

**CASS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
OCTOBER 6, 2017**

IT IS THE MISSION of the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District to provide leadership and technical assistance to landowners and cooperating agencies in the wise use, conservation, and management of Cass County's natural resources.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Thomas Kuschel at 10:06 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present were:** Chair-Thomas Kuschel, V Chair.-Kenneth LaPorte, Secretary-James Ballenthin, Treasurer-Jane Ekholm, Member-David Peterson. Dist. Man.-John Ringle (late), Dist. Clerk-Brenda Davis, ESD-Rima Smith-Keprios, NRCS-Candi Fuller, MHB-Tim Terrill, guest-John Sumption.

**M/S James Ballenthin/Jane Ekholm to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

**M/S Kenneth LaPorte/David Peterson to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

**Candi Fuller - NRCS Reports:**

Scott approved 9 CSP Applications and Candi and Scott have started Prescribed Grazing Field Checks. Candi assisted at a Forestview Middle School Forestry Day in September. She also helped at the Arboretum for the Staples Middle School Resource Career Days.

**Tim Terrell – MHB Reports:**

Tim discussed the MHB Organizational Planning along with projects and goals from 2013-2018. MHB will not be hiring any more staff, they are using existing partnership staff.

The 8 counties that are in the MHB from provided financial support in varying degrees.

He will be asking for some assistance from these 8 counties when he starts to update the MHB Comprehensive Work Plan.

Tim discussed digital marketing strategies and goals.

**Cost Share Contracts:**

**M/S James Ballenthin/Jane Ekholm to pay the Rebecca Knittle (CS189-17) Well Sealing application at \$500.00. Motion carried.**

**M/S James Ballenthin/David Peterson to approve the Ronald Seipp (CS193-17) Shoreline Stabilization application at \$1,500.00. Motion carried.**

**Supervisor's Reports:**

**M/S James Ballenthin/Kenneth LaPorte to approve the Draft Cass SWCD Audit for FY2016. Motion carried.** It will now be forwarded to the MN State Auditor by the accountants.

Jim, Ken, Tom and Brenda attended the Area VIII meeting hosted by Koochiching SWCD. The meeting was productive, but the boat tour was excellent!

Tom attended the Pine River Watershed meeting. Jane attended the 1W1P meeting. Dave attended the Governance conference.

Discussed how much money should be donated to MHB this coming year. No decision was made at this time.

**Vouchers:**

**M/S Jane Ekholm/David Peterson to pay the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.**

**Rima Smith Keprios & John Sumption Reports:**

Rima explained that Itasca SWCD will be handling the funds for the Ambassador Project and Itasca SWCD will also be the lead agency for the project.

There were 13 AIS grant recipients this year. Over 4 million dollars were allocated.

John S. explained that a 20% local match is required for any agency to receive grant funds from the IF. This can come from wages, equipment or just about anything else as long as it does not come out of existing IF grants. John R. confirmed that matching funds will come from County/SWCD funds.

**M/S Jane Ekholm/Kenneth LaPorte to approve and move forward with the Program Partner Contract between the Initiative Foundation and the Itasca County SWCD for AIS funding which Cass SWCD will be a co-sponsor of. Motion carried.**

**John Ringle Reports:**

The Buffer Law goes into effect 11/01/2017. All SWCD's are directed to determine the % of compliance within their respective counties. The county will be the enforcement agent but must have a Buffer Ordinance in effect and must follow either Option 1 or Option 2, Section 3.0 for enforcement and which Grandfathering language to use from Section 4.6 of Minn Stat 103F.48. John distributed copies of a proposed Cass County Buffer Ordinance for review and discussion.

After lots of discussion and listening to various issues and concerns, **M/S Jane Ekholm/James Ballenthin moved to recommend the adoption of the Cass County Buffer Ordinance and move it forward to the County Board to set the 1<sup>st</sup> public hearing with the Cass County Planning Commission. Motion carried.**

**Adjourn:**

**M/S Kenneth LaPorte/James Ballenthin to adjourn at 12:53 P.M. Motion carried.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Supervisor's

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date