

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL REORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009**

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Pam Tomevi, District Coordinator; Justin Berg, District Technician; Krystina Meyers, Program Assistant; Kelly Voigt, NRCS District Conservationist (on phone); Kevin Adee, County Commissioner

Newly elected Supervisors Eldon Voigt and Wayne Meyers took the Oath of Office which was witnessed by the Board and signed by Supervisor Linder.

As per District policy to elect the chairman and vice chairman on a rotational basis, Supervisor Al Linder accepted the office of Chair and Supervisor Ralph Lewis accepted the office of Vice Chair for the calendar year 2009.

2009/1-1 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Uran to approve Supervisor Eldon Voigt as Board Secretary and Supervisor Bernie Uran as Board Treasurer.

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

Chair Linder called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm

2009/1-2 Motion by Uran, seconded by Lewis to approve the agenda with additions.

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

The Board agreed on the following 2009 committee assignments:

- Budget Committee: Ralph Lewis and Bernie Uran
- Personnel Committee: Eldon Voigt and Wayne Meyers
- Education/Public Relations Committee: Al Linder and Wayne Meyers
- North Central MN JPB: Al Linder (Eldon Voigt- Alternate)
- Laurentian RC&D: Al Linder (Eldon Voigt- Alternate)
- MN SWCD Forestry Association: Eldon Voigt (Ralph Lewis- Alternate)
- Big Fork River Board: Bernie Uran (Wayne Meyers- Alternate)
- Littlefork/Rat Root River Board: Al Linder and Wayne Meyers (Eldon Voigt – Alternate)
- Weed Appeal Committee: Ralph Lewis and Al Linder
- Wood Ash Committee: Al Linder and Bernie Uran (Wayne Meyers – Alternate)

2009/1-3 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Lewis to keep current monthly meeting date and time as the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on winter months (November – April) and 7:00 p.m. summer months.

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

2009/1-4 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Uran to keep supervisor compensation rates at \$55.00 for in county meetings and \$75.00 for out of county meetings.

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

2009/1-5 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Uran to adopt the 2009 mileage reimbursement rate set by the IRS at \$0.55.

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

2009/1-6 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Uran to set hourly rate for programming services at \$35 per hour.

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

2009/1-7 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Uran to designate Bremer Bank and Border State Bank as official depositories of the Koochiching SWCD (see MN Statute 118A.002).

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

2009/1-8 Motion by Uran, seconded by Lewis to keep the Daily Journal as the official newspaper of the Koochiching SWCD.

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

2009/1-9 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Meyers to grant district check signing authority to District Coordinator, Program Assistant, District Technician, and Supervisor Lewis.

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

2009/1-10 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Uran to set the threshold for capitalizing assets purchased at \$2500.

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

2009/1-11 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Uran to approve the current Cooperative Working Agreement with the USDA.

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

2009/1-12 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Uran to approve the current MOU with USDA Forest Service, BWSR, and the District.

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

2009/1-13 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Uran to approve minutes with corrections.

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

Discussion was made on current financial reports in substitution for Treasurer's Reports for November and December. The District Coordinator reviewed account balances with the Board. Treasurer's reports for months ending November and December will be presented at the February meeting.

2009/1-13 Motion by Lewis, seconded by Voigt to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$6911.55 (details on file).

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

Supervisor Reports:

Supervisor Voigt

- discussed with the Board the County Attorney's concern with the current draft of the complaint policy and offered changes for redrafting;
- reported that he and the District Technician performed site visits around the Rat Root River area where they spoke with a land owner about a possible cost-share project for forestry;
- spoke of attending the state convention where discussion was held on the Lessard Heritage and the prospect of receiving that funding.

2009/1-14 Motion by Uran seconded by Voigt authorizing Voigt to attend Legislative Days at the Capital held in February.

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

Supervisor Linder discussed which resolutions passed the State Convention.

District Coordinator Report:

Discussion included personal leave, State Convention, process of receiving Block Grant funding, the office visit by BWSR Board Conservationist, year-end training and discussion as well as PERA corrections for supervisor paycheck.

District Technician Report:

Discussion included attending the State Convention, Rainy River Basin Meeting, County Ordinance meeting, training for Forest Stewardship plan writing with the Littlefork DNR, Wood Ash, site visits with Supervisor Voigt, Wetland Banking applications, restoration order, and tree sale orders.

NRCS Report:

Copy on file. Discussed was made over the phone regarding the audit that took place this past month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website:

Status update was given on the District website and home page created by the Program Assistant.

Plat Book Proposal:

The District Coordinator reported on changes in proposal price from Rockford Mapping and passed around the proposal from Cloud Cartographics. The Board instructed the coordinator to research various ways to raise money to offset the plat book prices including advertising sales and grants.

2009/1-15 Motion by Uran seconded by Voigt to table discussion of plat book proposals until the February meeting.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA):

The District Coordinator presented the 2008 PERA Exclusion report for review and Chair signature.

Upcoming Meetings/Training:

2009/1-16 Motion by Lewis seconded by Meyers to approve the District Technician’s attendance at the Area 8 Envirothon meeting on 1-7-09 in Bemidji.

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

General Business:

Discussion included

- a letter from the Board to former Supervisor Troy Promersberger thanking him for his years of service;
- MASWCD Dues;
- MASWCD Tidbits newsletter;
- Laurencin RC&D Annual plan;
- Setting Priorities packet sent to board.

Wood Ash Contract:

The District Coordinator reported that invoicing has been completed for the 3rd and 4th quarters on the 2008 contract. Discussion was held regarding current contract with Boise International. The Board agreed to submit the 2009 contract for services with no changes over the 2008 proposal. Chair Linder signed the contract.

2009/1-17 Motion by Voigt seconded by Uran to approve the Wood Ash contract as presented.

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

Area VIII Planning:

As per a request by the Area VIII Director, the Board discussed what issues they would like to have discussed at the January 7th chair/manager’s meeting in Bemidji. Topics included exploring opportunities within Forest Legacy for small acre forest land and training opportunities for supervisors, especially with regard to what impact the DNR fly-overs may have on WCA workloads for SWCDs.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Monday, February 2, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the courthouse basement conference room.

Adjourn Meeting:

2009/1-18 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Uran to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm.

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

Submitted by: _____
Board Secretary

Date

Approved: _____
Board Chairman

Date