

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, JULY 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; Wade Pavleck, County Commissioner

Chair Uran called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

2008/7-1 Motion by Linder, seconded by Lewis to approve the agenda with corrections.

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

2008/7-2 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder to approve the minutes dated June 2, 2008.

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

2008/7-3 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to approve treasurer's reports ending June 30, 2008 as presented.

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

2008/7-4 Motion by Linder, seconded by Promersberger to approve for payment, Accounts Payable totaling \$903.08

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

Guest Introductions:

The Board welcomed County Board Chair Wade Pavleck. Pavleck provided a verbal recap of his recent trip to Japan to see their plasma gasification facility and then went on to discuss some of the wetland challenges Koochiching County may face as a result of the proposed WCA rule changes. Pavleck passed around copies of the Wetland Conservation Act Rulemaking document along with copies of the Northeast MN Wetland Mitigation Inventory and Assessment. Pavleck stated that he feels the county is making progress with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) but is still facing numerous challenges with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). He stated that the local, state and federal wetland process needs to be streamlined to reduce frustration. Further discussion included expanding shoreline rules and the SWCD's role in WCA which is mandated by state statute.

REPORTS:

Supervisor Reports:

- Supervisor Linder reported that the next Laurentian RC&D meeting will be July 14 in Bemidji.
- Supervisor Voigt reported that the next meeting of the MN SWCD Forestry Association will be July 17 in McGregor.
- Supervisor Promersberger relayed questions about a riprap project in Littlefork and the airport hangar extension project.

District Coordinator Report:

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Copy on file. Discussion included tree sales wrap-up, summer training session, and the new federal mileage rate.

2008/7-5 Motion by Linder, seconded by Voigt to raise the mileage rate to the new IRS standard rate of \$.585.

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

District Technician Report:

Copy on file. Discussion included county/city TAC coordination, Cartway project, and the Woodland Committee fund balance of \$346.02.

2008/7-6 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to purchase Tree Planting Handbooks up to the maximum of \$346.02 of Woodland Committee funds and close out the account.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

District Signs:

2008/7-7 Motion by Linder, seconded by Voigt to order two 4'X5' highway signs from Fairchild Sign not to exceed \$400 per sign.

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

Area VIII Fall Tour and Meeting:

The Board reviewed and approved the final draft agenda and registration form.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cost-Share:

2008/7-8 Motion by Linder, seconded by Promersberger to approve amendment number 1 on the soil survey portion of the FY2008 grant agreement.

Voting yes: Lewis, Promersberger, Uran, and Linder. Voting no: Voigt. Motion carried.

2008 Awards:

The Board reviewed the district capacity award form and discussed potential candidates for the outstanding conservationist and outstanding forest steward awards.

2008/7-9 Motion by Linder, seconded by Voigt to select James Janousek as the 2008 Outstanding Forest Steward award recipient.

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

FY 2009 Forest Stewardship Grant

2008/7-10 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder to approve the FY09 forest stewardship grant agreement and authorize the chair's signature to the contract.

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

PERA for Elected Officials:

The coordinator provided enrollment forms to the Board.

Upcoming Meetings/Training:

2008/7-11 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt authorizing the coordinator to attend the 2008 NACD Legislative Conference in Washington DC from July 19 to July 23 with expenses up to \$2000 covered by a scholarship from MACDE.

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

General Business:

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General business discussion included the North Central MN Joint Powers Board monthly activity reports for engineer Jon Hodgson, the letter from BWSR regarding the wetland plan for the City of International Falls, County budget request for 2009, and job announcements for the district technician and program assistant.

The Board read the minutes from the special meeting on June 24, 2008.

- **2008/7-12 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder approving the minutes of the special meeting dated June 24, 2008**

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

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Monday, August 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the courthouse basement conference room.

Adjourn Meeting:

2008/7-13 Motion by Linder, seconded by Voigt to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm.

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

Submitted by: _____
Board Secretary Date

Approved: _____
Board Chairman Date