



LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

408 FIRST AVENUE, TWO HARBORS, MN 55616

P: (218) 834-8372

WWW.CO.LAKE.MN.US/SWCD

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors

Thursday, September 7th, 1:30pm

408 1st Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Chair Todd Ronning.
Present: Ronning – Brodigan- Omarzu-Sagen-Haus
Absent: None
Staff: Tucker-Schutte-Olson-Passe-Smerud-Hogfeldt
- Agenda: **Motion by Sagen and seconded by Brodigan to approve the agenda with additions (Cost share/Hiring Committee report/RC&D representative). Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Minutes: **Motion by Haus and seconded by Sagen to approve the minutes for August 10, 2017 meeting as printed. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. 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, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Audit Committee: 19 Checks and 12 direct deposits for a total of \$110,399.84
- **Guest Updates:**
- NRCS Report: Jon Sellnow's report was reviewed.
- **Project Reports**
 - **District Manager's Report:** Schutte stated that his meeting with the County about the budget went well, they will consider adding \$22,750 to maximize the match for Local Capacity funds. The water plan for the portion of the County not covered under the 1W1P will need to be updated. The County Administrator has asked that we house Extension for 10 years with no rent charged. We hosted a tour for the Clean Water Council of the Knife River stream restoration sites. Because of wet conditions and contractors running behind we have requested an extension for DNR Flood funds for the East Branch, Beaver River project and an extension to BWSR Phase 2 Flood funds.
 - Cost Share: 1) **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to sign a contract with Julie Andrus for bluff planting. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.**
2) **Motion by Brodigan and seconded by Haus to sign and pay the voucher for Terry Gydesen for tree planting for \$1,893.08. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.**
3) **Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to approve and sign the contract with John Hasse for a flood project not to exceed \$30,000. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.**
4) **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to sign and pay the voucher for Jackie Ender for \$721.53 for shoreline planting. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.**

5) Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to sign a contract with Darlene Graden to plant a silver maple not to exceed \$500. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.

- Technical Assistance: Byrns has been working with Paul Fish on a bank stabilization and culvert that is under construction. Passe is working with the Superior Hiking Trail to investigate options for replacing boardwalks along the trail. Passe attended the City of Two Harbors bus tour held to prioritize street improvements, they will include utility updates.
- Forestry: Tim provided an update on his forest stand improvement projects
- Outreach and Events: Various staff presented their outreach and education activities within their individual Board reports.
- Stormwater: Working with the City of Silver Bay because Zups would like to repave their parking lot, trying to work with them on a master plan for the City Center. We would like to contract with Alice Tibbetts to do outreach for adding Rain Gardens and other stormwater BMPs in Silver Bay.
- **Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to approve a contract with Alice Tibbetts. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Brodigan to approve an application for a Star Grant for Two Harbors BMP planning. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to sign and accept the Coastal Star Grant for \$7,500 for stormwater work. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Aquatic Invasives: Smerud passed around a report with results of inspections from this summer.
- Terrestrial Invasives: Our new Terrestrial Invasives Coordinator, Mackenzie Hogfeldt was introduced to the Board. Smerud and Hogfeldt have removed purple loosestrife plants and couldn't find any plants on an area that was treated in 2008.
- Trainings: **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Sagen to approve staff attending BWSR Academy held Nov 1-3. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Miscellaneous Activities: 1) **Motion by Sagen and seconded by Brodigan to approve a mini grant application for \$500 from Neighborhood Revitalization for new gutters and rain barrels. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.** 2) **Motion by Haus and seconded by Sagen to approve the project cost of \$1,090 for covered gutters and additional cost of rain barrels. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- **Correspondence: No action needed.**

Supervisor Committee Reports:

- Resolution pack: Supervisors signed the master copy of the Resolution vote form. We will add discussion of the resolutions to October's agenda.
- Area III meeting: September 20-21. **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Sagen to approve a Supervisor to attend. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.** They will let Karen know on Monday.
- Hiring Committee: **Motion by Ronning and seconded by Omarzu to offer Andrew Slade the position of District Manager starting at \$25 per hour at ¾ time and time off will accrue at 4 sick and 6 vacation for 75 hours worked. Personnel Committee has authorized to enter into negotiation process with Slade if needed. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- RC&D Representative: Brodigan will not be able to attend these meeting. We will add this to October's agenda. Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month at 12:30 in Duluth.

- 5) **Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to sign a contract with Darlene Graden to plant a silver maple not to exceed \$500. Affirmative: Ronning, Brodigan, Omarzu, Sagen, Haus. Abstain: None. Carried.**
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Motion to adjourn at 4:19 next meeting will be October 12th, 2017 at 408 1st Avenue.

Todd Ronning, Chairman

Submitted by:

Karen R. Tucker, District Clerk

For:

Doug Haus, Secretary

Doug Haus, Lake SWCD



September 7, 2017

NRCS Conservation Report: Lake SWCD

Jon Sellnow, District Conservationist

Programs:

- 24 Active EQIP Contracts
- 25 EQIP Applications for FY2018
- 1 Active CSP Contract

Meetings, Trainings, and Events:

- August 8-9 – Grand Portage
- August 14 – Carlton SWCD
- August 15-18 – Conservation Planning Course
- August 18 – EQIP 2018 Application Deadline
- September 1-8 – Leave
- September 6 – Lake County Forestry Tour
- September 7 – Cook SWCD
- September 7 – Lake SWCD

Upcoming Items:

- September 20 – South St. Louis SWCD
- September 21-22 – GLRI Tour
- September 28 to October 6 – Leave
- October 9 – Carlton SWCD
- October 12 – Lake SWCD
- October 18 – South St. Louis SWCD
- November 2 – Cook SWCD
- November 3 – BWSR Academy
- November 3 to 13 – Leave
- November 3 – Carlton SWCD
- November 9 – Lake SWCD
- November 15 – South St. Louis SWCD
- December 7 – Cook SWCD
- December 14 – Lake 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
- ARC = Area Resource Conservationist
- DC = District Conservationist



DISTRICT MANAGER MONTHLY UPDATE AUGUST 10 – AUGUST 31, 2017

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

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Stewart River revegetation finalization – access and access closure, signage, review with MPCA stormwater and contracted service staff
- Staff transition planning, interview schedule/question development
 - Interviews scheduled with 4 candidates on morning of September 7th.
- Cost share project coordination
- Seeking bids for barberry work, \$12,800 from DNR to use managing barberry.
- Clean Water Council Tour preparation and planning

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- August 14 – CCMI and Mac at Shoreview Rd. site to discuss invasives, inventory, and mngt.
- August 16 – Met with County admin to discuss budget, office space, and transition
 - County will consider adding \$22,750 to SWCD budget to maximize BWSR match
 - Discussed water planning coverage with staff shifts
 - 4-H and Extension are considering our downstairs space for office
 - Rent free for ten years, helping with utilities (20% utilities + phones)
- August 21 – Site visits to Knife and Stewart with MPCA stormwater compliance staff
 - Vegetation looks great, will be closing out NPDES permits yet this fall ☺
- August 22 – Met with Sonja and BWSR staff to discuss water plan options moving forward
 - Sonja will be shooting for LWM development by April/May, 2018 with Cook County Water Plan, LSNW 1W1P document, and GIS targeting assistance via Courtney's upcoming work will be helpful.
- August 25 – site prep and dry run for CWC tour
- August 27-28 – Clean Water Council meeting and tour
- Planning conversations for next North Shore Mngt. Board meeting with 1W1P focus
 - Sept. 21 – Forestry
 - Oct. 4 - Stormwater

ITEMS OF NOTE AND/OR MOTION NEEDED

- Jackie Ender – Cost Share project payment *Motion/Sig.*
- Coastal STAR Grant signature - \$7,500 for stormwater inventory *Motion/Sig.*
- Julie Andrus Contract signature – bluff edge plantings, Encampment *Motion/Sig.*

Rainy River Coordinator Monthly Update

August 10, 2017 – August 31, 2017



Rainy Headwaters/Cloquet Citizen Engagement Contracts

- RRHW/Cloquet Watersheds
 - Asked MPCA about apparent Secchi Transparency Trend on Birch Lake
 - MPCA Trend looks at Average Annual Transparency rather than individual Readings
 - IJC Board Meeting with the Public – Tower
 - Many Representatives from Ely Area
 - Expressed concern relative to proposed mining – Conductivity levels rising on Birch Lake
 - IJC has submitted a letter to USFS
 - WRAPS display and Outreach at Brimson Sisu
 - Attended Cook County SWCD Shoreland Presentation



AIS

- New Rusty Crayfish infestation – Aitkin County

Lake County Activities

- Cost Share
 - Castle Danger
 - Changes in discharge channel due to Food Truck pad.
 - Getting close to planting on Rain Garden
 - Anticipating a new White Pine Planting Sponsorship next Spring
 - Farm Lake Shoreland Projects
- Northshore Homes
 - Site Visit – Stormwater management, road, restoration incomplete.
 - Lots of invasives in boulevard – Tansy, Thistle
- Planning Commission
 - Submitted comments on Gravel Pit Interim Use Permit
 - Submitted comments on 13290 Lodge Road – Setback from Farm Lake
 - Submitted comments on 13305 Lodge Road – Setback from Farm Lake

August 31,
2017

- Terrestrial Invasives
 - Coordinated Lake County Extension Program on Terrestrial Invasive Species September 16.

WCA

- TEP Meeting on Prospector's Trail ATV Wetland impacts
 - Impacts in multiple Counties
 - Multiple Local Governmental Units
 - Federal Jurisdiction also (USFS)
- Two Harbors Stormwater
 - Requested County Information on Storm Sewer
 - Attended Regional Stormwater Protection Team (RSPT) Meeting in Duluth
 - Reps from MPCA, Duluth, Sea Grant, UMD, Hermantown, Superior, etc.
 - Similar Problems to Two Harbors (E. coli, Turbidity, Stormwater Fees)
 - Met with BWSR (Erin) to discuss Stormwater projects in Two Harbors
 - Accompanied City Council on Bus Tour of CIP Projects – Contacted Rustic Creek
 - Met w/ Forrest Peterson, Justin Otsea relative to TH Development
- Silver Bay Stormwater
 - Met with Alice Tibbet and Lana Fralich on introducing rain Gardens in Silver Bay
 - Same Infiltration and Inflow problems that Two Harbors has.
 - Also have issues with lead level in WWTP discharge
 - Due to rainfall level higher than discharge limit
 - Covering WW Clarifiers for short term fix.
 - Volume issues and perimeter ditch cleaning needs.
 - Zups – Parking lot repaving, using City property for snow storage
 - Carefree Living slope stabilization complaints.



- Cliff House Commons – Reviewed Driveway design
- Superior Hiking Trail
 - Hiked Trail near Fors Road to look at wetland/trail conflicts
 - Reviewed Puncheon replacement plan from SHTA

Rainy River Headwaters Coordinator Monthly Update (Darren, not Derrick)
August 1, 2016 – August 31, 2016



Rainy River Citizen Engagement

- MPCA Advanced Citizen Lake Monitoring Program
 - Sonde calibrations and maintenance.
 - Coordinated sampling efforts with lead volunteers and assisted with sampling. Also exposed VCC interns to sampling so they may serve as an alternate data collector.
 - Contacting MPCA about adding Browns Lake to CLMP+ program.
- Lake Association activities
 - Attended WICOLA annual meeting/dinner and presentation.
 - Coordinating with Carrie Ohly Cusack of Burntside Lake Association on efforts described below.
- Ely Community Resource AIS monitoring project
 - Ongoing field work with ECR staff and students carrying out a long-term AIS monitoring project on the Burntside River, Burntside Lake, Shagawa Lake and Fall Lake.
 - Projects have kicked-off and are yielding useful data/results. The upstream-most extent of the Rusty Crayfish population in the Burntside River has been identified and is being trapped weekly.
 - Project with an aim to model how spiny waterflea abundance changes seasonally with temperature and over the long-term in Burntside, Shagawa and Fall Lakes. Burntside is being sampled every Tuesday with SWF densities around 15 individuals/cubic meter sampled. Shagawa and Fall Lakes SWF densities are too low to sample this year, but will likely be sampled in the future.
 - We have added a month to this sampling per participants' availability. Projects will run through September.

Rainy River Basin AIS

- AIS General
 - Coordinated with Kaitlin Knutson on 2016 monitoring efforts. Lakes sampled to date: Crooked, Ninemile, Comfort, Burntside, Burntside River, Dunnigan, Shagawa, Fall, Dumbbell, Island River.
 - Coordinated with Finland DNR staff to acquire suckers for crayfish bait.

VCC/MPCA Intern Support

- Continued technical, logistical and equipment support to interns.
- Trained and relinquished monthly FS beach water testing. Last testing will be in September.

Chemical Extremes in Lakes Project

- Co-managing field data collection and technical assistance with Forest Service staff on 3 lakes in Lake County (Dunnigan, Divide, and Crooked). (2 days per month).

*I will be in Oregon on a fire detail from 8/24 to approximately 9/9.



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August, 2017 Forestry Report

Tim Byrns

Meetings/Conferences Attended

- Stream Stabilization Design for Aquatic Organism Passage at Road-Stream Crossings August 14-18
- Easement Opportunities for the North Country, August 28

Meetings/Conferences Upcoming

- Lake County SWCD SBW treatment tour September 6
- Woodland Stewardship Plan Writer Workshop September 7

Forestry

- Milt Larson, EQIP 20 acres mechanical balsam treatment for SBW
- Al Telshaw, EQIP 4 acres manual balsam treatment for SBW
- Roger Parsons, EQIP 7 acres manual balsam treatment for SBW
- Sherry Camper, site visit SBW
- Betty Bartshaw, site visit SBW

State Cost Share

- Terry Gydesen Tree Planting completed, Voucher board signature needed

EQIP work

- Assignment of payment for CCMI crew is being processed
- Service agreement payments to be invoiced September 11

Grants

- 2018 CWF grant for forestry RFP Submitted

Engineering

- Cliff House Commons Road Surfacing Design completed
- Northshore Horizons Rain Garden Design
- Paul Fish- Bank Stabilization currently under construction



BOARD UPDATE: AUGUST 11 – SEPTEMBER 7, 2017
GIS SPECIALIST
COURTNEY OLSON

BUFFER

- Public hearing September 18th; draft of ordinance from County

STORMWATER ANALYSIS

- Attended Regional Stormwater Protection Team meeting
- Stormwater Action Plan for Silver Bay
 - Outreach and Education with Alice Tibbetts *motion*
 - Articles, sump pump follow up, rain garden education and outreach, community action group formation
 - Extending E. coli sampling to Black Beach in anticipation of future campground
 - Zup's/City buildings stormwater management
- Two Harbors
 - P8 for biological BMP placement identification
 - Pet waste pick-up campaign
 - E. coli continuing to trend with rainfall
- STAR Grant submitted September 1st for shovel ready planning and engineering *motion*

MISC.

- Building Maintenance
 - Neighborhood Revitalization Mini Grant application sent 8/28
 - Quote from A1 Seamless Gutters: \$1090 (gutters \$675, gutter covers \$415) *motion*
 - Total project cost \$1290 (including rain barrels), grant may cover up to \$500 *motion*
 - Roofing quote
- Upcoming training: SWCD Governance 101

Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Monthly Update

10 August – 31 August 2017

Sonja Smerud



DATA & LOGISTICS

*People, boat count, and material data is not entirely reliable as it is subject to whether inspectors remember to mark down contact numbers.

Lake Superior (May-August 2017): Handed out 167 maps, 35 stickers, 6 carwashes (2 used in full at LilDog carwash), 7 kayak handouts, 78 Great Lakes Booklets, 35 pamphlets, 11 bobbers, and 146 towels during 279.45 hours of inspection. At least 1161 people were reached through Lake Superior inspections and 468 inspections completed. This means Raymond, our Lake Superior inspector, reaches about 4.2 people per hour worked. Agate Bay is the busiest Lake Superior location. Of inspections, all have been in compliance.

Ely (May-August 2017): 85 inspections have been completed and at least 282 people reached in 167.5 inspection hours on various Ely lakes including Fall, Birch, S. Kawishiwi, Moose, and Snowbank. Ely's contact rate is about half as Lake Superior – approx.. 1.68 people per hour of staff time. Of inspections, all have been in compliance. Kaitlin has completed additional outreach in Ely, including working with Ely Community Resource, working festivals, and outreach at the farmer's markets. She has also continued coordinating water monitoring in Ely with WICOLA volunteers (including regular monitoring on Sand Lake).

All inspection hours at **Fall Lake Campground** with North St. Louis SWCD have been met (240hrs).

Additional inspections were conducted by DNR officials at Lake Superior. All boats were in compliance (all drain plugs out, no plants) or were brought into compliance during August. DNR did not conduct many inspections during August on Lake Superior (Lake County) landings.

Treated 2 different sites approx. 0.5 acres of purple loosestrife along Lax Lake and North Shore State Trail off Hwy 2. Lax Lake location treatment included 3 plants which had spread across the right of way toward the lake. Monitored additional 5 previously reported locations and did not find purple loosestrife.

Continued AIS reporting for Lake County via GLEDN and EDDMaps. No new AIS infestations to report since last board meeting, beyond 1 loosestrife location on Hwy. 3 which was treated.

Conducted exit interviews with Kaitlin and Raymond. Kaitlin will continue inspections into September (approx.. 80 additional hours, primarily on Fall Lake on weekends). Positive feedback received in interviews.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Crayfish trapping and outreach at Dumbbell Lake August 15th with Grand Portage/Treaty Authority. Valuable connections and work with Treaty Authority. 20+ students from Grand Portage Tribe.

Lake County Fair posters and outreach table setup (August 16-20).

Acquired additional specimens for AIS outreach from MN SeaGrant (Ruffe, CLP, quagga mussels, goby).

Attended Ely Area Invasives Team Meeting, helped establish new structure/strategic plan August 17.

Attended Cook County SWCD's Shoreline Planting/Restoration Workshop + Aquatic Vegetation Workshop with Mary Blickenderfer, August 24-25th.

Pressed plants for preserved collection for outreach purposes (especially AIS Sentry Program).

WATER PLANNING

Lake County Water Planning meeting with BWSR representatives – established plan for Lake County Water Plan 2018 and 1W1P Rainy for 2019, partner St. Louis County.

DNR Conservation Easement Workshop in Grand Rapids August 28th – Potential RIM & Easement possibilities with MN Land Trust moving forward with 10 year county plan.

Began reading Water Plans from area counties, including Lake County.

UPCOMING

Spiny waterflea surveys. Trainings. Additional SWCD responsibilities re: water planning, wetlands. MISAC Field Tour, MAISRC Showcase, 25 by 25 meeting in Ely.

Personal: celebrated my Birthday! Upcoming: Isle Royale hiking trip