)

Causing Road Erosion: 114 (13.4%)

Crushed Ends: 82 (9.7%)

Bottom Rusted Through: 48 (5.7%)

Both Barrier to Fish and Road Erosion: 37

Barrier to Fish, Erosion, and Crushed Ends: 7

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Monthly Update

17 January – 9 February 2017

Sonja Smerud



MEETINGS

Attended Watercraft Inspection Meeting hosted by MNDNR in Brainerd – February 1, 2017 – planning to set up delegation agreement with DNR for watercraft inspectors on L. Superior corridor & Fall Lake

Attended Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC) Meeting in Shoreview, MN – January 25, 2017 – networking with decision-makers in the field incl. Doug Jensen & learning of upcoming AIS threats

Met with Ely Area Invasives Team to network and plan AIS Sentry project – January 19, 2017 – moving forward with trainings for AIS sentries in June/July incl. adding one at Vermilion; Daren, Sonja and St. Louis River Alliance will help conduct workshops

- Drafted initial InDesign formatted “field guide” for AIS identification for Arrowhead region to be used as part of AIS Sentry project and for use in later projects in the county incl. outreach for resorts and camps (three-ring binder format). Waiting on photos from WIDNR (ongoing project).

GIS training through county - January 18, 2017 – intend to use GIS more in future for AIS mapping

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

AIS messaging/ads in local publications

- AIS blurb now on North Shore Visitor website; “clean, drain, dry” ad in Lake Superior Angler annual magazine; finalized data for GIS (Courtney) to develop AIS map of infested waters (in cooperation with Cook County) - Northern Wilds will print Arrowhead-wide map for giveaway in May

Met with Max about Instagram use for AIS monitoring and outreach; contacted donors for incentives

Created a SWCD shared civic engagement calendar incl. identifying events/festivals for AIS tabling/outreach.

Helped complete DNR local access edits of trailer spaces in county, increasing county AIS budget

Identified MN grad standards & lesson plans for use in classrooms on AIS themes; contacted Envirothon Two Harbors to do a lesson on winter plankton communities and/or AIS similar to Daren’s project with Ely EnviroClub; intending to help & watch Daren’s lesson in Ely this month.

UPCOMING

Feb. 11 Educator training on “Great Lakes” from Great Lakes Aquarium

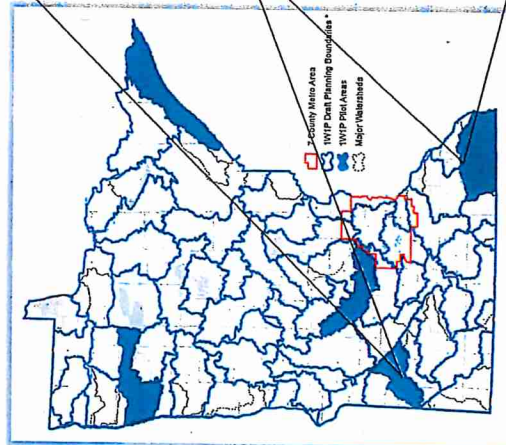
Meeting with Katie Brey (St. Louis River Alliance) week of Feb. 13th

Meeting with Leah Bott (WKHS) Feb. 8th about AIS lesson in classrooms in line with existing curriculum (also contacted & planning to meet other WKHS teachers about 3rd, 4th, 7th, 10th grade lessons)

The Cost of Progress

Minnesota's Legacy Funds have accelerated conservation work throughout the state. They are an important component of watershed management. However, the need is tremendous, and every year the demand outpaces available funding by more than 2:1. Current funding levels will get Minnesota to 6% of the state's water quality goals by 2032.

For example, two of the *One Watershed, One Plan* program pilot watersheds demonstrate this need. Both plans set prioritized and measurable strategies to implement watershed management.



Yellow Medicine One Watershed, One Plan

- 2017-2026 Measurable Goals
- 10% decrease in Total Phosphorus
 - 8% decrease in Total Nitrogen

To get there?

- \$563,500 committed in state/local funding
- **\$2.3 million needed annually in additional funding**

Root River One Watershed, One Plan

- 2017-2026 Measurable Goals
- 22% decrease in Total Phosphorus
 - 16% decrease in Total Nitrogen

To get there?

- \$786,000 committed in state/local funding
- **\$900,000 needed annually in additional funding**

Local Conservation That Works

Anchored in the work of local government partners, BWSR relies on their on-the-ground knowledge and experience to deliver programs effectively where they can provide the biggest benefit to land and water. Approximately 90% of the Legacy Fund appropriations BWSR receives is directed to our partners to support conservation work being done locally. These partnerships have resulted in less sediment and nutrients entering our lakes, rivers, and streams; healthier fish and wildlife habitat; and maintaining healthy wetlands.

For more information:

John Jaschke

Executive Director

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Email: john.jaschke@state.mn.us

Angie Becker Kudelka

Assistant Director

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m BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



A Lasting Legacy for Minnesota

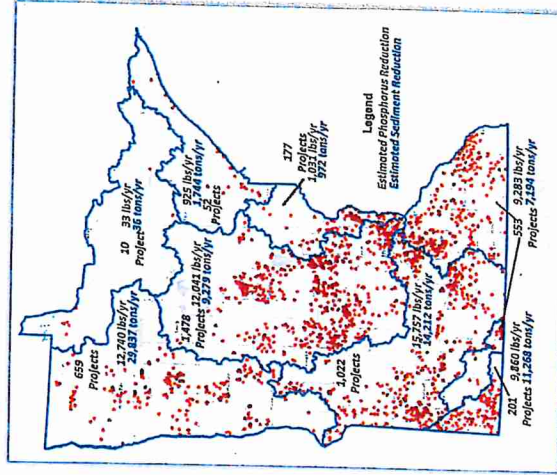
The issues are well known. BWSR's unique mission and structure provides for effective and efficient use of Legacy dollars with proven results. Working through Minnesota's local governments enables BWSR to be strategic in granting funds to meet locally identified water quality goals within the larger scope of Minnesota's clean water efforts. BWSR allocates Legacy funding through processes based on sound science, prioritized local planning, and commitment to identify projects that will be the most effective. Reporting and tracking requirements ensure measurable and specific results. For Minnesota, that means cleaner water that's fishable, swimmable, and drinkable, and thousands of protected acres where native plants can grow, pollinators can thrive, and pheasants and other wildlife can flourish.



Strategic solutions

Since 2010:

- Over 815 Clean Water Fund grants supporting implementation of more than 5,000 conservation practices.
- Almost 120,000 tons of sediment and over 95,000 pounds of phosphorus kept from Minnesota waters annually.
- 843 easements supported by the Outdoor Heritage Fund and Clean Water Fund protecting more than 42,300 acres.





Natural Resources Conservation Service
4850 Miller Trunk Hwy., Suite 2B
Duluth, MN 55811

Phone: (218) 720-5209

January 26th, 2016

To: Lake County SWCD Board

From: Duluth Field Office

3 Active Program Contracts:

- EQIP-2
- CSP 1

47 Program Applications:

- EQIP: 47

32 of the 47 EQIP applications that were submitted for FY 2017 are now considered "Eligible". The remaining 15 have either cancelled their applications or they are not yet eligible because project plans are not developed. Next we will be looking at ranking and funding these applications.

Practice Implementation:

- Forest Management Plan - 1
- Forest Stand Improvement – 64.5 ac

Farm Bill:

New EQIP Applications that we receive now will be considered for the 2018 Fiscal Year. We have received training on the revamped CSP and will be looking at funding CSP applications this spring.

Other:

- The Duluth District Conservationist Vacancy closed on December 19th. I will continue to be acting DC until February 3rd at which point I have been assigned to another acting detail (State Grazing Specialist). A new acting DC will be assigned to the Duluth Office starting February 5th.
- **Annual Civil Rights Policy review**