

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES  
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH  
LOWER LEVEL BOARD ROOM  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jill Crafton, Jack Ditmore, Kathryn Kelly, Rich Sve , Sarah Strommen, DNR; Tom Loveall, Nathan Redalen, Tom Schulz, Thom Petersen, MDA; Steve Sunderland, Gerald Van Amburg, Joe Collins, Harvey Kruger, Paige Winebarger, Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Neil Peterson, Katrina Kessler, MPCA, Andrea Date, Todd Holman

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Chris Elvrum, MDH

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Jaschke, Angie Becker Kudelka, Rachel Mueller, Kevin Bigalke, Julie Westerlund ,Dan Steward, Sharon Doucette, Tom Wenzel, Karli Tyma, Matt Fischer, Ryan Hughes, Brett Arne, Dan Fabian

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jeff Berg, MDA  
Brian Martinson, AMC  
Emily Javens, MAWD

Chair Gerald VanAmburg called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

John Jaschke reviewed the meeting logistics for those on the conference call.

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20-09 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Gerald VanAmburg, seconded by Jack Ditmore, to adopt the agenda as presented. *Motion passed on a roll call vote.*

**Roll Call Vote: Adoption of the agenda**

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jack Ditmore	X			
Chris Elvrum (MDH)				X
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Steve Sunderland	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	19	0	0	1

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20-10 **MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2020 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Gerald VanAmburg, seconded by Jack Ditmore, to approve the minutes of January 22, 2020, as circulated. *Motion passed on a roll call vote.*

**Roll Call Vote: Minutes of January 22, 2020 Board Meeting**

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jack Ditmore	X			
Chris Elvrum (MDH)				X
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson	X			

<b>Name of Board member</b>	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Opposed</b>	<b>Abstained</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Steve Sunderland	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	19	0	0	1

### **PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM**

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

#### **Chair Van Amburg read the statement:**

*“A conflict of interest, whether actual, potential, or perceived, occurs when someone in a position of trust has competing professional or personal interests, and these competing interests make it difficult to fulfill professional duties impartially. At this time, members are requested to declare conflicts of interest they may have regarding today’s business. Any member who declares an actual conflict of interest must not vote on that agenda item. All actual, potential, and perceived conflicts of interest will be announced to the board by staff before any vote.”*

### **REPORTS**

**Executive Director’s Report** - John Jaschke reported BWSR is working on COVID-19 preparedness and what’s ahead. All agencies are primarily working under the direction of MMB. BWSR staff have been practicing social distancing and are working remotely from home.

**Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report** – Travis Germundson reported there are presently seven appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There have been two new appeals filed since the last Board Meeting.

File 20-03 (2-26-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Kandiyohi County. The appeal regards the alleged impacts to a wetland associated with the installation agricultural drain tile and lift pump. No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 20-02 (1-27-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Chisago County. The appeal regards the alleged excavation of new drainage ditches and placement of fill in a wetland. The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for the appellant to submit additional documentation in support of the appeal.

Buffer Compliance Status: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 69 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Staff continue to actively reach out to landowners to resolve any noncompliance on a voluntary basis prior initiating enforcement action through the issuance of Correction Action Notices (CANs). So far 43 CANs have been issued by BWSR and one Administrative Penalty Order (APO).

Statewide 22 counties are fully compliant, and 43 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Those counties have issued a total of 809 CANs and 10 Administrative Penalty Orders. Of the actions being tracked over 695 of those have been resolved.

#### **AGENCY REPORTS**

**Minnesota Department of Agriculture** – Jeff Berg stated Commissioner Petersen will be jumping on and off the line. Jeff has been delegated to vote in place of Commissioner Petersen if he is not available.

**Minnesota Department of Health** – No report provided.

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources** – Sarah Strommen reported she will need to leave the meeting early and does not have a substitute to vote for her. A lot of their efforts have been going to COVID-19 planning.

**Minnesota Extension** – Joel Larson reported the University is working on responding and preparing for COVID-19.

**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency** – Katrina Kessler reported they are preparing for COVID-19. Katrina will also need to leave for the meeting at 10:00 and will join again if able. Katrina thanked the staff that worked with MPCA staff on the Thief River 1W1P.

#### **ADVISORY COMMENTS**

**Association of Minnesota Counties** – Brian Martinson reported he appreciates the communication from the agencies and working to address flexibility for timelines around land use decisions.

**Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees** – No report provided.

**Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts** – No report provided.

**Minnesota Association of Townships** – Nathan Redalen reported they canceled courses around the state and they have a conference call tomorrow night with the Governor and staff.

**Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts** – Emily Javens reported most watershed districts are closed to the public and most are working from home. MAWD canceled their legislative event and June summer tour. One watershed district donated safety materials to MN Nurses association. Members have been asking what is going to be an essential service if the Governor issues a stay at home order. Emily stated she has been in contact with agencies and has appreciated their help.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service** – No report provided.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**COVID-19 Preparedness and Response – Temporary Delegation of Authority to the Executive Director** – John Jaschke presented COVID-19 Preparedness and Response – Temporary Delegation of Authority to the Executive Director.

Jaschke reviewed the proposed order that temporarily authorize the Executive Director to implement agency business, approve and sign all documents that would otherwise be required by the Board

beginning March 25, 2020 for a period of time until the State of Minnesota is no longer operating in a state of emergency.

Rich Sve stated this is important to have in place and it was put together well. Reiterated that it states communication will continue with the board members and board chair.

Todd Holman asked to have the BWSR website updated to show if authority was used by the Executive Director for board decisions. John Jaschke stated we will post everything similar to a regular board action.

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20-11 Moved by Nathan Redalen, seconded by Jack Ditmore, to approve the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response – Temporary Delegation of Authority to the Executive Director. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

***Roll Call Vote: COVID-19 Preparedness and Response – Temporary Delegation of Authority to the Executive Director***

<b>Name of Board member</b>	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Opposed</b>	<b>Abstained</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jack Ditmore	X			
Chris Elvrum (MDH)				X
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Steve Sunderland	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	19	0	0	1

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Grants Program and Policy Committee**

**2020 Request for Proposals for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants** – Julie Westerlund presented 2020 Request for Proposals for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants.

The purpose of this agenda item is for the Board to approve the 2020 Request for Proposals for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants. There were only minor changes to the RFP relative to the 2019 version.

Jack Ditmore asked about the timelines with staff availability. Julie stated they have reached out to a few groups that think they will be okay for now. If feedback is received that more time is needed, we have the ability to shift the time frame as needed but suggest leaving as is for now.

\*\*  
20-12 Moved by Steve Sunderland, seconded by Jack Ditmore, to approve the 2020 Request for Proposals for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

**Roll Call Vote: 2020 Request for Proposals for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants**

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jack Ditmore	X			
Chris Elvrum (MDH)				X
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)				X
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Steve Sunderland	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	18	0	0	2

**RIM Reserve Committee**

**Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot)** – Sharon Doucette presented the Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot).

The Wellhead Partner Protection Grants (Pilot) program was established in 2019 (Board Order #19-34 Wellhead Partner Protection Grants Pilot). The funding for the first RFP was from Clean Water funds with the purpose of permanent conservation easements on wellhead protection areas or grants to local units of government for long-term wellhead protection (Laws of Minnesota 2015, 1st Special Session, Ch. 2, Art. 2, Sec 7(g), and Laws of Minnesota 2017, Ch. 91, Art. 2, Sec. 7(g)). Two grants have been awarded with that funding and additional funding is necessary for the 2020 RFP.

Funding will be added to the grant program from Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Ch. 2, Art. 2, Sec 7(g), Clean Water funds to the Board for permanent conservation easements on wellhead protection areas or grants to local units of government for long-term wellhead protection.

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20-13 Moved by Tom Loveall, seconded by Jack Ditmore, to approve the Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot). **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

**Roll Call Vote: Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot)**

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date				X
Jack Ditmore	X			
Chris Elvrum (MDH)				X
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)				X
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)				X
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Steve Sunderland	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	16	0	0	4

**Clean Water Fund North Central MN RIM Presentation** – Dan Steward presented an information item on the Clean Water Fund North Central MN RIM approach.

The RIM Committee recently discussed the \$4 million Clean Water Fund funding for North Central Minnesota and this presentation by Dan Steward provided background to the Board on the protection analysis used in the targeting and prioritizing of conservation implementation, specifically through potential RIM easements, for projects in the Mississippi, Pine, and Crow Wing River watersheds.

Chair Gerald Van Amburg stated it is important to have protection options.

Todd Holman thanked Dan for his great work.

**2019 Clean Water Fund for Riparian Easements and Restoration** – Sharon Doucette and Tom Wenzel presented 2019 Clean Water Fund for Riparian Easements and Restoration.

ML 2019, 1st Sp., Ch. 2, Art. 2, Sect. 7(f) appropriated Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) from the Clean Water Fund to “purchase, restore, or preserve riparian land adjacent to lakes, rivers, streams, and tributaries, by easements or contracts, to keep water on the land to decrease sediment, pollutant, and nutrient transport; reduce hydrologic impacts to surface waters; and increase infiltration for groundwater recharge.”

Previously, BWSR staff, working with local partners, identified the Pine, Crow Wing River and Mississippi Headwaters as some of the most important and threatened tributaries to the Mississippi River, the source water for numerous Minnesota communities and developed partnerships and easement

programs to protect lands in these priority areas. These existing program partners and the Board desire to further implementation of these successful programs through additional funding. Each of the three programs will receive an additional \$1,000,000 from ML 2019, 1st Sp., Ch. 2, Art. 2, Sect. 7(f) to further implementation of the existing easement program with an additional \$1,000,000 available to be used in combination by the programs, as requested and necessary.

In 2011, BWSR received an appropriation to acquire conservation easements, reroute County Ditch 23A, construct water control structures, and plant vegetation to restore Grass Lake, a 1,200-acre prairie wetland adjacent to the City of Willmar in Kandiyohi County. In 2016, the Board approved a grant to Kandiyohi County for the project using the remaining 2011 funds. There has been significant work completed on this project to date. An additional funding need has been identified for completion. Kandiyohi County will receive a grant in the amount of \$250,000 from ML 2019, 1st Sp., Ch. 2, Art. 2, Sect. 7(f) for completion of the project. The County will be required to provide a 10% match for these funds.

\*\*  
20-14 Moved by Tom Schulz, seconded by Jack Ditmore, to approve the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Pine, Crow Wing and Mississippi River Watershed Protection Resolution. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

**Roll Call Vote: Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Pine, Crow Wing and Mississippi River Watershed Protection Resolution**

Name of Board member	Perceived conflict of interest	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	No	X			
Jill Crafton	No	X			
Andrea Date					X
Jack Ditmore	No	X			
Chris Elvrum (MDH)					X
Todd Holman	No	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)					X
Kathryn Kelly	No	X			
Harvey Kruger	No	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)					X
Joel Larson	No	X			
Tom Loveall	No	X			
Neil Peterson	No	X			
Nathan Redalen	No	X			
Tom Schulz	No	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	No	X			
Steve Sunderland	No	X			
Rich Sve	No	X			
Paige Winebarger	No	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	No	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>		16	0	0	4

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20-15 Moved by Tom Loveall, seconded by Jack Ditmore, to approve the Grass Lake Restoration Grant. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**



**Roll Call Vote: Grass Lake Restoration Grant**

Name of Board member	Perceived conflict of interest	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	No	X			
Jill Crafton	No	X			
Andrea Date					X
Jack Ditmore	No	X			
Chris Elvrum (MDH)					X
Todd Holman	No	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)					X
Kathryn Kelly	No	X			
Harvey Kruger	No	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)					X
Joel Larson	No	X			
Tom Loveall	No	X			
Neil Peterson	No	X			
Nathan Redalen	No	X			
Tom Schulz	No	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	No	X			
Steve Sunderland	No	X			
Rich Sve	No	X			
Paige Winebarger	No	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	No	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>		16	0	0	4

**Kisgen RIM Easement Alteration (75-06-02-01)** – Karli Tyma presented Kisgen RIM Easement Alteration (75-06-02-01).

Marvin Kisgen originally placed 11 acres of land into a MN CREP easement in 2002. The easement is adjacent to Page Lake, in Stevens County. The easement with Marvin Kisgen was recorded on June 4, 2003 as document 0171870. The easement contained 2 crop fields on 6 acres along with 5 non-crop acres, 2 acres of which were donated. The 6 acres of cropland were also enrolled in the required 15-year CRP contract that expired in 2017.

In early 2018 the Stevens SWCD sent in an ownership change with a copy of the deed from 2007 that transferred ownership from Marvin Kisgen to his children. His son, Jeff Kisgen, is now the spokesperson for the family. Upon review of the area, BWSR Easement staff identified a portion of a new building within the easement boundary. An examination of available aerial photography showed the building present beginning in 2006. The SWCD was notified and this issue was pursued as a violation of the RIM easement with Jeff Kisgen via a Corrective Action Plan in April 2018 to resolve the issue. Adam Erickson, SWCD Technician, prepared the plan to require 2:1 replacement acres consistent with our current Easement Alteration Policy.

Mr. Kisgen responded in writing to the SWCD on April 11, 2018. Mr. Kisgen did not agree with the 2:1 replacement plan. Mr. Kisgen thought the boundary of the easement followed an old fence line along a ravine on the property. The RIM easement boundary was never staked in the field for the Kisgens by the SWCD. Mr. Kisgen has stated they were never physically shown the boundary in the field until January 2018.

Mr. Kisgen requested a change to the easement boundary to rectify the situation because the family donated 2 acres with the original easement.

Mr. Kisgen attended the Stevens SWCD Board meeting on July 10, 2018. The Stevens SWCD Board sent a letter to BWSR supporting Mr. Kisgen's original request. This letter was received via email on August 6, 2018.

Further discussions with Mr. Kisgen to rectify the situation have led to Mr. Kisgen proposing a 1:1 replacement scenario if BWSR agreed to waive the \$500 administrative fee. The plan proposed removing approximately 0.88 acres from the easement in the area around the building and yard area; replacing it with 0.88 acres of existing woodland on the north side of the Kisgen property. Mr. Kisgen has agreed to remove the trailers and other material from the area still inside the easement boundary.

The initial 1:1 replacement proposal was brought to the RIM Reserve Committee on September 4, 2019. The RIM Reserve Committee was not in favor of the initial proposal, as it did not meet the minimum of 2:1 replacement or include the \$500 processing fee as required by the BWSR Easement Alteration Policy. The committee discussed alternative solutions and would only be in favor of a 1:1 scenario if the replacement area resulted in protecting shoreland along Page Lake on the east side of the property and included the \$500 processing fee.

A letter was sent to Mr. Kisgen on behalf of the RIM Reserve Committee Chair on November 5, 2019 offering alternative options to rectify the violation, including 2 replacement scenarios resulting in protected lakeshore or removing the structure from the easement. Mr. Kisgen was given a deadline to reply.

In response, Mr. Kisgen phoned easement staff explaining that replacement along the lakeshore is infeasible due to existing permanent structures (cabin, driveway, shed, docks) already in place along the lakeshore. Easement staff then recommended Mr. Kisgen submit a proposal that meets all terms of the Easement Alteration Policy, including 2:1 replacement, the \$500 processing fee, and all required letters of support.

Mr. Kisgen submitted the current proposal to BWSR, along with a response letter to the RIM Reserve Committee Chair Dated January 9, 2020. The new proposal consists of the required 2:1 replacement, removing 0.77 impacted acres from the easement and replacing with 1.54 acres of woodland on the north end of the property. Mr. Kisgen agreed to remove debris and personal property from the area remaining under easement, reducing the original impact area of 0.88 acres to 0.77. Mr. Kisgen agrees to pay the \$500 processing fee. Letters of support from the Stevens SWCD Board and DNR area wildlife manager were also submitted with the proposal, as required under the policy.

Staff recommends approval of the current easement alteration proposal to amend Easement 75-06-02-01 to release 0.77 acres from the easement and replace them with 1.54 acres. The proposal meets all requirements of the BWSR Easement Alteration Policy and would resolve the inadvertent encroachment that has occurred on the easement, bringing the landowner back into compliance.

\*\*  
20-16 Moved by Harvey Kruger, seconded by Jack Ditmore, to approve the Kisgen RIM Easement Alteration (75-06-02-01) Resolution. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

**Roll Call Vote: Kisgen RIM Easement Alteration (75-06-02-01) Resolution**

Name of Board member	Perceived conflict of interest	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	No	X			
Jill Crafton	No	X			
Andrea Date					X
Jack Ditmore	No	X			
Chris Elvrum (MDH)					X
Todd Holman	No	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	No	X			
Kathryn Kelly	No	X			
Harvey Kruger	No	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)					X
Joel Larson	No	X			
Tom Loveall	No	X			
Neil Peterson	No	X			
Nathan Redalen	No	X			
Tom Schulz	No	X			
Jeff Berg (MDA)	No	X			
Steve Sunderland	No	X			
Rich Sve	No	X			
Paige Winebarger	No	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	No	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>		17	0	0	3

**Northern Region Committee**

**Thief River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – Matt Fischer presented the Thief River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Thief River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) planning area is in northwest Minnesota, encompassing portions of Beltrami, Marshall, and Pennington counties and the Red Lake Watershed District. The Plan was developed as part of the One Watershed, One Plan program. Peter Nelson (Pennington SWCD), Darren Carlson (Marshall SWCD), Josh Johnston (Marshall County), Zach Gutknecht (Beltrami SWCD), and Myron Jesme and Corey Hanson (Red Lake WD) are the local lead staff responsible for development of the Plan.

On February 11, 2020, BWSR received the Plan, a recording of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan.

BWSR staff completed its review and subsequently found the Plan meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes and BWSR Policy.

On March 4, 2020, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee’s decision was to recommend approval of the Thief River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Neil Peterson thanked Matt for all his work and encouraged others to attend and be involved in one of these plans if possible.

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20-17 Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Jack Ditmore, to approve the Thief River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

**Roll Call Vote: Thief River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan**

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jack Ditmore	X			
Chris Elvrum (MDH)				X
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)				X
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)				X
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson			X	
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Steve Sunderland	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	16	0	1	3

**Amendment of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Watershed Management Plan** – Ryan Hughes presented Amendment of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Watershed Management Plan.

The purpose of the Amendment is to enable the Bois de Sioux Watershed District the ability to establish water management districts to provide additional local funding options, as well as, to create a specific water management district for the Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project No. 1 pursuant to Minn. Stat. §103D.729. As proposed, the water management district will fund a portion of that project and additional funding will also be pursued.

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20-18 Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Jack Ditmore, to approve the Amendment of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Watershed Management Plan. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

**Roll Call Vote: Bois de Sioux Watershed District Watershed Management Plan**

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jack Ditmore	X			
Chris Elvrum (MDH)				X

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)				X
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Steve Sunderland	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	18	0	0	2

**Pelican River Watershed District Revised Watershed Management Plan** – Brett Arne presented Pelican River Watershed District Revised Watershed Management Plan.

The Pelican River Watershed District has revised the ten-year watershed management plan as required by Minnesota Statute 103D.405. The watershed district submitted to BWSR an extension request for their plan in 2015 to delay the planning deadline and incorporate new and consolidated data as gathered in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency WRAPs (watershed restoration and protection strategies) process, as well as information developed via a BWSR accelerated implementation grant (AIG) to complete a mapping-based prioritization process completed in the greater Otter Tail river basin. The extension was granted by BWSR to December 31, 2016. On April 29, 2016, the Pelican River Watershed District submitted to BWSR a plan outline in accordance with state statute 103D.405. BWSR received the proposed plan on September 20, 2019, and along with other state water agencies submitted to the Pelican River Watershed Districts comments for changes and inclusion in the plan. The final plan was received by BWSR on January 3, 2020.

Upon review by BWSR staff, the plan was found to meet all applicable state statutes and BWSR policies for the development of watershed management plans and meets additional points as recommended by BWSR for watersheds within the Red River Basin.

The Northern Regional Committee hosted a public hearing at the Becker County Courthouse in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota on January 23, 2020 to review and discuss the plan. The committee unanimously recommended approval of the plan per attached board Order.

\*\*  
20-19 Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Jack Ditmore, to approve the Pelican River Watershed District Revised Watershed Management Plan. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

**Roll Call Vote: Pelican River Watershed District Revised Watershed Management Plan**

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			

<b>Name of Board member</b>	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Opposed</b>	<b>Abstained</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Andrea Date	X			
Jack Ditmore	X			
Chris Elvrum (MDH)				X
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)				X
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Steve Sunderland	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	18	0	0	2

**Central Region Committee**

**Rice Creek WD Watershed Management Plan approval of 10-year Plan Amendment**– Dan Fabian presented Rice Creek WD Watershed Management Plan approval of 10-year Plan Amendment

*Background:*

The Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) encompasses approximately 186 square miles of urban and rural land primarily in Anoka, Ramsey and Washington counties with a small portion in Hennepin county. The RCWD was established with the purpose of conserving and restoring water resources for the beneficial use of current and future generations. The RCWD’s boundaries include all or portions of 28 cities and townships.

The RCWD is a special-purpose unit of government that was established by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on January 18, 1972 based on a nominating petition initiated by the County Boards of Anoka, Ramsey and Washington Counties. Land in the RCWD is relatively flat, particularly in the north-central portion where the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes is the dominant feature. Generally, the land use ranges from heavily developed with a mix of industrial, commercial, retail, multi-family and single-family residential land uses in the southwest part of the RCWD to more rural, with agricultural and undeveloped land use in the north and east. The more urbanized southwest part of the RCWD reflects its proximity to Minneapolis and St. Paul. Retail and industrial complexes are evident along the I-35W corridor to the north. Rice Creek is the principal stream of the watershed; the creek and its tributaries serve multiple purposes including draining agricultural and urban areas, providing a backup water supply for the City of St. Paul, and serving as a recreational resource. The RCWD’s mission is to manage, protect, and improve the water resources of the District through flood control and water quality projects and programs.

*Plan Process and Highlights:*

In 2018 BWSR completed a Level II PRAP dated 08-23-2018, for the RCWD. It was noted in the general conclusions that the RCWD “is doing a very good job of administering local water management and

conducting water monitoring programs and projects. The organization is getting important work done in the areas of flood damage reduction, drainage maintenance, and water quality protection”. A review against BWSR’s basic and high-performance standards showed excellent compliance. The RCWD received commendations for meeting 11 out of 12 High Performance Standards in the PRAP report. Two recommendations for improvement were made which are addressed with the development of this new plan and future website improvements that will be completed following adoption of the plan.

On February 15, 2018 RCWD formally initiated the planning process for completing the required 10-yr update to their Watershed Management Plan (WMP) with the required “Notice of Decision to Update” their WMP and a request for Agency and local stakeholder input per 8410.0045 Subp. 2. and Subp. 3. The initial kick-off event and planning meeting was held on August 2, 2018 for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), City & County partners. Prior to the kick-off event solicitation of input from the RCWD’s standing Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) started on February 7, 2018, to help the Board of Managers further develop their strategic direction of the next 10-yr WMP. A similar meeting was held on February 28, 2018 with the RCWD’s standing TAC. The general public outreach campaign started on November 15, 2018 with an open house held at the Ramsey County Library.

The Executive Summary “The WMP provides resource management guidance to District staff, establishes funding goals and limits for projects and programs, and displays transparency to constituents of the District. The WMP incorporates and builds upon the successes of previous plans and leverages the work conducted by the RCWD to ensure proper guidance for future District activities. This WMP is focused on District resources and implementation efforts that aim to address priorities and improve water resources. A focus on implementation requires the RCWD to successfully balance water management law, address funding issues, and effectively coordinate with constituents to fulfill its mission”.

*Formal Plan Review Process:*

The draft Plan was submitted to the Board, other state agencies, and local governments for the formal 60-day review on August 8, 2019 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 7. The RCWD prepared a written response to the 60-day comments and then held a public hearing on November 4, 2019. Once the WMP revisions to address comments received were completed, the RCWD Managers passed a resolution to send the revised draft Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (and State Review Agencies) for the final 90-day review and approval. This was received by the Board on December 30, 2019. Comments received during the 90-day review period indicated that the commenters had no further comments and they commended the RCWD on their planning process and completion of the RCWD Watershed Management Plan.

John Jaschke stated there is a typo in the draft letter and a correction will be made.

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20-20

Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jack Ditmore, to approve the Rice Creek WD Watershed Management Plan approval of 10-year Plan Amendment. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

**Roll Call Vote: Rice Creek WD Watershed Management Plan approval of 10-year Plan Amendment**

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jack Ditmore	X			

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Chris Elvrum (MDH)				X
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)				X
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Steve Sunderland	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	18	0	0	2

**Kanabec Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor Redistricting** – John Jaschke presented Kanabec Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor Redistricting.

As per MS 103C.311 subd. 2, a soil and water conservation outside of the seven-county metropolitan area can elect to change from election at large to election by districts. Districts that propose this change must seek approval by the Board of Soil and Resources before this change can be implemented.

At their January 14, 2020 meeting, the Kanabec SWCD Board passed a motion to realign their supervisor districts with the Kanabec County Commissioner districts. They notified BWSR of this motion in an email sent on February 19, 2020. Upon further review, while the SWCD board took formal action, they did not provide BWSR with the required resolution. On February 27, 2020, Jason Weirnerman, Board Conservationist, spoke with the district manager and confirmed that the SWCD board would vote on and submit a formal resolution to the Board of Water and Soil Resources during their March 10th meeting. This resolution would follow the form of their motion from the January 14 meeting.

The filing period for the 2020 election cycle opens May 19th, which creates a bit of urgency for the BWSR Board to act on this resolution at their March meeting so that the required changes can be implemented before the opening of the filing period.

The BWSR Central Region Committee met on March 5, 2020 to consider the redistricting request. The BWSR Central Region committee recommends the full board to approve the Kanabec SWCD redistricting request at the March 25th meeting.

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20-21 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jack Ditmore, to approve the Kanabec Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor Redistricting. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

**Roll Call Vote: Kanabec Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor Redistricting**

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			



<b>Name of Board member</b>	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Opposed</b>	<b>Abstained</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Andrea Date	X			
Jack Ditmore	X			
Chris Elvrum (MDH)				X
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)				X
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Steve Sunderland	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	18	0	0	2

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Next BWSR Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, May 27, 2020 in St. Paul.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 11:32 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Van Amburg  
Chair