



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, September 8, 1pm

US Forestry Center

Kawishiwi Ranger Station, Ely, MN 55731

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.
Present: Goutermont – Falk – Ronning – Kovach-Brodigan
Absent: None
Staff: Tucker-Schutte-Olson-Passe
Guests: Kaitlin Knutson-Charlene Mason-Teresa Sagan-Erin Loeffler
- Agenda: **Motion by Ronning and seconded by Kovach to approve the agenda. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Minutes: **Motion by Falk and seconded by Brodigan to approve the August 4, 2016 minutes as printed. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Special Meeting Minutes: **Motion by Ronning and seconded by Falk to approve the August 18, 2016 minutes as printed. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Financial and administrative reports:
- Treasurers Report: **Motion by Falk and seconded by Kovach to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- **Guest Updates:**
 - NRCS Report: Bomier's report was shared, Schutte pointed out that the Lake County EQIP numbers are up thanks to all of Tim Byrns efforts. They believe the forestry plans will be sufficient for the NRCS programs.
 - BWSR: Erin Loeffler handed out an update on the Buffer Program. She plans to meet with all the County Boards so they can make a decision if they want regulatory authority for the Buffer Law. If they choose not to BWSR would be the regulator. They have provided tracking tools to use.
- **Staff Updates:**
- **District Manager's Report:** Schutte reviewed the changes suggested at the Special meeting to update our Mission Statement. **Motion Kovach and seconded by Brodigan to make the following change to the Mission Statement. "to provide technical assistance to help property owners and local units of government implement sound land management >>and water quality<<planning to protect the natural resources of Lake County." Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.** Schutte reviewed the offer letter for Max Forster to offer a part-time position (less than 18 hours) for Social Media and Website Technician. **Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ronning to approve the offer letter and job description. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.** Schutte requested approval of a Cost Share contract with Crystal Bay Township for erosion repairs at a cost of \$3000 dollars for native planting at the Clair Nelson Center. **Motion by Kovach and seconded by Falk to approve and sign the contract. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach,**

Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried. Motion by Falk and seconded by Ronning to approve White Cedar payment to Itasca County and request reimbursement. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried. Motion by Ronning and seconded by Falk to approve submitting S and PF NE Area Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Project Proposal, in the amount of \$175-\$225K for timber stand improvement. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried. Schutte updated the board on his three meetings with Engineering firms about the Beaver River project. The contracts for all professional and contracted construction services on the East Branch of the Beaver River restoration project will be with Silver Bay. SWCD has been working with the City of Two Harbors on buckthorn removal. The city staff chipped all the tree that were removed. The Budget has been submitted to the County. Knife and Stewart River repairs are complete, except for the access road that was created on the Stewart river project; that re-vegetation work will likely wait until Spring, per Boreal Natives site manager recommendation for most effective approach to revegetating the impacted area. The Civic Engagement grant was extended to September 2017 and \$25,000 was added. Met with MPCA/MDA to discuss how to further identify and refine our knowledge on the source and subsequent management of e-coli impairments of Agate Bay and Skunk Creek.

- **Rainy River Coordinator:** Passe reported that we are finishing up the sampling for SWAG grant. Lake County would like to have us hire an AIS Coordinator, and Schutte is working on a draft job description for presentation at the October, 2016 SWCD board meeting. Passe is working on coordinating an AIS survey with Cook County. He will be presenting at an AIS Summit in St Cloud along with Darren Lilja. Reviewed other reports from Crayfish trappers and Lake Monitoring. He introduced Kaitlin who worked as an ambassador this summer.
- **GIS Technician:** Courtney Olson shared some of the maps she has been working on.
- **Outreach Coordinator:** Emily is on vacation but her report was shared.
- **Conservation Technician:** Staff has been working on the BEHI for Skunk Creek. Byrns attended a training that completed his continuing education credits that he needed. He has been busy meeting with landowners.
- **Correspondence:**

Supervisor Committee Reports:

Audit Committee: Motion by Falk and seconded by Kovach to approve and sign 25 checks and 6 direct deposits totaling \$92,143.01 Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach. Abstain: None. Carried.

BWSR Academy: Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ronning to approve staff attending BWSR Academy. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach. Abstain: None. Carried.

Oct Meeting/Payroll: Motion by Ronning and seconded by Brodigan to change next month's meeting date to October 13th at 1 PM in Two Harbors. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach. Abstain: None. Carried. Motion by Brodigan and seconded by Falk to approve paying staff on the first Thursday as usual. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach. Abstain: None. Carried.

DNR Groundwater meeting: Motion by Dave and seconded by Brodigan to approve Ronning and up to two others to attend the meeting. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach. Abstain: None. Carried.

Coastal Conference Oct 5 & 6th: Motion by Ronning and seconded by Brodigan to approve up to three Supervisors to attend. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach. Abstain: None. Carried.

Area III Meeting: Motion by Falk and seconded by Kovach to approve Supervisors to attend. Affirmative: Goutermont, Falk, Ronning, Kovach. Abstain: None. Carried.

Tucker will email all the dates and time to register Supervisors.

Motion to adjourn. Next meeting will be held October 13th at 1 PM at the Knife River Room, Two Harbors, MN

Phillip R. Goutermont, Chairman

David W. Falk

Submitted by:

Karen R. Tucker, District Clerk

For:

David W. Falk, Lake SWCD

Lake County SWCD



United States Department of Agriculture

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

Phone: (218) 720-5209

September 2016

To: Lake County SWCD Board

From: Duluth Field Office

8 Active Program Contracts:

- EQIP-6
- CSP 2

50 Program Applications:

- EQIP: 50

18 of these applications are for landowners that are working with Tim. Many others are folks that contacted us during the last week of the sign-up and are working with Lake County Firewise (Matt Tyler) to address blowdown damage that occurred in the Snowbank Lake area in July. I'll be working with Firewise to come up with a strategy to assist these landowners in September and October. Some of these folks might find other avenues to address their concerns, but many will most likely proceed with an EQIP application.

This is a huge increase (more than double) the number of applications we've ever had in Lake county and the largest number of applications we have in the 4 counties we serve. We will be processing/planning on over 100 applications this year.

Practice Implementation:

None this month.

Conservation Plans Completed/Signature:

- I will bring many of these to the next meeting I attend in person.

Farm Bill:

We did get a flood of interested landowners in the last week before the application deadline on August 19th. But, we were able to get everyone that contacted us before the end of the day on Friday into our system.

New Applications that we receive now will be considered for the 2018 Fiscal Year.

The next deadline will be November 30th; this is the deadline for eligibility. This means that **all site visits must be made and project/practice plans completed.** We'll also need landowners to decide on the final size of the project they wish to submit an application for. This will be our main focus this fall.



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
4850 Miller Trunk Hwy., Suite 2B
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We do expect deer cages (tree protection) to be added to the list of eligible practices under EQIP this Fiscal Year and will pass along that information as soon as it becomes available.

We expect fewer restrictions or (practice supplemental criteria) on EQIP eligible practices this year.

Other:

- I will be on leave the week of 9/5 and the week of 9/19.
- I attended the MPCA staff meeting in Duluth in August in order to share with them some of the NRCS projects/programs.

Program 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

Respectfully submitted,

Will Bomier
District Conservationist-Duluth Field Office



Been a good year in the garden for those water loving, cool weather plants!

Natural Resources Conservation Service
4850 Miller Trunk Hwy, Suite 2B, Duluth, Minnesota 55811
Phone: 218-720-5209

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Buffer Program Update

August 31, 2016

Buffer Tracking Tool

We are on track to start registering SWCD users in mid-September for the Buffer Compliance and Tracking Tool. **PLEASE REMEMBER:** use of this tool is voluntary. If you plan to use the tool, you must email carla.swanson-cullen@state.mn.us AND tom.gile@state.mn.us and include the following;

- SWCD Name
- Confirmation that you will be using the tool
- User Name(s) *Limit 3 per SWCD*
- User email addresses

Additional user guidance is being developed and will be released as we start setting up user accounts.

Don't forget, if your SWCD chooses to use the tool for tracking progress towards compliance there will be no additional reporting requirements.

We will be working this fall with Drainage Authorities to reduce redundancy in reporting between the Drainage Law (103E) and the Buffer Law (103F.48), which both call for reporting of buffer compliance on Public Drainage Ditches. Watch for details in future Buffer Program Updates.

Implementation Policies and Supporting Guidance

The 30-day comment period on the Draft Buffer Program Policies closed on July 27, 2016. We worked diligently to use those comments to improve the seven Buffer Implementation program policies approved by the BWSR Board on August 25, 2016. The final documents can be found on the [BWSR Buffer Page](#).

Supporting guidance is currently undergoing final review, and many of these documents should be publicly available by the end of September, 2016. A number of local government staff from around the state have taken their time to review and provide insight into these guidance documents, and thanks to their contributions every one of these documents has benefited from some level of LGU staff input. As many great questions and scenarios continue to come in from all over the state, its likely additional guidance will be developed in the coming months. We are already working on guidance for Alternative Practices, as well as a series of model ordinance/rule templates related to enforcement of the law at the local level for those local governments that elect local jurisdiction.

When the guidance documents are available they will posted on the BWSR website at: <http://bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers/>.

DNR Buffer Protection Maps

The DNR is working through the locations on the Buffer Protection Map are currently identified as "needing review". Updates to the map are expected to occur in October and late December/early



DISTRICT MANAGER MONTHLY UPDATE AUGUST 5 – SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

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

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Beaver River consultant visits – 3 visits so far, one tomorrow. (Interfluve, Barr, HEi, Stantec)

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- Buckthorn/Barberry management Two Harbors city property, private property.
 - Buckthorn chipped and removed by City, still work to do. Saving some individual buckthorn and barberry plants for the Area 3 tour
- Barberry treatment planning in Larsmont (Boreal Natives)
- County budget submitted, conversations with County Admin.
- Stewart and Knife River repairs – planning, oversight, budgeting.
- Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Conference steering committee meeting (Oct 5-6!)
- Area 3 meeting preparation (Sept 22-23)
- LSS/LSN MPCA Civic Engagement grant – amendment for date (Sept. 2017 exp. Date) and amount (\$25,000 additional funds)
- Meetings with MPCA/MDH on *e. coli* impairments on beaches and Skunk Creek
- Met with City of Two Harbors planners and administrator
- North Shore Forest Collaborative meeting – 1W1P presentation

ITEMS OF NOTE AND/OR MOTION NEEDED

- Motion to submit S and PF NE Area Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Project Proposal, in the amount of \$175-\$225K for timber stand improvement
- Office space updates

Rainy River Coordinator Monthly Update August 5, 2016 – September 6, 2016



Rainy Headwaters Citizen Engagement Contracts

- NSLSWCD CE
 - Grant extended to end of December 2016.
 - Lake County SWCD still has Funding for Civic Engagement in Vermilion Watershed.
- Lake County Civic Engagement - RRRH/Cloquet Watersheds
 - Continued water monitoring with WICOLA and other volunteers.
- Vermilion/Cloquet Grant (2015 SWAG)
 - Down to last month of sampling for this grant
- AIS
 - IMA TAC Meeting -
 - Meeting with Lake County
 - Somewhat disappointed that we did not expend more money on AIS efforts.
 - Asked that we consider hiring additional staff to coordinate additional AIS outreach.
 - AIS Survey – Discussed survey proposal that I have received from UM. LC was concerned about cost.
 - Cost concerns alleviated with Cook County Interest in participating.
 - Also discussed SLC Participation with NSLSWCD and VLA.
 - Coordinated AIS Summit Presenters for Ely Area Invasives Team Panel (I get to MC session)
 - Ben Gustafson, Ely Student – studying Rusty Crayfish in Burntside River
 - Carrie Ohly-Kusak – Burntside Lake Assoc.
 - Phil Norvitch – NSLSWCD Inspection Coordinator
 - Darren Lilja – Lake SWCD/ USFS
 - Mn AIS Research Center
 - Attended MN AIS Research in Duluth
 - County Funds discussed as potential for Research funding
 - Starting AIS Detectors and AIS Monitors Programs.
 - Requested rusty crayfish specimens
 - Also sending them specimens of native crayfish.



September 6,
2016

August crayfish trap 2016

Mervin Trast

8/1/2016 – 8/5/2016

Started on the South Kawishiwi river. Talked to the canoers on Tuesday 4 guys from Minneapolis. Were curious as to what we were up to out there. So we informed them about the AIS and the crayfish we were trapping. At the entrance of the portage talked to some folks about AIS..3 ½ hrs.

8/8/2016 -8/12/2016

Start of the second week on the South Kawishiwi river the hike in has been interesting so far. This will be Ernie's last week. Not much outreach this week out here met 4 gentlemen that were going out as we were coming in with the day's crayfish, not many to speak of. 4hr

8/15/2016 -8/19/2016

Started back at the north side again, new co-worker filling in for the rest of the season of crayfish. Kevin Anderson. Talked with a few folks out at landing again about AIS and clean drain and dry. and ran in to some canoers and informed them what we were out there doing a crayfish trapping for the lake county soils and water conservation... 4hr

8/22/2016 -8/26/2016

North side again this week, talk to some more happy campers on Tuesday out at camp site. Ran into some other folks at landing that were living on the lake seasonally and how they set their own traps out on the river by their docks and cat food is the menu. Talked to more folks end of the week at the dock from out of state about to set out in the boundary waters. 4hr

8/29/2016 -9/2/2016

This week picked up coasters from D.N.R office in Ely. Delivered them to some resorts around lake county, started at kiwishiwi lodge where we talked with Frank about ais and clean drain and dry. From there we headed to Smithy's on snow bank, hit up blue heron, and silver rapids lodge, and some got delivered to Rockwood in Ely. And stopped at veterans on the lake and talked with them but they had no use for the coasters.... 5 hr

August 30, 2016

SWCD Board:

During the month of August I visited 22 lakes. At each lake I spent 2-4 hours setting crayfish traps and inspecting for possible aquatic invasive species. I waded the shoreline looking for invasive mussels, snails and plants. Rather than dragging a plankton net for spiny water fleas, I am now dragging a monofilament line with a large weight which covers more of the water column, and according to literature, likely more effective. (no fish hooks or bait!) Crayfish traps are removed the following day. The lakes visited are a mix of new lakes as well as previously visited lakes, due to the change of seasons.

I am still waiting for definitive identification of possible mystery snails in Stewart and Christianson lakes. I have provided more specimens to assist in this.

I revisited Dumbell Lake which is known to be infested with rusty crayfish. I trapped the outgoing stream at its source as well as a few miles downstream. I found no rusty crayfish.

Other than rusty crayfish in Dumbell and possible foreign snails in Stewart and Christianson, I have found no other invasive aquatic species. I have been on the lookout for purple loosestrife and have reported findings to LCSWCD.

I have continued to approach fishermen whenever I meet them on the inland lakes, regarding boat hygiene. They are generally receptive, interested and cooperative. I also spend time at the boat landing in Two Harbors and Twin Points, reminding boaters of the same.

I have been denied access to a few private lakes. The best quote is "We like our lake just the way it is and don't want the government screwing it up!"

In September I plan to revisit some higher risk lakes as well as try to get into some of the more physically difficult lakes to access. I am trying to rig my ATV to facilitate transporting a kayak and gear into the more remote lakes indicated.

I am camping in the targeted lakes area, usually two nights a week to minimize travel time and miles. Any comments regarding improving my efforts are welcome.

Sincerely,

Paul Trygstad



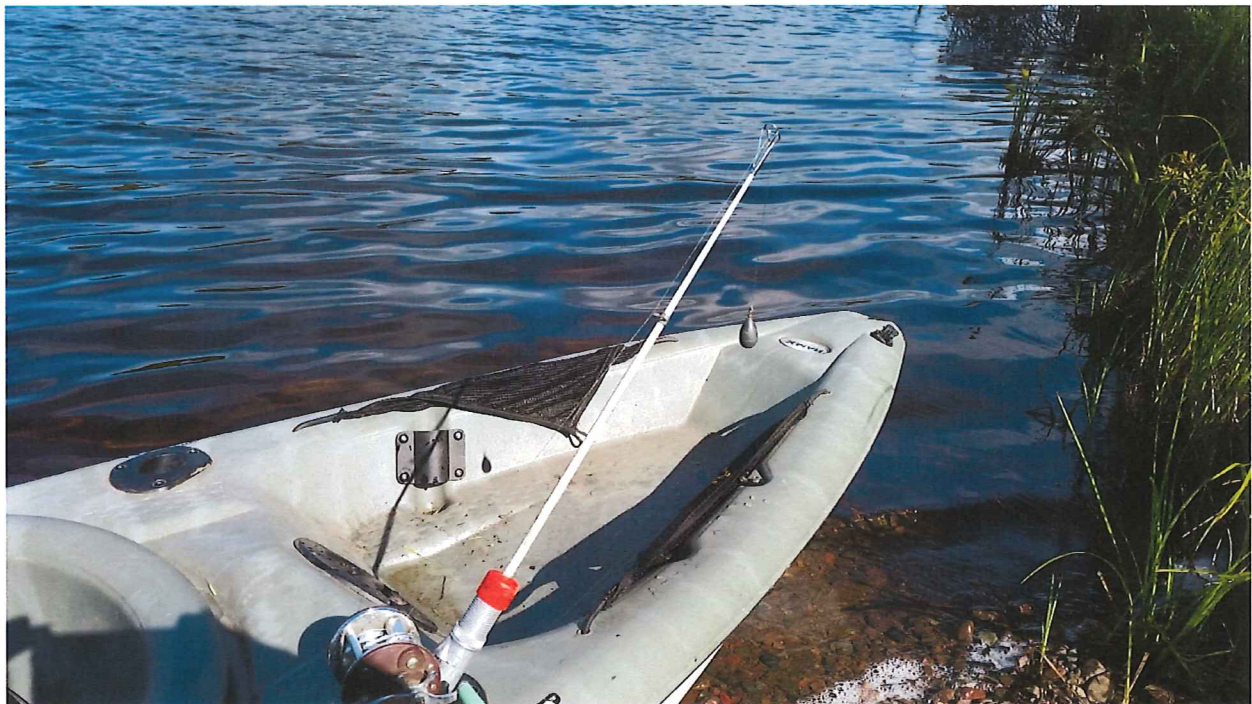
Cabin Lake crayfish traps (no cabins)



Invasive snails



Lax Lake crayfish



Spiney water flea collection apparatus



Most common crayfish (orconectes propinquus)



Complications (!)



Dumbell Lake



Purple loosestrife at the McQuade Safe Harbor parking area

In August, I continued to interact with boaters at landings, mostly along the Fernberg Road. I spent time in the BWCAW, so I brought a plankton net with me to look for spiny waterfleas. The only deep areas I went through were in Ensign Lake and Disappointment Lake. I did not find any spiny waterfleas in either place. I continued to talk and feed crayfish to people at the farmer's market until I started classes at VCC this month. I will be working less for the rest of the season since I am becoming busy with classes now.