

**KOOCHICHING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
COURTHOUSE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
715 4TH STREET * INTERNATIONAL FALLS * MN * 56649
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010**

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; Justin Berg; Kelly Voigt (via telephone); Kevin Adee

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm

2010/2-1 Motion by Linder, seconded by Meyers to approve the agenda.

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

2010/2-2 Motion by Linder, seconded by Uran to approve minutes dated January 4, 2010.

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

2010/2-3 Motion by Linder, seconded by Voigt to approve the Treasurer's Report ending December 31, 2009 as presented.

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

2010/2-4 Motion by Uran, seconded by Linder to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$253.53 (details on file).

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

Supervisor Reports:

- Supervisor Uran reported that the budget committee met and reviewed the proposed 2010 budget.
- Supervisor Voigt passed around copies of the talking points he will address during his legislative visit at the capitol.
- Supervisor Linder reported that the RC& D meeting had been cancelled.
- Supervisor Lewis reported on the Area VIII chairman and manager meeting in Bemidji where discussion included forestry, personnel handbooks, convention planning, and beaver activity and the effects on forest land.

District Coordinator Report:

Discussion included the district newsletter, wood ash, and review of the support letter for the sewer expansion through Voyageur's National Park. Other activities included reporting for eLink, lobbying expense, pay equity, PERA exclusion, and BWSR year end financial

District Technician Report:

Discussion included the wood ash program, wetland meetings, white cedar wetland assistance, Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG), tree program, Woodland Advisor program, Living Snow Fence focus group, and the Rural Preserve Tax program.

NRCS Report:

Discussion included the

- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) where 12 contracts have been funded for \$250,000 in Koochiching and another sign up will be announced soon;
- EQIP sign up coming 2/2-2/26;
- organic fund for organic farmers available state-wide for high tunnels;
- job vacancy announcement closed and application review process to begin.

Personnel Committee:

Supervisor Voigt presented recommendation 2010-1 Staff Wages & Benefits (copy on file) which proposed no increases to staff wages or life insurance premiums for 2010 and proposed replacing the current flat rate of \$250 per month for health insurance allowance with a new rate of \$300 per month for single coverage and \$400 per month for family coverage.

2010/2-5 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Meyers to approve personnel committee recommendation 2010-1 as presented.

Discussion: Supervisor Uran expressed concerns with state budget shortages. Supervisor Linder expressed concern that district staff do not pay union dues like county employees. Supervisor Lewis commented that the proposed rates are still well below those paid by the county and the proposed operating budget adequately supports the personnel recommendation.

Chair Lewis called for the vote.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA):

The Board reviewed the PERA Exclusion report (on file).

Minnesota Management & Budget:

2010/2-6 Motion by Linder, seconded by Meyers to approve the 2009 Pay Equity Report and authorize the chair's signature.

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

Staff Leave Requests:

2010/2-7 Motion by Linder, seconded by Voigt to approve the following staff leave request:

- District Coordinator: March 15-March 31, 2010

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

Upcoming Meetings/Training:

2010/2-8 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Linder to approve the following:

- District Coordinator and Chair's attendance at the Area 8 convention planning meeting in

Bemidji on March 3rd;

- **District Technician’s attendance at the forestry training in Cloquet on February 24th.**
Voting yes: Lewis, Meyers, Voigt, Uran, Linder. Motion carried.

Permits:

The Board reviewed and provided comment on Black Bay dredge application 2010-0363 regarding disposal location(s) for spoils.

General Business:

Discussion included Commissioner Hanson’s monthly activity report, MASWCD Tidbits newsletter, and mileage rate memo.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next regular meeting of the Koochiching SWCD will be held on Monday, March 1, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the courthouse basement conference room.

Adjourn Meeting:

2010/2-9 Motion by Voigt, seconded by Uran to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm.

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

Submitted by: _____
Board Secretary

_____ Date