

Snake Watershed Partnership Board Meeting Minutes – July 22, 2024, 10:15am-12:15 pm

Location: Kanabec Co. Courthouse or Remote Google Meeting

Board: Bob Hoefert (Mille Lacs SWCD), Kevin Belkholm (Kanabec SWCD); Tom Roeschlein, Rick Mattson (non-voting) (Kanabec Co); Terry Lovgren (Pine Co); Michael Cummins (Pine SWCD), Dan Gravley (Atkin SWCD)
*remote attendees

Staff:

Kanabec SWCD: Deanna Pomije; Pine SWCD: Mara Jade; Pine Co: Mike Gainor; Mille Lacs Co: Mitch Gindele;
BWSR: *Barb Peichel Cross Lake: Don Duetsch; Pokegama Lake: Kathy Nielsen

Purpose for the meeting

Activity Updates & Septic (SSTS) project proposal

10:15 Roll Call – Meeting starts

1-minute of silence in memory of the late Kurt Beckstrom and his work in the Snake Watershed

*Elections for new board chair

Belkholm led the board in asking for nominations for a new board chair.

Motion by Hoefert, second by Cummins to nominate Kevin Belkholm as the new Snake Partnership Board Chair.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravley, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Motion by Hoefert, second by Lovgren to pass a white ballot vote for Kevin Belkholm as the new Snake Partnership Board Chair.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravley, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

In lieu of Belkholm elected as chair this leaves the vice chair position vacant.

*Elections for board vice-chair

Motion by Cummins, second by Roeschlein to nominate Terry Lovgren as the new Snake Partnership Board Vice-Chair.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravley, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Motion by Hoefert, second by Roeschlein to pass a white ballot vote for Terry Lovgren as the new Snake Partnership Board Vice-Chair.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravley, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

*Approval of today's agenda

Motion by Hoefert, second by Gravley to approve today's agenda as presented.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravley, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Pomije introduced and explained the new consent agenda. The consent agenda contains informational items, meant to shorten the meeting. Board members may pull items out of the consent agenda for discussion or simply approve the consent agenda. In reviewing the financial report it was suggested to increase the font size of the report for easier reading.

Motion by Lovgren, second by Gravelly to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravelly, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Approve the 4/22/24 Snake Board Meeting Outcomes:

Motion by Hoefert, second by Gravelly to approve the 4/22/24 Snake Board Meeting Outcomes as presented.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravelly, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Public Input: None

Kanabec SWCD Proposal: low-income non-compliance septic in Kanabec Co, seeking \$22,375, also seeking approval of the statement of work service contract

Pomije presented the low-income non-compliance septic proposal in Kanabec County. This project falls under the GW-9 action item from the Plan and is located in a priority area targeted to reduce nitrates. The board asked about where the priority areas are for septic upgrades. Jade contributed details that as times there are multiple priority areas or action items for which a project may be part of the Snake Plan, such as being adjacent to waters or in an area targeted for groundwater nitrate reductions. Peichel suggested to bring in someone to speak on septic upgrades and the need for this work within the watershed.

Motion by Lovgren, second by Gravelly on approval to fund at \$22,375 the low-income non-compliance septic in Kanabec Co. with no date specified for completion; however recommending the project be completed in August to accommodate the SRWMB dissolution process.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravelly, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

*Final Shoreland Buffer Policy, reworded:

Pomije reviewed with the Board the rewording of the buffer policy as the board recommended at our last (April) meeting.

Motion by Cummins, second by Gravelly to approve the rewording of the shoreland buffer policy

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravelly, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

MCIT presentation, as available

- Risk, best management as a new Entity
- Open Meeting Law – refresher

Pomije reviewed very briefly with the board some of the MCIT resources available for the better understanding of the MN Open Meeting Law. She provided handouts to the board members including a MCIT presentation on remote attendance with the open meeting law.

She explained the options on an MCIT (insurance provider) presentation to the board to explain our risks as a new entity. Belkholm suggested to wait on this presentation until Jan. 2025 when there is more time.

Other Updates:

Neilsen announced that the Pokegama Lake Assn. (PLA) is seeking out a proof of concept treatment (\$80,000) of Nanobubbles with MOLEAER to the north bay of the lake for improved water quality. Peichel from BWSR explained the BWSR perspective on possibly funding a Nanobubbles treatment. This may be on a case-by-case basis. Concerns discussed were the annual cost of maintenance for such a treatment and the difficulties in satisfying a large grant match.

The Pine SWCD has forester interviews scheduled for next Friday to refill the shared watershed forester.

Megan Du Chene is our new Pine Co. fiscal agent with Erin H. filling in until Megan is trained into the position.

2024 Meeting Schedule

9:30 am unless otherwise noted

Basement room of the Kanabec Courthouse

Sept. 23, 2024

Nov. 25, 2024

Future Agenda Items:

Review / approve forestry practices for funding policy

MCIT presentation: risks/recommendations as a new Joint Powers Entity – Jan. 2025

Motion by Cummins, second by Roeschlein to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 pm.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravley, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

*Adjourn Meeting at 12:15 pm