

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 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; Kevin Adee, County Commissioner; Jim Miggins

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

2008/5-1 Motion by Linder, seconded by Voigt to approve the agenda with corrections.

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

2008/5-2 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Lewis to approve the minutes dated April 7, 2008.

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

2008/5-3 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder to approve treasurer's reports ending April 30, 2008 as presented.

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

2008/5-4 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Linder to approve for payment, Accounts Payable totaling \$74.90

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

Guest Introductions:

The Board welcomed Jim Miggins from International Falls. Miggins provided a verbal recap of his wetland issues over the past year and passed around copies of his 32-page summary for review. Miggins stated that he has been working with SWCD staff and would like to offer recommendations to the Board on how they may direct staff to handle wetland issues in the future. Miggins acknowledged that the City of International Falls failed to inform him of the federal or state laws regulating wetlands prior to issuing him a building permit, however, he noted his frustration over the restoration plan written by SWCD staff which resulted from a cease and desist order (CDO) issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Miggins explained that he was further frustrated by a recent violation notice from the federal Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and reviewed the letter with the Board. Miggins asked the SWCD Board to place a moratorium and/or grandfather clause on old projects making them exempt from the federal Clean Water Act and the state Wetland Conservation Act which is overseen by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). It was explained that the SWCD does not have the authority to direct federal or state agencies or to change federal or state wetland rules.

REPORTS:

Supervisor Reports:

- Supervisor Voigt reported that he attended the International Biomass Conference in Minneapolis. Boise does not have funding to carry the gasification project but would like to see it move forward.

- Supervisor Linder distributed information packets on dry hydrants for the Littlefork and Loman areas and reported that he will attend the Laurentian RC&D meeting in Floodwood on May 18.
- Supervisor Lewis reported that he has received inquiries about the wood ash program contractor bids.
- Supervisor Uran provided copies of the Bigfork River Board meeting.

District Coordinator Report:

Discussion included computer tax errors, tree sales, wood ash, wetlands, and Area VIII business.

District Technician Report:

Copy on file. Discussion included wetlands, stewardship, home show booth and the tree sale program.

NRCS District Conservationist Report:

Kelly Voigt discussed her monthly activity report as follows:

Practices applied:

- Residue management – mulch till – 250 acres
- Pasture and Hayland Planting – frost seeding - 156 acres

Other:

- Completed National Resources Inventory data collection
- Worked on TSP certification with Brent Benike
- Attended Area VIII Envirothon
- Worked on ongoing wetland appeals and contract appeals.
- Coordinated upcoming tree planting projects with DNR Foresters
- Farm bill was extended, again.

Training/Meetings/Other

- Area I area meeting – April 7th
- I. Falls office days – April 10th, April 30th

Contract data:

- 5 new 2008 contracts funded for a total of \$96,192.00
- A total of 38 active contracts remaining with \$327, 000.00 in practices to be applied, yet.
- Planned practices for 2008:

Practice	Units	Total
Conservation Crop Rotation	AC.	396.2
Early Successional Habitat Development and Management	AC.	46.9
Fence	FT.	40730
Forest Site Preparation	ac	86.1
Forest Stand Improvement	AC.	6.3
Heavy Use Area Protection	ac	13.3
Nutrient Management	AC.	716.8
Pasture and Hay Planting	AC.	219.3
Pest Management	ac	59.7
Pipeline	FT.	47500
Prescribed Grazing	AC.	2080.8
Residue and Tillage Management - Mulch Till	ac	361.5
Riparian Forest Buffer	ac	7
Tree and Shrub Establishment	AC.	96.7
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	AC.	7.9
Use Exclusion	ac	1.2
Watering Facility	no	44

Windbreak	ft	10343
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OLD BUSINESS:

2008/5-5 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder authorizing the District to contract with Green Earth Host for web hosting services and domain name.

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

District Signs:

The Board asked staff to submit a request for quote to Fairchild Signs to create a new district highway sign and bring to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

2008 Area VIII Fall Tour & Meeting:

General discussion included possible tour sites for the 2008 Area VIII fall tour and meeting. Staff will prepare a draft tour route and bring to the next meeting for review.

Cost-Share:

The Board reviewed a letter from Board Conservationist Chad Severts regarding the recent cost-share audit for fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006. According to the audit findings letter, program administration by the current SWCD staff is good, however, the former district technician "...has taken liberties with the program that has placed the SWCD and the SWCD Board in a precarious position..." Due to the fact that the employee is no longer with the district, the BWSR has recommended a State Cost-Share training session be presented to the Board in lieu of a financial penalty.

Upcoming Meetings and Training:

2008/5-6 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Promersberger authorizing the following meeting attendance:

- **District Coordinator to attend the MACDE Summer Session in Brainerd June 23-25**
- **Staff and Supervisors to attend the Area VIII Resolution meeting in Bemidji on June 5**

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

General Business:

General business discussion included MCIT bulletins, Hubbard SWCD newsletter, Commissioner Hanson's activity report for April, and a newspaper clipping related to former SWCD Supervisor Marty Nosie.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Monday, June 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the courthouse basement conference room.

Adjourn Meeting:

2008/5-7 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm.

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

Submitted by: _____
Board Secretary

Date

Approved: _____

Board Chairman

Date