

MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting of the Itasca County Soil & Water Conservation District was held in the ICSWCD Conference Room, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, September 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Isaacs at 9: 00 a.m.

Members Present: Chair- Chuck Isaacs
Secretary- Darrell Lauber
Vice Chair- Ted Lovdahl
Reporter- Calvin Saari

Absent: Donald Simons- Treasurer

Others Present: District Manager – Andy Arens
Office Administrator- Kathleen Cone
Resource Technician- Matthew Johnson
NRCS District Conservationist- Marge Sella
Water Resource Specialist- Kim Yankowiak
Chris Evans- AIS Coordinator
Matt Johnson- Wetland Specialist
Dave Lick- Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP)
Dan Swenson- Itasca County Environmental Services (ICES)

The Pledge of Allegiance took place.

Guest: Dave Lick-IWLP/Dan Swenson-ICES, Lick and Swenson addressed the SWCD Board regarding the AIS Prevention Program, they explained that Inspspector is one sector of the AIS program that IWLP currently has oversight on. IWLP currently has a contract with the county to administer the AIS Prevention and they would like to hand it off to someone else. Lick said if the SWCD wanted to take it over he recommended that the SWCD keep it the same as they are running it using Personnel Dynamics to run the payroll. Lick also stated the contract could read the same as the one IWLP and the County are using, just to make it easier for the SWCD to take it over.

Swenson explained to the SWCD Board that the County cannot take over the AIS as there would be a union contract conflict. He felt the SWCD would be a fit for the AIS Prevention.

A meeting will be set to discuss how much the SWCD would like to add to their current program.

Agenda: Motion by Lovdahl, second by Saari to approve the agenda with addition under Forestry/Shoreland: State Tullibee, Shoreland Stewardship Award, and Community Partners Update. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion by Lovdahl, second by Lauber to approve minutes from the August 2, 2016 regular Board meeting. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Lauber reported the bills were reviewed and everything is in order. The Bills Payable report was reviewed from July to August due to bank errors last month. Supervisor timesheets are due right after the Area VIII Tour on September 23. A motion by Lauber, second by Lovdahl to approve the July's Payables. Affirmative, All. Motion Carried. The Treasurers Report for August to September report was reviewed. A motion by Lauber, second by Lovdahl to approve the Treasurer's Report. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

WETLANDS

Delineation Certification Renewal \$140: A motion by Lauber, second by Lovdahl to approve Johnson Delineation Certification Renewal. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Cedar Restoration Construction: A review of the Cedar Restoration Construction was presented by Johnson. The Road passes through county tax forfeit property and the construction was redesigned to even cross flow within the wetland. Project cost was \$44,000 funded by LCCMR to BWSR. Lake SWCD is the fiscal agent but the project was located in Itasca County and a success.

COST SHARE/SPECIAL PROJECTS

Davis Construction and Payment Approval: A motion by Saari, second by Lovdahl to approve the John and Donna Davis BG-16-3 Contract for Construction and Cost-Share payment for \$2,053.95. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Outstanding Conservationist: A motion by Lovdahl, second by Lauber to approve Shawn Linder, GRHS Educator, Advisor for FFA, School Forest, Natural Resources, with many more contributions to youth as the Cooperator of the Year for the Itasca SWCD for 2016. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Shoreland Stewardship Award: A motion by Lovdahl, second by Lauber to approve Jeanine Phillips and Rising Eagle Resort as the recipients of the Shoreland Stewardship Award for 2016. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Community Partners: Arens reported he turned in one application for both projects for the Community Partners that was discussed at a previous board meeting.

WATER PLAN

WPIC Update: A motion by Lovdahl, second by Lauber to approve the letter to the County for the extension of the Water Plan. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

1000 Lakes & River Watch Funds: Shawn Linder GRHS FFA Advisor has requested a donation from the 1000 Lakes or River Watch Funds. WPIC who oversees donations from these funds

approved up to \$250. The WPIC Board was not clear on which funds could be used for the requested donation. After researching the issue, the River Watch Funds are only to be used in the Mississippi Headwaters Watershed and specific to the River Watch Program. The SWCD previously this year did a donation of \$250 to the Bigfork River Board from the River Watch Fund which technically was not correct use of funds. There is currently \$914 in 1000 Lakes fund. A motion by Lauber, second by Saari to approve transferring funds to correct the donation to the Bigfork River Board in the Treasurer's Report from Thousand Lakes to River Watch. Affirmative, All Motion carried.

Yankowiak has requested funding from the 1000 Lakes fund for the WRAPS grant in the amount of \$500. A motion by Lovdahl, second by Saari to approve \$500 to the WRAPS program. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

A motion by Lauber, second by Lovdahl to approve funding request to Shawn Linder GRHS FFA for \$250 using \$164 from 1000 Lakes Funding and \$86 from Local Capacity Fund. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Water Resources Update: Yankowiak reported the stream sampling for the SWAG has been completed. Lake samples will continue into September and early October. The 2016 field season is coming to a close. She will be working on data entry and working with RMB lab. The WRAPS grants are in stand still mode.

FORESTRY/SHORELAND

Contract Payment Procedure: There was discussion on the Cost-Share approval and payment procedure. Contract approval has been at one board meeting then payment at the next meeting. The Board felt that the approval and payment can be at one meeting now.

Ecofootprint Contract to Consultant: A motion by Saari, second by Lauber to approve HR Green, Inc. as the Contractor/Consultant to perform a geomorphic study to identify high priority areas within Deer and Pokegama Lakes subwatersheds. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Tullibee State: The State Tullibee funds will be used to pay Forest Stewardship Plan writers. At the October 4th Board meeting a payment of \$750 will be generated for approval to a contracted plan writer.

AIS

Monitoring and Control Update: Coordinator Evans reported there are four employees working with the control and monitoring now. There are 234 lakes and river stretches in Itasca County done with 32 lakes with public accesses left for next year. The Board would like the crew to finish the lakes with public access and work more on the ones that have problems. A new invasive has been found in some area lakes called Stonywart. There will be some meetings set up to discuss how to address this invasive.

EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION

BWSR Academy: A motion by Lovdahl, second by Lauber to approve the staff to attend the BWSR Academy October 24, 25, and 26. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Cone Leave October 10-21, 2016: A motion by Lovdahl, second by Lauber to approve leave for Cone October 10 -21, 2016. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Area VIII Tour & Meeting: Saari, Lovdahl, Lauber and Arens will be attending two days for the Area VIII Tour and Meeting. Yankowiak and Cone will be attending Thursday only.

2017 Budget: The proposed 2017 Budget was reviewed. Arens stated that the new work plan is due by September 15, 2016. He attended the County Budget meeting and asked for \$110,000 and more from the General Fund. Saari would like to see a Budget comparison from 2016 to 2017. A motion by Lovdahl, second by Lauber to approve the Local Capacity Plan. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

A motion by Lovdahl, second by Lauber to approve the 2017 Draft Budget. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS:

Sella reported there has been no word on the NRCS lease agreement, the state office is in contact with the National office. A monthly report has been handed out to the Board.

There is a Forestry Field Day coming up on September 30th from 9-5 at the Clinton Town Hall/Recreation Center in Iron Junction.

The new phone system will be installed the week of the 11th with everyone getting a direct dial phone number.

Executive Session: A motion by Lovdahl, second by Lauber to enter Executive Session at 11:00 a.m. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

The next meeting date will be October 4, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

A motion by Saari, second by Lovdahl to adjourn from regular board session at 11:23 a.m. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Secretary