



## 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, October 11th noon

408 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:04 PM by Chair Todd Ronning.

Present: Ronning – Haus- Omarzu -Sagen-Brodigan

Absent: None

Guests: Neva Maxwell, Rachel Brodeur, Sue Anderson

Staff: Tucker-Passe-Smerud-Byrns

Neva Maxwell introduced the new Green Corps staff member Rachel Brodeur. She will be with the County for almost a year to find long term solutions for solid waste and recycling and to follow up on the survey taken by last year's Green Corps staff person. We are looking forward to working with her.

- Agenda: **Motion by Sagen and seconded by Brodigan to approve the agenda with additions. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Minutes: **Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to approve the minutes for September 13th, 2018 meeting as printed. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Financial and administrative reports:
- Cost share request: Sue Anderson came to the meeting to share her request for culvert replacement for her group of land owners, the Wright Development. Byrns reviewed the TSA recommendation for two culverts. She thanked the board for the TSA report. The board was not able to agree to fund this project this year but may review it again next year if funds are available.
- Treasurers Report: **Motion by Sagen and seconded by Brodigan to approve the treasures report as presented. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Draft Audit: **Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve the Draft Audit pending final State approval. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Guest Updates:
- NRCS Report: Jon Sellnow's report was shared
- District Manager:
- Tucker is looking into Health Insurance options the PEIP (Public Employee Insurance Plan) seems to be the best. She is also working with the auditor to set up a cafeteria plan, so the premiums can be pre-tax dollars. **Motion by Brodigan and seconded by Sagen to move forward with this option. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Cost Share: **Motion by Haus and seconded by Sagen to approve and sign the Duffy Cost-share voucher for \$2,400 using 2017 Local Capacity funds. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried**
- Passe updated the Board about the Beaver River project. They are 45% done but had to stop temporarily because of the high water in the river. They still hope to complete it this fall. **Motion by Sagen and**

seconded by Brodigan to approve and sign the City of Silver Bay voucher for \$60,800 using DNR funds to pay the first payment request from Nordic Group, Inc. **Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.** Tucker will request reimbursement by the end of the week. The DNR funds can be extended to next year if needed to complete the planting. **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to pay the second payment request from Nordic Group Inc. for \$102,125 using DNR funds. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.** Tucker will request reimbursement as soon as we receive the signed copy back from Silver Bay.

- An open meeting presentation was shared that was supposed to be presented at the Area III meeting.

**Correspondence:** Resolution packet: The master copy was signed, and ballots handed in.

NACD Membership request: Tabled until November meeting

Please let Karen know who will be attending the Sunday night event featuring the Stewart River site. Omarzu, Ronning and Brodigan will attend. Haus will let us know.

#### **Supervisor Committee Reports and Concerns:**

**Audit Committee:** Motion by Sagen and seconded by Haus to accept the Audit committee's signing 20 checks and 12 auto deposits for a total of \$111,306.22. **Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**

**TSA:** Ronning attended and they had election of officers. Ronning was elected Treasure.

**Area III:** Haus attended as well as Tucker and Smerud. They approved the budget and elected new officers. The speakers were interesting.

**Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting will be held December 9-11 (Mark your Calendars)

Sagen attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Binational Lake Association Networking Workshop. WICOLA had a display and presentation with examples of partnership with SWCD. A new member is needed for the Rainy Lake of the Woods Watershed Board.

Next meeting will be November 8th with Strategic Planning at 11 and the Regular meeting at Noon.

**Motion by Brodigan and seconded Sagen to adjourn the meeting at 3:46. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**

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Todd Ronning, Chairman

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Doug Haus, Secretary

Submitted by:

Karen R. Tucker, District Manager

For:

Doug Haus, Lake SWCD



October 11, 2018

## **NRCS Conservation Report: Lake SWCD**

Jon Sellnow, District Conservationist

### Programs: 113 Active Contracts

- EQIP Contracts
  - Carlton: 29
  - Cook: 12
  - Lake: 16
  - S. St. Louis: 22
- RCPP-EQIP Contracts
  - Carlton: 5
  - Cook: 0
  - Lake: 0
  - S. St. Louis: 2
- CSP Contracts
  - Carlton: 8
  - Cook: 0
  - Lake: 2
  - S. St. Louis: 17
- FY2019
  - No signup deadline announced

### Meetings, Trainings, and Events:

- September 13 – Lake SWCD
- September 14 – Northeast Regional Landscape Meeting
- September 18 – Fond du Lac Wildrice Event
- September 19 – South St. Louis SWCD
- September 20 – MASWCD Area 3 Meeting
- October 3 – Arrowhead Forest Partnership Meeting
- October 4 – Cook SWCD and Field Tour
- October 5 – Elim Dam Engineering Study Teleconference
- October 9 – Carlton SWCD
- October 9 to 12 – State of Lake Superior Conference, Houghton, MI

### Upcoming Items:

- October 9 to 12 – State of Lake Superior Conference, Houghton, MI
- October 17 – South St. Louis SWCD
- November 1 – Cook SWCD
- November 13 – Carlton SWCD

## 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 AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER

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
- Balance checking and savings
- Invoiced for grants (RRHW/Lake County DNR)
- Requested a proposal for a job audit and step system. Looking into other options. Contacted Erin, Jason and four districts. (Stearns/Sherburne/Isanti/Mower)
- Attended a management training in Duluth.
- Attended the Area III meeting
- Attended the TSA meeting and the Manager's meeting to follow.
- Requested a meeting with the County Commissioner's about the request for additional County Dollars – **Please note the highlighted handout about the number of Counties that received additional funds.**

### SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- Stewart River Project request from Keith Anderson to forward permit and let the DNR know that the EAW did not have to be done again. After consulting with Tim (He reviewed documents) and Margi from the DNR we agreed the existing EAW could stand. (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) **New information: Attended a FEMA meeting to further request funds for repairs with Keith and Karl.**
- Met with County about the website update, they will plan to move forward with the update (We requested a mini site inside the County site) A few more meeting looking into costs.
- Worked with Derrick on the budget for the Beaver River project, pulled all the numbers together with the bid price. Some concerns about the start date, Stantec is working with the contractor. Derrick is working with Dean Paron to extend the time that the contractor can work. Continue work with invoicing and oversight.
- Auditor came for the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, it went well with just needing to follow up with one document she requested. She will help us set up a Cafeteria plan to be able to have Health Insurance premiums be pre-tax.
- Requested quotes from three groups for insurance information. PIEP is a provider for public employees that would offer one rate for all employees no matter the age. This looks like the best option. I will continue to move forward with this.

### ITEMS OF NOTE AND/OR MOTION NEEDED

Cost share- Wright Group Culvert  
Approve City of Silver Bay payment and sign Voucher

### CORRESPONDENCE

Resolution packets





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## **September 2018 Forestry Report**

### **Tim Byrns**

#### **Forest Stewardship Plans**

- Rodney Johnson FSP- 90 acres

#### **NRCS EQIP Plans**

- John Coultier Forest Stand Improvement and Woody Residue Treatment project - 36 acres
- Sheryl Camper Forest Stand Improvement and Woody Residue Treatment project- 13 acres
- Sara Kosmo plan delivered for spruce budworm- 14 acres

#### **CWF CCMI Crew**

- Balsam Removal, Gail Reynolds Oct 17-20

#### **Grant Updates**

- NRCS Conservation Collaborative Grant for the Arrowhead Forest Partnership meeting to be held October 3 to discuss the process moving forward for District work in EQIP conservation delivery

#### **Engineering Assistance**

- Lovely streambank stabilization signed off by TSA
- Crown Creek road project cost share contract signed by landowner. Project is in design status at TSA
- Wright subdivision culvert improvement TSA technical assessment delivered to landowner association
- Beaver river rehab site visit
- 17<sup>th</sup> Ave ditch seeding and blanketing, City of Two Harbors

#### **Meetings**

- Forestry GIS tool meeting, Two Harbors Oct 1
- Arrowhead Forest Partnership meeting Oct 2







**WATER PLAN REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 11 – OCTOBER 3, 2018**

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

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**COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- PRAP Presentation to Lake SWCD Board – September 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Compiled 2018 Water Plan Annual Update
- Attended PRAP Presentation to Lake County Board of Commissioners – September 25<sup>th</sup>

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**LAKE SUPERIOR NORTH ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN**

- Coastal Erosion Hazard Map Task Force
  - Meeting with Cook SWCD DM
  - Agenda – upcoming meeting October 10<sup>th</sup>
- File scans and organizing

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**ITEMS OF NOTE AND/OR MOTION NEEDED**



Zach Stewart  
Water Resources Specialist  
Board Report 10/4/2018

E. coli Source Investigation

- Completed E. coli culture data collection in Two Harbors for 2018 season
- Successfully completed DNR Grant Admin / Project Manager training
- Developed grant reporting plan with District Manager (Zach will write progress reports and plan for successful final technical report, Karen will create financial reports and submit expenses for reimbursement)
- Solicited and documented bids for service-contract (DNA filtration/extraction)
- Selected and arranged service-contract with collaborators at UMD/NRRI
- Compiled NOAA climate and precipitation data: in process of cross-referencing and analyzing NOAA data with respect to 2018 preliminary E. coli culture data.

Culvert Replacement and Aquatic Organism Passage

- Setting up access to Arc-collector GIS-based culvert assessment app in collaboration with MN DNR IT (once established this will allow Lake County culvert data to be shared instantly via a state-wide stream crossing database)
- Established positive rapport with several local landowners and provided education while requesting access to stream crossings on private lands
- Investigating funding opportunities for culvert replacements and water quality improvement on streams

Aquatic Invasive Species

- Organizing Fall Lake, Moose Lake, and Snowbank Lake field evaluation of watercraft inspectors via in-kind arrangement with North Saint Louis SWCD WIP program
- Cleaned/organized summer field-season equipment
- Continued AIS outreach and education efforts when interacting with anglers and members of the public



### Rainy River Citizen Engagement

- Ely Community Resource AIS monitoring projects
  - (Ongoing) Plankton Community project aimed at defining spiny waterflea densities in Burntside, Shagawa and Fall Lakes and characterize how the native zooplankton community responds. We are exposing several students per week to AIS/plankton sampling protocols, laboratory techniques, microscope use, and dichotomous key use. (ECR students conduct this activity during summer, and then the Ely High School picks it up while school is in session).
- Completed fifth round of citizen lake monitoring (CLMP+).
- Calibrations and maintenance on water quality sondes.
- Working with DNR and USFS on an oxy-thermal pinch study on 4 lakes in Lake County (and 1 in Cook). These are lakes that are thought to be particularly sensitive to climate change in that the habitable area for fish in summertime is “pinched” into an increasingly thin zone which is cold enough (deeper), but also has adequate oxygen (shallower). USFS purchased the temperature loggers and providing help with field work (James Anderson). DNR to provide various sampling equipment and run analysis. Lake SWCD (me) to lead field work, and compile data. Loggers have been deployed in 5 of 5 lakes and oxygen profiles are being conducted bi-weekly in 4 of these lakes. Monthly in Cook County’s Loon Lake.
- Conducted a fish passage survey on a culvert that is scheduled to be replaced on the Two Island River. Will conduct a “post-replacement” survey after replacement.
- Assisted FS staff with a riparian improvement project on Ojibway Lake. This project may serve as a template to inform future shoreline vegetation improvement projects funded through grants and administered by SWCD staff. If future funding allows, I believe we could carry out larger-scale timber stand improvement projects in riparian areas, possibly partnering with USFS reforestation staff. 2 sites in mind: Pickerel Lake, and Farm/Garden.
- Researching different options for metals testing on Birch/White Iron Lakes. Original quote from Pace was over \$25k (to do both sampling and analysis). James Anderson and I will be doing the sampling and delivering samples to a lab. I received 2 new quotes from Pace (for lab work only). 1 is for the same analysis done in 2012, the other is for just Arsenic, Copper, and Nickel. NRS lab in Grand Rapids is much cheaper, but detection limits are not as good for these three parameters. Could possibly deliver samples to both labs for cost savings.

Aquatics Technician / Rainy River Headwaters Outreach Coordinator Monthly Update (Darren) September, 2018



- Conducted standard gill net surveys, fish tissue sampling, and water quality profiles in 3 wilderness lakes with DNR fisheries staff. Cherry, Topaz, and Ameober Lakes. The last time these lakes were sampled was 1983 (the year I was born).

\*Was on vacation camping/fishing at Lake Nipigon the first week of September.





# Engineering Monthly Update

September 6, 2018 to October 9, 2018

Prepared by Derrick Passe



## WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT

Alteration Plan Applications - Louisiana Pacific Expansion, Prospectors Loop, Split rock Campground

Wetland delineations - City of two Harbors, City of Silver Bay(3), Storms Site

Wetland Review - Superior Hiking Trail, Gooseberry to Split Rock

Bachman Site (So. Nestor Grade, Hwy 61) – Unpermitted Wetland filling. Voluntary restoration completed to Owner.

WCA Training – LGU/TEP Regional Training – Thief River Falls

## COST SHARE

### East Beaver River Restoration

#### Schedule

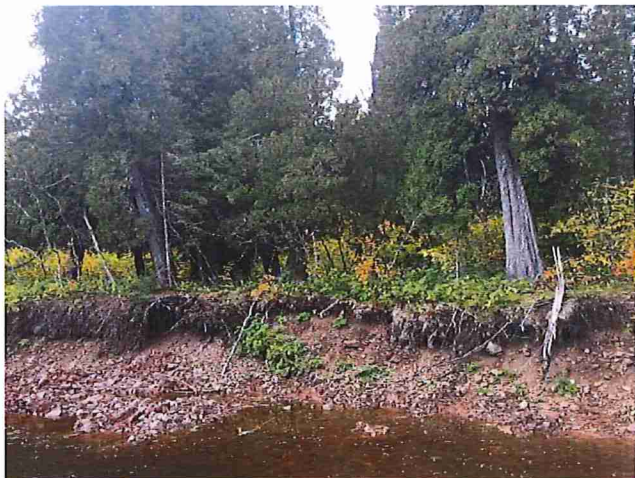
- Construction moving slow, especially with recent rainfall In-stream construction expected to take until October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Contract – Received proposal from Boreal Natives to complete permanent seeding (\$9820). SWCD/CCMI to undertake tree planting in October 2018 (145 white pines, white spruce and white cedar available from SWCD Inventory.) Scheduled CCMI Crew for end of October. Anticipate shrub and willow stake planting in 2019. **DNR Funding can be extended into 2019 to pay for restoration.**

Cliffs was not informed that project was starting. Required barricade on construction access at Lax Lake Road



*Completed section of channel*



*Wetland fill desired to protect cedars.*



*Excavating new Channel*



## East Beaver River Restoration (cont.)

Reviewed site with Pat Lynch and Mary Presnail (DNR-St. Paul)

Erosion Control – DNR (Brian Nerbonne) expressed concern about erosion control based on review of pictures. Contractor has 3 rows of flotation silt fence and rock filters at most locations adjacent to stream.

Jackie Ender – Reviewed Cost Share Planting. 2-3 Trees have died (Cages still in place). Roof drainage directed to grassed area for filtration.

Susan Duffy – Riparian Buffer completed. Fixed fee reimbursement. (\$2400, Overall project >\$10,000).

Stewart River – Reviewed site, Vegetation filling in nicely. Some unprotected trees and debris to be removed. Informed property owner of SWCD and Owner responsibilities. Will attempt to have CCMI Crew help remove unusable tree cages. Set up meeting with TSA and DNR to review site and restoration measures.

## STORMWATER

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Star Grant – Submitted Final report to Coastal Program

### **BWCA TRAILWORK (AUGUST 29-OCT. 5)**

