



## KANABEC SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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### MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2013 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gene Carda, Paul Hoppe, Mike Johnson, Betty Wilkens

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kevin Belkholm

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kelly Osterdyk, Shannon Rasinski, Jan Anderson, Jeff Hrubes, BWSR Clean Water Specialist; Chad Gramentz, Kanabec County Public Works Director; Teresa Wickeham, Kanabec County Environmental Services; Mike Fetzek, Comfort Township; Dan Crowell, KLID

Paul Hoppe called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**M/S/C** Carda, Johnson to approve May 14 board meeting minutes as amended.

**M/S/C** Johnson, Carda to approve financial report for May 2013. **M/S/C** Wilkens, Carda to approve payment of vouchers.

Jeff Hrubes was present to talk about Clean Water fund grants and prioritizing. Discussed the BWSR grants Kanabec SWCD is involved in and grant opportunities. Jeff mentioned that the best designed plans to get the most significant pollution reduction and most are likely to get funded. Betty mentioned that because of our small staff it may be harder to write plans and grants to access these funds. She asked him to take back to BWSR what small, struggling SWCDs can do and how they get assistance from BWSR. Jeff mentioned he is available to help.

Chad Gramentz reported that the county will be doing budget prioritization in July. He recommended that if the district has a specific need to fund, he will assist us to recommend, present to the county board for consideration.

Dan Crowell reported that he made a phone call to the land owner of the area of the Knife River which is eroding and was verbally given approval for KLID to access his property. On May 20 KLID sent a certified letter to the landowner to obtain written permission to access his property, which didn't get returned. The landowner now wants to be granted an easement to access his property along the river. The next step will be for the county to contact the county attorney for guidance regarding legal access to the property.

Mike Fetzek discussed Comfort Township's plans to put in sanitary sewers around Quamba Lake; the deadline to access the funds from Rural Development has now passed and they need an endorsement letter from the SWCD in order to be reconsidered for the funding. Mike Johnson suggested that the township submit a written request to the SWCD for support.

Area 3 Resolution meeting, Paul reported that Kanabec SWCD's watershed planning & implementation resolution passed at the area and also the other resolutions that were presented.

Snake River TMDL meetings – It was reported that the recent local stakeholders meetings were well attended.

Cost share projects update: 319 Groundhouse River funds – Kelly requested approval for Don Thoeny – no till/ridge till plantings and also Kevin Thoeny – no till/ridge till planting cost share funding. Betty suggested that we invite Don & Kevin to our next board meeting to discuss their strip till plantings and also their thoughts about potential vegetative buffer areas near the Groundhouse River. Prioritizing certain field areas was also discussed.

Gene Carda asked about Tom Felger's feedlot runoff treatment and control cost-share project and wondered why the highest bidder was allowed to change the bid the day after the bids were closed; his bid then came in \$7,000 less than the first one submitted and \$1,000 under the low bidder. Paul Hoppe left at 3:35 and Mike Johnson then took over as chairman. Mike stated that since the district doesn't have a written bid policy that nothing could be done and that we should develop a policy on the bid process.

**M/S/C Wilkens, Carda** to approve the Observation well contract with DNR for another year, will have the chairman sign the contract.

D.C. Report: Shannon reported that NRCS is taking Conservation Stewardship Program applications and also Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program applications until June 14. She & Donna will be attending a Women in Agriculture workshop in Chisago City on June 12. Also, in the process of developing a joint newsletter with the SWCD which will include topics about who we are & what we do, buffer strips, soil health, past projects, financial assistance, upcoming events and FSA news. Also reported on other meeting & training they have attended.

D.M. Report: Reviewed maps – Kelly discussed prioritization maps that were received for the St. Croix River LCCMR project that we are involved in. Also discussed recent funding we received for the newsletter planning. Betty asked if the Snake River map could be super imposed on the map so we could see if there is a relationship between high priority areas and buffers. Grants Update – Kelly reported that the Ann River TMDL contact will end on 6/30/13. The implementation plan will be completed.

Betty provided news blurbs on scientific studies regarding frogs/amphibian decline and altered mammal distribution throughout the Midwest region and have discovered one culprit is the non-native invasive plant of European buckthorn. Also, new studies by the MPCA have found chemicals in Minnesota lakes & rivers; the chemicals include DEET, cocaine, parabens & other pharmaceuticals and personal care products, these are of concern because many have properties that can interfere with the functioning of hormones in animals and people.

Mike Johnson mentioned that he will not be applying to get back on the Mora City council because he cannot hold a soil & water board seat and also be on the city council of a city that has a population over 2,500 people.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 2 at noon. **M/S/C Wilkens, Carda** to adjourn the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ approved \_\_\_\_\_ date