

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL REORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2008**

Members Present:	Ralph Lewis	District I
	Troy Promersberger	District II
	Eldon Voigt	District III
	Bernie Uran	District IV
	Al Linder	District V

Also Present: Pam Tomevi, District Coordinator; Ryan Heinen, District Technician; Kelly Voigt, District Conservationist; Richard Lehtinen, ESD Director; Kevin Adee, County Commissioner

Chair Uran called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

2008/4-1 Motion by Linder, seconded by Lewis to approve the agenda with corrections.

Voting yes: Lewis, Promersberger, Voigt, Uran, Linder. Motion carried.

2008/4-2 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve the minutes dated March 3, 2008.

Voting yes: Lewis, Promersberger, Voigt, Uran, Linder. Motion carried.

2008/4-3 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Linder to approve treasurer's reports ending January 31, February 29, and March 31, 2008 as presented.

Voting yes: Lewis, Promersberger, Voigt, Uran, Linder. Motion carried.

2008/4-4 Motion by Promersberger, seconded by Voigt to approve for payment, Accounts Payable totaling \$3413.96

Voting yes: Lewis, Promersberger, Voigt, Uran, Linder. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Supervisor Reports:

- Supervisor Linder reported that he attended the Laurentian RC&D meeting in Virginia on March 24th where the main discussion included project applications. Of eight applications submitted, six were approved, one was tabled and one was denied.
- Supervisor Voigt provided an update on the biomass project which could provide a fuel source for Boise and asked for board member feedback on how they think landowners may feel about enrolling their land in a demonstration trial for the project.

District Coordinator Report:

Copy on file. Discussion included wood ash, wetlands, and Area VIII business.

District Technician Report:

Copy on file. Discussion included forest stewardship, wetlands, and the woodland advisor program.

NRCS District Conservationist Report:

Kelly Voigt set up the poster board display from the water quality conference which showcased projects from Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties.

Further discussion included

- upcoming TB meetings regarding the quarantine – some concerns over cross contamination between deer and cattle;
- Area III – some staff changes will be coming due to retirements at the Duluth office;
- Farm Bill – new deadline is April 18th

Supervisor Lewis inquired as to how areas 1 and 3 are doing in terms of program coordination when landowners own land in both Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties. Voigt stated that staff support has increased and program administration appears to be consistent.

NEW BUSINESS:

2008 Area VIII Fall Tour & Meeting

General discussion included dates, location, and possible tour sites for the 2008 Area VIII fall tour and meeting which will be hosted by Koochiching. The Board decided that the host date and locations would be September 11 and 12 at the Holiday Inn in International Falls. Discussion about tour sites those from the 2007 BWSR tour, high tunnels at the Elm Tree Fruit Farm, Boise paper mill, and Voyageurs National Park.

Wetland Conservation Act:

Staff provided a general program update and presented the conservation easement for mitigation on the Stevens project for Board approval.

2008/4-5 Motion by Linder, seconded by Promersber approving the conservation easement as presented and authorizing Supervisor Lewis to sign the agreement on behalf of the District.

Voting yes: Lewis, Promersberger, Voigt, Uran, Linder. Motion carried.

Wood Ash Program:

The coordinator reported to the Board that Boise representatives were exploring a number of options for administration of the wood ash program and had inquired as to the District's interest in assuming responsibility for the full administration, including the contractor portion. Board discussion included liability, funding, work plans, program expectations, and current contracts. The Board instructed the coordinator to request a copy of the contract between Boise and Mountain Environmental for the purpose of clarifying program goals as well as potential liability risks and bring the item back to the Board for further discussion. Additional discussion included a landowner complaint regarding ash applied at double the recommended rate. The technician passed around photos of the site and reported that he and Dave Reimer from Boise had met with the landowner and Mountain Environmental to discuss concerns and possible remedial action.

SWCD Website:

2008/4-6 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt authorizing the coordinator to purchase web design software and sign up for applicable training.

Voting yes: Lewis, Promersberger, Voigt, Uran, Linder. Motion carried.

SWCD Signs:

Supervisor Linder commented that the District sign located on highway 71 was in poor shape and should be removed or replaced. The Board instructed staff to get quotes for new signs and bring back to the Board for discussion.

Area VIII Envirothon:

2008/4-7 Motion by Linder, seconded by Lewis authorizing the District to donate \$200 to the Area VIII Envirothon.

Voting yes: Lewis, Promersberger, Voigt, Uran, Linder. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings and Training:

2008/4-8 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Linder authorizing the following meeting attendance:

- **District Technician to attend the Area VIII Envirothon in Bemidji on April 23rd**

Voting yes: Lewis, Promersberger, Voigt, Uran, Linder. Motion carried.

Staff Leave Requests:

2008/4-9 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Linder authorizing the following staff leave requests:

- **District Coordinator – May 5, 27-30**

Voting yes: Lewis, Promersberger, Voigt, Uran, Linder. Motion carried.

Permits:

The Board reviewed a permit application to replace a bridge on Sturgeon River (2008-0558)

General Business:

General business discussion included the first quarter invoice for wood ash services, woodland advisor grant application, forest stewardship grant application, audit notice from BWSR, Lake of the Woods SWCD newsletter, and the SWCD guidebook.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

Due to multiple scheduling conflicts, the next regular meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the courthouse basement conference room.

Adjourn Meeting:

2008/4-10 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm.

Voting yes: Lewis, Promersberger, Voigt, Uran, Linder. Motion carried.

Submitted by: _____
Board Secretary Date

Approved: _____
Board Chairman Date