



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, July, 12 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
Staff: Tucker-Passe-Smerud-Stewart
- 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 Omarzu and seconded by Brodigan to approve the minutes for June 14, 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 Haus to approve the treasures report as presented. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Guest Updates:
- NRCS Report: Jon Sellnow's report was reviewed. Byrnes is planning on sending out a letter to offer plan writing to the Fall Lake residents that need Fire-Wise Plans written to qualify for NRCS contracts.

District Manager:

- **Cost-Share: Motion by Brodigan and seconded by Sagen to approve and sign the Chapek Cost-Share Voucher for \$3000. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- **Cost-Share: Motion by Sagen and seconded by Brodigan to approve and sign the City of Silver Bay Cost-Share Voucher for \$10,585.92 for Wetland Credits for the Beaver River Project. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- **Billable Rates:** Tucker met with the BWSR Auditor to update our Billable rates. **Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to approve the Billable rates as presented. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- **Project update:** Passe gave an update of his site visits and how projects held up to the heavy rains.

The Knife River sites held up pretty good. He also updated the Board on our working with a landowner to install more gabion baskets. They seem to really work on Lake Superior Shoreline.

Correspondence: Lake of the Woods Watershed Board is meeting in August.

Staff Report: Mac Hogfeldt reported on the Tool he created as part of the 1W1P to help prioritize parcel data. He showed examples of maps that can be produced. Thanks Mac for your hard work.

Supervisor Committee Reports and Concerns:

Audit Committee: Motion by Sagen and seconded by Haus to approve the Audit Committee signed 18 Checks and 12 direct payments for a total of \$57,015.25. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.

TSA: Ronning reported that TSA had not been able to check projects yet because of high water but they thought they looked good.

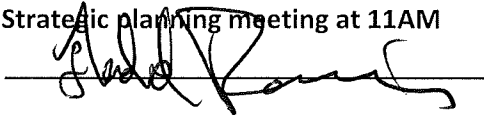
River Conference: Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve the \$500 Sponsorship level. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.

Watershed Sign: Brodigan was wondering about fixing the sign. Sonja has looked into it. We will continue to try to get it repaired.

Two Harbors Stormwater: Ronning reported that when we received the heavy rain last Sunday he went out and looked at several of the stormwater projects including the cemetery retention basin and the one on the Segogg by-pass were working great.

Motion to adjourn, next meeting will be August 9th at Noon at 408 1st Avenue.

Special Strategic planning meeting at 11AM



Todd Ronning, Chairman

Submitted by:

Karen R. Tucker, District Manager



Doug Haus, Secretary

For:

Doug Haus, Lake SWCD

Engineering Monthly Update

June 7, 2018 to July 4, 2018

Prepared by Derrick Passe



WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT

Louisiana Pacific Expansion – Need additional storage area for product 'cooling'. Some wetland impact, large increase in impervious surface. Requested controlling runoff to undeveloped rates.

PRAP completed of County WCA Program – Results forthcoming. Improvement possible in Enforcement procedures and Current Wetland Delineation Training of TEP Members (SWCD and County).

COST SHARE

Beaver River Restoration

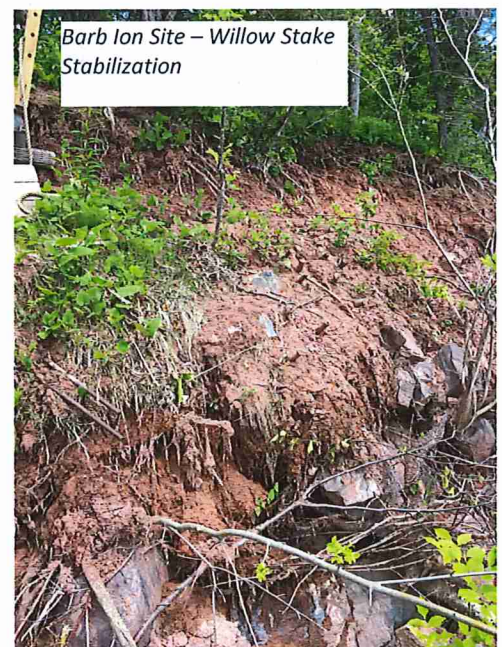
Schedule

- ~~Revised Wetland Application 4/5/2017~~
- ~~WCA TEP Meeting 4/11/2017,~~
- Design Plans – (Final by May 1) Requested Final Plan 7/5
- WCA TEP Action Deadline – May 11, 2018 **WCA Permit Issued 5/10, USACOE Permit Issued 5/21.**
- **DNR Permit – 6/6/2018** Permit Issued 6/7
- Bidding (May 15 – June 1) Advertised 7/9 (July 9th -31st)
- Award (June or July) based on Bidding Bid Opening scheduled for 7/31, Award 8/6/181
- Construction (July 15th – September 15th) (4 – 6 weeks) Construction August 7th- October 5th (In-stream complete by Sept. 14th)

North Shore Horizons – Planters are constructed, waiting to be placed and filled with soil.

Neighbor to Neighbor – Met with Jim Joseph. They would like to build rain garden to treat runoff into the Skunk.

June 26 - Post Storm Site Visits with Erin and Karen



- Barb Ion – Flood restoration questionable. Trees and plants not thriving. Owner not providing buffer to bank failure area. Sent letter outlining sources of damage, asking for buffer and recommended installation of rain barrel. Gabions placed by owner appear to be functioning well. Possible Opportunity for Cost Share

- Jon Chapek – Site looked good despite signs of high water. Request for payment.
- John Hasse Site –Reviewed site. Continued damage due to toe erosion. Soil Borings scheduled to determine potential to increase bank stability from Upland drainage
- Ruth Boulanger Site – Stream bank eroding toward driveway. Discussed site with TSA, repair would require reconnecting stream with floodplain. Expanding flood plain along river would necessitate relocating/rebuilding driveway. Raising channel would have cascading effects downstream. Requested owner cease mowing along top of bank as required by Cost Share Contract.
- Stewart River off Big Rock Road.
 - Significant damage from flood. Especially on lower (Parsons) section of project.
 - Request by DNR for CCM I Assistance on cleanup



STORMWATER

2018 Coastal Grant – E. coli sampling – Sampling continues. Agate Bay closed twice due to E. coli.

Star Grant – Completed grant reporting.

Skunk Creek Channel Stabilization – BEHI analysis completed. Channel appears stable (Bedrock), however two areas appear to have seepage slumping.

Rustic Creek – Indicated erosion during BEHI Analysis.

LOCAL CAPACITY

Sweep the Skunk 2018 – Interest expressed by 4-H, Church Groups to participate in Pledge Drive/Service Project.

LAKE COUNTY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Mike Thomas Site – Large are of steep slope and floodplain graded without Land-Use permit. Assisted County P&Z with recommendations for plan approval.

Vista Ridge – Preliminary Plat Review.



Conservation Outreach Coordinator Report

July ~~June~~, 2018

Rainy River Headwaters Civic Engagement

- Met with Becca of NSL SWCD and corresponded with Kate Kubiak of South St. Louis SWCD to discuss coordinating a canoe trip down the Cloquet River.
- Coordinated and completed water monitoring on Kane, White, and Pequaywan lake.
- Put together presentation for the Pequaywan Lake Association.
- Reviewed the WRAPS document for the Cloquet River Watershed.

Stormwater

- Went out with Jeff Jasperson (MPCA) and Haley to do BEHI training on the Skunk. Made preparations for completing the BEHI in July. A previous BEHI had been completed on the Skunk, but contained too much data and only for one side of the creek (as per original training instructions).

Coastal Program

- Completed one radio program – interviewed Dr. Randall Hicks of UMD about E. Coli contamination in surface waters.
- Recorded video of EAB infestations (no actual insects) with Jeffrey Flory of 1854 Treaty Authority in Duluth.
- Completed reporting and submitted invoice.
- Participated in Heritage Days parade.
- Recorded video in Ely of spiny waterflea (thanks to Darren).
- Recorded video of zebra mussels in Minnetonka and Common Buckthorn in the Twin Cities.



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June 2018 Forestry Report

Tim Byrns

Forestry Assistance

- Met with Upcountry Land Works LLC, a contractor in the Finland area interested in timber stand improvement work
- Jacoby FSP inventory
- Haus forest stand improvement and woody residue plan
- Schlangen forest stand improvement and woody residue plan
- Zoff forest stand improvement and woody residue plan
- Turman forest stand improvement and woody residue plan
- Johnson forest stand improvement and woody residue plan
- Omarzu small acreage plan
- Eric Lindberg site visit
- Kaupa tree planting site visit

Engineering Assistance

- Crown Creek road project is on hold, landowners are discussing implementing the project independently
- Lovely streambank stabilization preconstruction meeting. Project is scheduled to begin mid-July

Other Assistance

- Working with Zach in assessing stream and ditch crossings for potential projects. Conducted initial assessments with MPCA
- GIS Forestry tool review

Training

- Forest Health Workshop June 13
- Seeding Workshop July 3

Rainy River Citizen Engagement

- Ely Community Resource AIS monitoring projects
 - (Ongoing) Native Plankton Community project aimed at characterizing the current plankton community in Shagawa and Fall Lakes to see how it responds to spiny waterflea colonization. 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 second round of citizen lake monitoring (CLMP+) including new this year, Cedar lake.
- Calibrations and maintenance on water quality sondes.
- Scheduled various stream monitoring surveys to be completed in conjunction with MPCA.
- Held a training for MPCA interns on beach e. coli monitoring. They conducted the first round of sampling following a major rain event. All results were below exceedance levels.
- Held a spiny waterflea monitoring training session for WICOLA members. Plankton nets have been distributed to "lead" volunteer swf monitors on the chain.
- Conducted an aquatic plant ID training for Sentry volunteers immediately following the Sentry training session.
- Continuously scheduling work plans and training new assistant Rainy River Headwaters Outreach Coordinator, Liz Anderson.
- Signed up to run an aquatic biology and sampling techniques teaching station at Wolf Ridge's "Bio-Blitz" event.
- Working with DNR and USFS on an oxy-thermal pinch study on 5 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 to purchase the temperature loggers and 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 3 of 6 lakes and oxygen profiles are being conducted bi-weekly.
- Took last week of June off to fish Lake Nipigon, Ontario with my father. Caught some Brook Trout and Lake Trout!

Rainy River Headwaters Outreach Coordinator Monthly Update (Darren)
June, 2018



E. coli project (Skunk Creek and Burlington Bay)

- Drafting experimental design and work plan for 2-year E. coli source investigation
- Met with microbial source tracking expert, Dr. Randall Hicks to inform investigation
- Began systematic field sampling for E. coli
- Carrying out in-depth review of primary scientific literature on E. coli and microbial source tracking
- Studied One Watershed One Plan document to guide/inform work on Skunk Creek

AIS and Watercraft Inspections

- Routinely achieving excellent rapport with anglers and carrying out effective education
- Collecting and analyzing data on watercraft inspections to improve watercraft inspection program in the future
- Coordinating and scheduling seasonal watercraft inspectors (Elizabeth, AI)
- Providing support and training to watercraft inspectors

Culvert Replacement and Aquatic Organism Passage

- Successfully completed culvert assessment field training with Jeff Jaspersen (MPCA)
- Began reconnaissance of culvert sites
- Contacted several landowners and received permission to work on their property
- Working with Mackenzie and Tim to prioritize culverts using GIS tool (Mac created tool)
- Will gather data and create preliminary reports to support a strong grant application for continued funding



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT JUNE 11 – JULY 5, 2018

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

OUTREACH

- *See update from Liz Anderson*
- Water Watchers 2018 – no interested Two Harbors participants (canceled); 7 participants in Finland
 - Finalized a curriculum outline
 - Created a field notebook for students
 - Trained Olivia from Wolf Ridge ELC on AIS outreach and programming – new lead educator
 - Led Day 1 data collection overview for students
 - Added an iPad and ArcCollector project to data collection toolbox
 - Trap setting at Lax Lake
- Facilitated creation of AIS trail guides – Haley
- Float prep for Heritage Days
- Festivals: booth staffing scheduling with various partners
- Set up invasive species outreach event and monitoring participation in BioBlitz – July 18th
- Established draft towel design (similar to previous microfiber towels) with On the Limit
- AIS Sentry Program
 - Taught Sentry Training, Farm Lake – July 23d
 - Trained-in Liz, facilitated (2 participants), sent follow-up email
 - Radio spot on WELY
 - Sent newsletter to last year's participants
 - Aiding in setting up "toolbox" for sentries at HAK ELY
- Starry Trek – August 18th Sign-up and Preparation/Outreach with WICOLA
- Lake Profile project development with Liz

WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS

- *See update from Zach Stewart*
- *AI started watercraft inspections, Elizabeth continues > all reaching effective outreach, if slow boat numbers*
- Created nametags and updated conservation officer contact information for inspectors
- 317 inspections conducted by Lake SWCD staff (not including North St. Louis/Fall Lake contract or MNDNR conducted inspections) from start of season – July 2nd 2018. 3% of boats (9) arrived with a drain plug in, but were brought into compliance on site. Only 3 inspections reported

finding species visible in the inspection, 2 plants which were removed on site and one was water (not a species – no zebra mussels were found). Most boats had been out of the water 1-4 days or 5 days or more. No watercraft required decontamination, and most were fishing boats.

- Scheduled decontamination at Fall Lake: July 14th, 21st, 22nd with MNDNR partnership
- Meeting with Lake County Administration re: enforcement budgeting
- Pursued CD3 stations at Fall Lake and Agate Bay
- Adjusted watercraft inspection schedule with traffic rates and staff interest
- Provided training, direction, and facilitation with inspectors on-site

MONITORING, ASSESSMENTS, GRANTS

- *See update from **Paul Trygstad***
- AIS Subcommittee draft work plan – edits and summation with Derrick
- ArcCollector AIS data collection project
- Conducted staffing check-in with Water Resource Technician – LS, Water Resource Technician – Rainy

LIZ ANDERSON JUNE UPDATE – AIS

Watercraft inspecting

- Watercraft inspections at Fall Lake campground, Moose Lake, Snowbank Lake
- Continued tracking AIS conversations with people not recorded by inspection surveys. Noting interesting or pertinent themes, observations, questions, and perspectives
- Proposal for small-scale boat traffic study to inform watercraft inspector scheduling, outreach efforts, and general knowledge of PWA use by boat type, day of the week, and time of day

Outreach

- Developing lake profile sheets with Sonja
- Delivering Clean, Drain, Dry coasters to Ely area establishments
- Making arrangements for outreach events at Ely Farmers Market
- Received training to facilitate future Sentry trainings
- Assisting with HAK Ely AIS Sentry tool kit arrangement

Monitoring

- Planning for rusty crayfish monitoring N. and S. Kawishiwi and possibly WICOL



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

- PRAP Contact List (see survey) and meeting with BWSR PRAP Coordinator
 - Initial prep for PRAP
- Water Plan “annual update” newsletter drafted for outreach distribution
- Outreach to new task force members

LAKE SUPERIOR NORTH ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN

- PTMAp training in Stearns County for 1W1P implementation – June 13th
- CEHM Coastal Erosion Hazard Map meeting and follow-up – June 21st
- 1W1P Planning Grant – some financial reporting and wrote final grant reports
 - Landscape Prioritization Tool
 - Summation meeting with Mac & Tim
 - North Shore Stormwater Protection Team

ITEMS OF NOTE AND/OR MOTION NEEDED

- *See additional updates from Zach*
- Created final work plan, mid-term review, and check-in with CCMI Apprentice

