

Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District
1567 McMillan St., Ste 3, Worthington, MN 56187
507-376-9150 ext. 3
www.klrwatershed.org

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2016

“The mission of the KLRWD is to protect and improve the water resources within its boundaries by supporting watershed residents through the use of education and financial programs.”

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Board of Managers

TIM TAYLOR, CHAIR

17508 190th St., Adrian, MN 56110

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-16

Telephone: 507-473-4540

COLEEN GRUIS, 1ST VICE-CHAIR

316 N. Bishop Ave., Rushmore, MN 56168

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-17

Telephone: 507-478-4972

LAYTON GRUIS, 2ND VICE-CHAIR

18262 320th Street, Adrian, MN 56110

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-18

Telephone: 507-394-2321

CONNIE FRAHM, TREASURER

438 200th Ave., Ellsworth, MN 56129

County: Rock

Term Expires: 10-07-16

Telephone: 507-967-2517

JERRY BRAKE, SECRETARY

13976 Edwards Ave., Wilmont, MN 56185

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-17

Telephone: 507-472-8777

ANTHONY BOYENGA, MANAGER

1956 31st St., Ellsworth, MN 56129

County: Rock

Term Expires: 10-07-18

Telephone: 507-473-4540

Conservation Staff

NOBLES SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1567 McMillan St. Suite #3
Worthington, MN 56187
Phone: 507-376-9150 ext. #3

John Shea, Executive Secretary/District Manager
John.shea@noblesswcd.org

Sabrina Raddle, Accountant/Administrative Assistant
Sabrina.raddle@noblesswcd.org

SUPPORTING ENTITIES

Watershed District Attorney

Smith Partners P.L.L.P.
400 2nd Ave. South, Suite 1200, Minneapolis, MN 55401
Phone 612-344-1400

Rock County Soil & Water Conservation District

311 W. Gabrielson Road, Luverne, MN 56156
Phone 507-283-8862 x 3
Fax 507-283-5006
Eric Hartman, Director

National Resource Conservation Service

1567 McMillan St. Suite #3
Worthington, MN 56187
Phone: 507-376-9150 extension #3

National Resource Conservation Service

311 W. Gabrielson Rd, Suite 3
Luverne, MN 56156
Phone: (507) 283-9146 Fax: (507) 283-2439

KANARANZI-LITTLE ROCK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Budget Summary

BOARD COMPENSATION	\$5,000.00
SWCD ADMIN/TECHNICAL CONTRACT	\$55,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	\$500.00
MILEAGE AND TRAVEL	\$2,500.00
INSURANCE & BONDS	\$2,600.00
AUDIT	\$3,000.00
LEGAL FEES	\$500.00
PROFESSIONAL COSTS/MAWD & LMC	\$4,000.00
PUBLICATIONS & HEARINGS	\$2,000.00
SUPPLIES & POSTAGE	\$500.00
OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES	\$1,000.00
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$80,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<hr/> <u>\$156,600.00</u>

KANARANZI-LITTLE ROCK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Year-in-Review

MUNICIPAL TREE COST-SHARE PROGRAM

The KLR Managers continued the Municipal Tree Cost-Share Program they created in 2014. The municipalities within KLR boundaries were introduced to the program that reimbursed 25% of approved tree-planting projects. The maximum benefit amount in any one city is \$500.00. No cities participated in the program for 2016.

TREE COST-SHARE PROGRAM

The KLR created a Tree Cost-Share program for landowners living in the KLR Watershed. The program was created in 2015, but didn't take effect until 2016. The program provides a 50% Cost-Share up to \$1,000 to landowners that qualify. In 2016, the program provided four landowners with cost-share with a combined total of nearly \$2,000.

BUFFER COST-SHARE PROGRAM

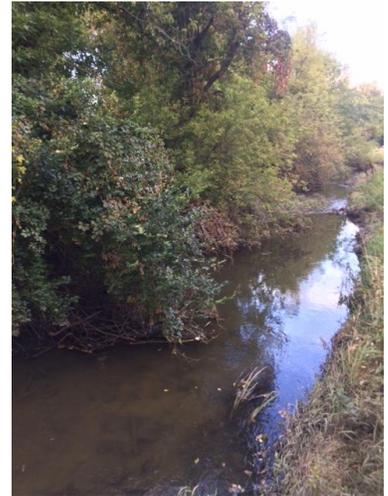
In 2016, KLR created a new buffer program to help landowners meet the requirements of the buffer legislation. KLR will pay \$150.00 per acre for the first 50' to establish an adequate buffer within the boundaries of the watershed. This is a one-time payment per tract for those that qualify. No payments were made in 2016, but a few landowners started contracts.

FOURTH-GRADE FORESTERS

In April, KLR celebrated Arbor Day with area students through the Fourth Grade Forester's Program. The SWCD Staff met with fourth grade students in Adrian and Ellsworth to share the benefits of planting and maintaining trees. Each student received conservation information and a small blue spruce tree to care for and to share with their families.

LEARNING AREA TOURS

In September, KLR funded the use of the Ecology Bus. The Ecology Bus was used at Adrian's Prairie Grass Learning Area to educate students from Adrian and Ellsworth. On the Ecology Bus, students learned about water insects and water pollution. Once at the learning Area, Sabrina Raddle and Emmie Peters, both from the SWCD, and the Adrian High School Biology class educated students on native grasses and the local wildlife.



KANARANZI-LITTLE ROCK WATERSHED DISTRICT

NOBLES COUNTY FAIR

In August, KLR partnered on the cost of a booth at the Nobles County Fair with Nobles SWCD. KLR was able to include information about their watershed that would affect those of Nobles County. Some of the items shown included: board managers, cost-share opportunities, and the boundaries of the watershed. Along with the booth, KLR partnered with Nobles SWCD to provide the Ecology Bus at the Nobles County Fair. On the Ecology Bus, visitors learned about various animals that would be found in wetlands. They also had a Painted Turtle, Red Eared Slider Turtle, and Tiger Salamander for people to hold and learn more about.



NOBLES COUNTY DITCH #11 PROJECT

The managers spent a majority of the year answering questions regarding the Nobles County Ditch #11 project. In July, the board was informed that they no longer had legal counsel, soon after, Smith Partners began representing KLR. The ditch committee attended multiple meetings regarding the ditch project throughout the year. In December, the managers adopted resolution #9-2016 that transferred the petition over to Nobles County.

2016 BUDGET PREPARATION

The KLR Mangers hosted a public hearing to share and collect information that would impact KLR's 2016 budget. Information was reviewed by Nobles SWCD personnel. After discussion, the board moved to request \$127,764 in levied funds for 2016. The levy requests were approved and forwarded to the Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer (\$119,116.00) and the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer (\$8,608.00). It was decided that \$156,600.00 of expenditures be approved. The mangers decided that the remaining expense balance of \$28,836.00 would be transferred out of KLR's operating fund to offset the additional 2016 budgeted expenses.



Month to Month Activity

JANUARY 20TH, 2016 – REGULAR MEETING

The December 16th, 2015 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. A cost-share payment was approved for a grassed waterway project and a payment was approved for conservation use acres. Shea presented the board with a request from Nobles County to donate towards a new no-till Truax Drill. The board requested more information be provided at the next meeting before they make their decision. Shea then also touched on bridge construction that would affect a stream bank in Larkin 22. With minimal impact and the DNR's approval, the board didn't see a problem with the construction.

MARCH 16TH, 2016 – REGULAR MEETING

The January 20th, 2016 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. The board approved the donation of \$5,000 towards the Nobles SWCD's new no-till Truax drill. Shea presented the board with information regarding the Ellsworth Wellhead Protection plan. The board approved the sponsorship of Arbor Day for the 4th graders at Ellsworth and Adrian schools. The board approved the municipal cost-share tree program for an additional year and requested the letters be sent to each town within the watershed. The board approved the 2016 Annual Plan and 2015 Annual Report. Shea presented the board with the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) resolution. The board requested more information on this before the next board meeting.

APRIL 21ST, 2016 – REGULAR MEETING

The March 16th, 2016 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. The board approved the conservation use acres contracts for four landowners. Wayne Smith, Nobles County Environmental Services, presented the board with information regarding 1W1P. After discussion, the board moved to approve the resolution. Shea then informed the board that the City of Rushmore is constructing a storm retention pond that falls within the wellhead protection area. Rushmore is requesting financial assistance from the watershed on this project.

JUNE 15TH, 2016 – REGULAR MEETING

The April 21st, 2016 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Rod Bosma expressed his concern regarding the Herlein-Boote WMA near his farm. He requested KLR look into this water issue and also informed them of a County Ditch 4 meeting on June 21st, 2016. Shea informed the board of the Water Management Partners training that is on July 26th, 2016 in Worthington. He requested everyone attend the training as it was a great opportunity. Shea then requested the board set a date for the budget hearing that occurs in September. The board set the budget hearing on September 8th, 2016. Shea presented the board with the cost of the project for the City of Rushmore. The board moved to table this decision until the next board meeting.

KANARANZI-LITTLE ROCK WATERSHED DISTRICT

JULY 21ST, 2016 – REGULAR MEETING

The June 15th, 2016 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Steve Haugen presented his findings to the board for the 2015 audit. He stated that the watershed has a very healthy fund balance. Shea presented the board with more information regarding the Rushmore Cost-Share project. There is roughly \$320,000 in costs expected to complete the storm retention basin and to clean out an old pond. He also stated that Rushmore has approximately 350 residents that this would affect. Shea reported that there will be ditch meeting for Herlein-Boote on August 5th, 2016 in Worthington. The board approved the opportunity to provide funds towards the Ecology Bus at the Nobles County Fair. Raddle presented the board with a letter from Mike Tow, Tow Law Firm which stated he discontinued his legal support to KLR in February 2016. The board requested Raddle send out requests to law firms to see if they would be interested in representing the board in future instances.

JULY 26TH, 2016 – SPECIAL MEETING – WATER MANAGEMENT PARTNERS WORKSHOP

Registration began at 9:45 a.m. The workshop started at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were given and managers were asked if there were any additional topics that should be covered. Presenters Steve Woods, Tara Ostendorf, and Mark Doneux covered the topics of Watershed Districts, BWSR, and the World; Watershed Districts' Legal Powers and Purposes, The Value of Your Watershed Management Plan; Your Role as a Leader; and Government Basics.

AUGUST 18TH, 2016 – REGULAR MEETING

The July 21st, 2016 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda along with the minutes from the July 26th, 2016 special meeting. Scott Ralston (USFWS) and Russ Hoogendoorn (SWPTSA) presented the board with the construction plans for the Adrian Dam. The funds for this project were from USFWS and the board was not interested in partnering funds on the project. The board approved four tree cost-share contracts. The board also approved providing the City of Rushmore with cost-share for the storm water retention pond. KLR accepted the request for legal counsel from Smith Partners. The board then requested the Nobles County Ditch #11 information be sent to the legal counsel as soon as possible as the petition is potentially ready to move forward. Shea requested the board create a ditch committee of two board members. The 2017 budget was proposed to the board. The board requested to see a 4% increase along with increases in legal fees and a decrease in the buffer program.

SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2016 – REGULAR MEETING & BUDGET HEARING

The previous meeting's minutes, the financial reports, and the KLR Invoices were approved for payment. Shea informed the board of three public hearings coming up that related to ditches within the boundaries of KLR. Raddle presented the board with the 2017 budget before the public hearing for them to review. Shea then discussed the Accelerated Implementation Grant (AIG) that was submitted for the 1W1P. The regular meeting was paused and the Public Hearing began at 8:05 p.m. The public hearing was to: share budgetary information, obtain the public's comments, and then act upon the 2017 KLR Budget. The KLR Managers decided to increase the size of the levy from \$127,764 to \$132,875. The 2017 expenses were set

KANARANZI-LITTLE ROCK WATERSHED DISTRICT

at \$241,100. It was decided that \$108,225 would be transferred from KLR's General Fund to cover the additional expenses. The Managers then approved Resolution #8-2016 that approved the 2015 KLR Budget. Raddle was directed to forward the levy requests to the Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer and the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer. The public hearing then adjourned. The regular board meeting resumed. Shea discussed further on the 1W1P grant before the meeting was adjourned.

OCTOBER 20TH, 2016 – REGULAR MEETING

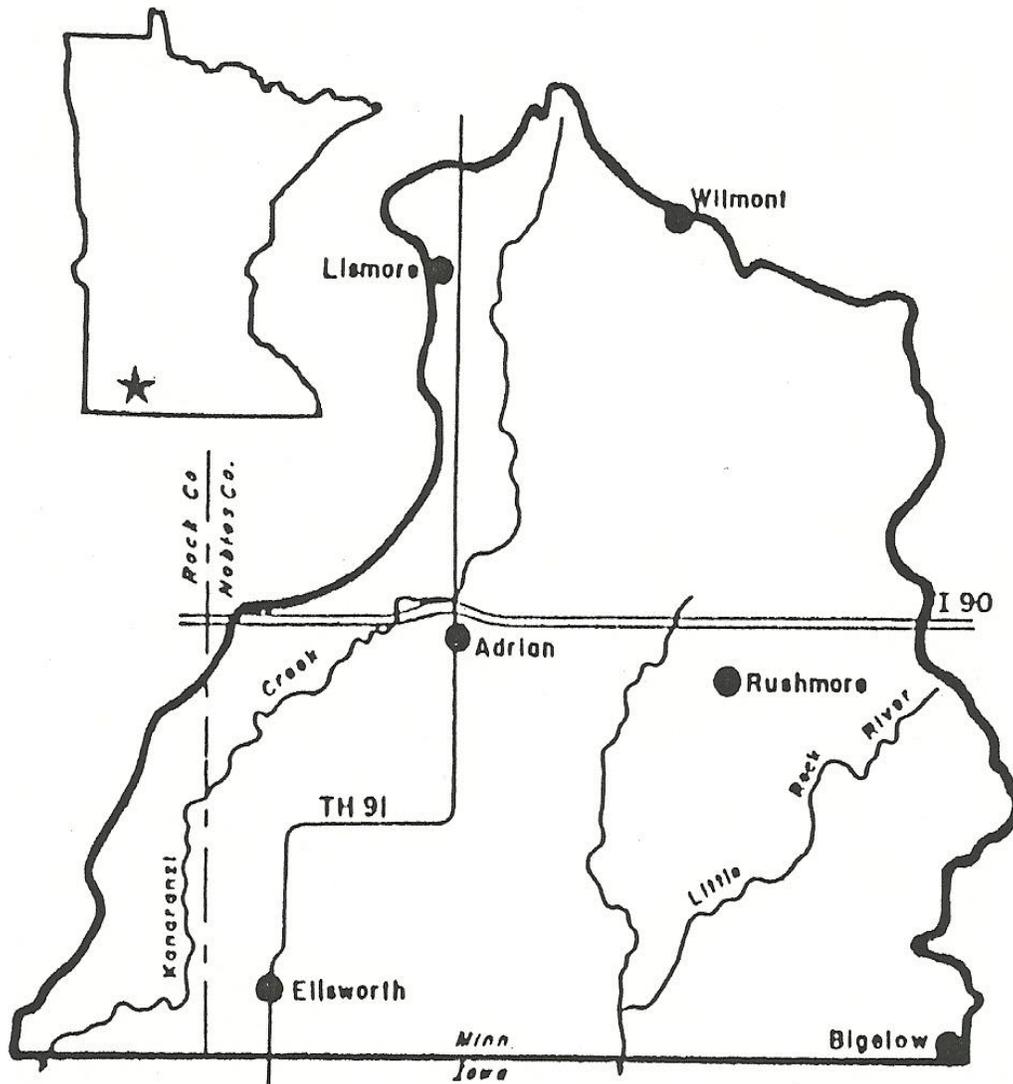
The previous meeting's minutes, the financial reports, and the KLR Invoices were approved for payment. The board approved six cost-share contracts at a rate of 45%. Louis Smith, Smith Partners, was at the board meeting to introduce himself and explain KLR's next steps in the ditch petition process. Manager C. Frahm has retired from her position on the board and A. Boyenga has taken her place. The board approved Raddle to create and send out another newsletter in 2017. The board was reminded of the MAWD convention in December.

DECEMBER 15TH, 2016 – REGULAR MEETING

The previous meeting's minutes, the financial reports, and the KLR Invoices were approved for payment. The board approved the updated cost-share form. The board took action on two cost-share payments. Shea presented the board with the resolution (#9-2016) that transferred the petition to Nobles County. After discussion, the board adopted the resolution. The board accepted the engagement letter from Eisfeld and Berg to complete the 2016 audit. Boyenga completed his Oath of Office.

KANARANZI-LITTLE ROCK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Watershed Boundaries



Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District

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