



SNAKE RIVER

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD

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"Working to enhance and protect the water resources of the Snake River Watershed"

Minutes of the Snake River Watershed Management Board and Citizen Advisory Committee- November 27, 2023. On Site Kanabec County Courthouse Meeting Room 3/4

Board Members Present: Commissioner Ripka-Kanabec County, Commissioner Mohr- Pine County, Commissioner Tellinghuisen-Mille Lacs County, Commissioner Leiviska

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Members and Technical Advisors Present: Dan Gravely-Aitkin SWCD, Kathy Nielson- Pokegama Lake Assoc., Robert Hoefert- Mille Lacs SWCD, Kurt Beckstrom-Mille Lacs SWCD Board, Mike Cumming, Caleb Anderson & David Minke- Pine County Staff, Kevin Belholm & Deanna Pomije- Kanabec SWCD Board & Staff, Barb Peichel-BWSR

Recording Secretary/SRW Coordinator: Teresa Wickeham- Kanabec County

Public: None

I. Call to Order/ Approval and Additions to Agenda

The joint November 27, 2023 meeting of the Snake River Watershed Management Board and CAC Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Tellinghuisen at 9:00.

CAC: A motion was made by Kathy Nielson, seconded by Kevin Belholm to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion about the 3yr. cover crop project.

All in favor, motion carried.

SRW Board: A motion was made by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Ripka to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion about the 3yr. cover crop project.

All in favor, motion carried.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from October 23, 2023

CAC: A motion was made by Kevin Belholm, seconded by Mike Cummins to approve the October 23, 2023 minutes as presented.

All in favor, motion carried.

SRW Board: A motion was made by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Mohr to approve the October 23, 2023 minutes as presented.

All in favor, motion carried.

III. Financial Report:

The Board & CAC reviewed the updated financial report. The report included the county percentage of funds if distributed through dissolution.

CAC: A motion was made by Kevin Belholm, seconded by Kathy Nielson to accept the financial report as presented.

All in favor, motion carried.

SRW BOARD: A motion was made by Commissioner Ripka, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska to accept the financial report as presented.

All in favor, motion carried.

IV. New Business

3Yr Cover Crop Project, Brunswick Township, Kanabec County:

The Board and CAC discussed the cover crop project that was to cover yrs. 2022-2024. Crops have not been planted as of this meeting. Discussion about options for the property owner where to possibly apply later, apply to Kanabec SWCD or apply to the 1W1P Partnership.

CAC: A motion was made by Mike Cummins, seconded by Kevin Belholm to recommend canceling the 3 yr. cover crop project with the options for the applicant to apply anywhere else. All in favor motion carried.

Board: A motion was made by Commissioner Ripka, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska to cancel the 3 yr. cover crop project with options for the applicant to apply elsewhere. All in favor, motion carried.

Board/County input on dissolution of the Snake River Watershed Management Board.

The Snake River Board and CAC discussed the proposed dissolution of the Snake River Watershed Management Board.

After much discussion the Board took a vote to dissolve the Snake River Watershed with the votes as follows:

Commission Mohr-Pine County-yes

Commissioner Leiviska- Aitkin County-yes

Commissioner Ripka- Kanabec County-no

Commissioner Tellinghuisen- Mille Lacs County- no

The dissolution of the Snake River Watershed Management did not pass due to a lack of majority vote.

The Board and CAC discussed options for the funds and concerns with continuing expenses. Kanabec County would re-negotiate the administrative contract for 2024 and propose total administration and finance at \$1,900. Until the close of projects and audits.

Pine County Commissioner Mohr made the following motion:

"I move to allow Pine and Aitkin Counties to terminate membership in the Snake River Watershed Management Board upon an affirmative vote of each of their county boards to be held within 30 days of today and to authorize payment to Pine and Aitkin Counties of each county's proportional share of the SRWMB's assets. The calculation to be made using the criteria in Article XI, and payment to be made within 30 days of each county's written request."

Commission Mohr-Pine County-yes

Commissioner Leiviska- Aitkin County-yes

Commissioner Ripka- Kanabec County-no

Commissioner Tellinghuisen- Mille Lacs County- no

The motion did not pass.

Both Kanabec and Mille Lacs County Commissioners need to bring this to their boards.

The Kanabec and Mille Lacs Boards meet December 7 and the wish of the Snake River Watershed Board is to meet shortly after that, possibly December 11 to have another vote.

Invoices/Claims: N/A
CAC Recommendation:
Board:

Projects/Proposals: N/A
CAC Recommendation:
Board:

V. Old Business

VI. Updates

VII. Public Comment/Discussion

VIII. Adjourn:

CAC: A motion was made by Kurt Beckstrom, seconded by Kathy Nielson to adjourn the CAC meeting.

All in favor, motion carried.

Board: A motion was made by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Ripka to adjourn the SRW Board meeting.

All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Wickeham
Coordinator/Recording Secretary SRWMB