

Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District  
1567 McMillan St., Ste 3, Worthington, MN 56187  
507-376-9150 ext. 3  
[www.klrwatershed.org](http://www.klrwatershed.org)

# ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2017

*“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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# KANARANZI-LITTLE ROCK WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Board of Managers

### COLEEN GRUIS, CHAIR

316 N. Bishop Ave., Rushmore, MN 56168

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-20

Telephone: 507-478-4972

### LAYTON GRUIS, 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE-CHAIR

18262 320th Street, Adrian, MN 56110

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-18

Telephone: 507-394-2321

### TIM TAYLOR, 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE-CHAIR

17508 190<sup>th</sup> St., Adrian, MN 56110

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-19

Telephone: 507-473-4540

### ANTHONY BOYENGA, TREASURER

1956 31<sup>st</sup> St., Ellsworth, MN 56129

County: Rock

Term Expires: 10-07-18

Telephone: 507-473-4540

### JERRY BRAKE, SECRETARY

13976 Edwards Ave., Wilmont, MN 56185

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-20

Telephone: 507-472-8777

## 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](mailto:John.shea@noblesswcd.org)

Sabrina Raddle, Accountant/Administrative Assistant  
[Sabrina.raddle@noblesswcd.org](mailto:Sabrina.raddle@noblesswcd.org)

### SUPPORTING ENTITIES

#### **Watershed District Attorney**

Smith Partners P.L.L.P.  
400 2<sup>nd</sup> 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	\$65,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	\$500.00
MILEAGE AND TRAVEL	\$2,500.00
INSURANCE & BONDS	\$2,600.00
AUDIT	\$3,000.00
LEGAL FEES	\$10,000.00
PROFESSIONAL COSTS/MAWD & LMC	\$4,000.00
PUBLICATIONS & HEARINGS	\$2,000.00
SUPPLIES & POSTAGE	\$500.00
OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES	\$1,000.00
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$145,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<hr/> <u>\$241,100.00</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 2017.

### 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 2017, the program provided seven landowners with cost-share with a combined total of nearly \$6,000.

### BUFFER COST-SHARE PROGRAM

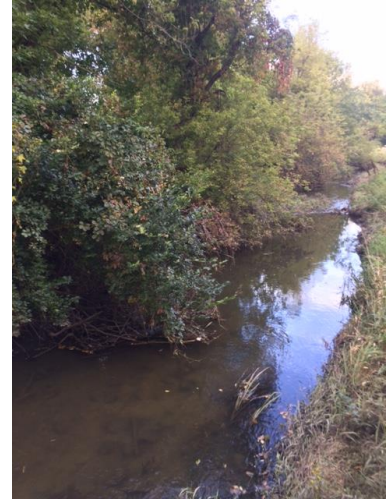
In 2016, KLR created a new buffer program to help landowners meet the requirements of the buffer legislation. KLR will pay \$150.00 per acre for the first 50' to establish an adequate buffer within the boundaries of the watershed. This is a one-time payment per tract for those that qualify. One payment was made in 2017, but multiple 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 white paper birch 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, 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 Minnesota.



## NOBLES COUNTY DITCH #11 PROJECT

The managers spent a majority of the year answering questions regarding the Nobles County Ditch #11 project. The managers have still kept tabs on the Ditch #11 project since transferring it to the county. Throughout the year various public meetings were held and in December the final hearing was held. It was the decision of the Nobles County Commissioners to reject the petition as presented. The petitioner will have time to appeal this in early 2018.

## 2018 BUDGET PREPARATION

The KLR Mangers hosted a public hearing to share and collect information that would impact KLR's 2018 budget. Information was reviewed by Nobles SWCD personnel. After discussion, the board moved to request \$138,190 in levied funds for 2018. The levy requests were approved and forwarded to the Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer (\$128,931.00) and the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer (\$9,259.00). It was decided that \$247,600.00 of expenditures be approved. The mangers decided that the remaining expense balance of \$109,410.00 would be transferred out of KLR's operating fund to offset the additional 2018 budgeted expenses.



## Month to Month Activity

### JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING

The December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Cost-share payments were approved for five landowners who each completed a well sealing. The board completed their annual housekeeping tasks: set mileage rate, designated depositories and nominated offices and committees.

### FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING

The January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Cost-share payments were approved for terraces and conservation use acres. The board approved to send a written notice to those serving on the Advisory Committee. C. Gruis was appointed to the One Watershed, One Plan Committee as a representative for KLR. The board also approved the 2016 Annual Report and the 2017 Annual Plan.

### MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING

The February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. The board approved two new terrace contracts for 2017 construction. Discussion occurred on the Nobles County Ditch #11. Conversations have been on going with the county to make sure the bills are all ending up in the correct place. Shea explained the situation of Herlein-Boote with the board. The board then approved to provide trees to the 4<sup>th</sup> graders in the watershed for Arbor Day.

### MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING

The March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. The board approved a draft of the 2017 newsletter to be mailed to residents of the watershed. Raddle gave a brief report on Arbor Day. Shea updated the board on the ditch meetings in Nobles County. The board set the date of their public hearing to September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

### JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING

The May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. The board approved and paid six tree program cost-share contracts and one well sealing contract. Raddle presented the board with a brief document regarding buffers and alternative practices. Shea provided the board information on a potential project in Westside Township. The board extended their buffer program until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. L. Gruis was voted in as delegate for KLR at the Summer Tour.



# KANARANZI-LITTLE ROCK WATERSHED DISTRICT

## JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING

The June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Danielle Berg presented the findings for the 2016 year-end audit. After discussion, the 2016 audit was accepted. A landowner was present at the meeting to discuss the watershed boundaries. He would like a follow-up on this at a later date. The first buffer cost-share contract and payment were approved. The budget draft was presented to the board. Shea then discussed the Adrian Wellhead area and how it may need to be projected in the near future.

## SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING & BUDGET HEARING

The July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting's minutes, the financial reports, and invoices were approved for payment. One cost-share payment was made and another contract was approved. Raddle presented the board with the 2018 budget before the public hearing for them to review. The regular meeting was paused and the Public Hearing began at 8:00 p.m. The public hearing was to: share budgetary information, obtain the public's comments, and then act upon the 2018 KLR Budget. The KLR Managers decided to increase the size of the levy from \$132,875 to \$138,190. The 2018 expenses were set at \$247,600. It was decided that \$109,410 would be transferred from KLR's General Fund to cover the additional expenses. The Managers then approved Resolution #10-2017 that approved the 2018 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 more on the Adrian Wellhead Area and the meeting was adjourned.

## OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING

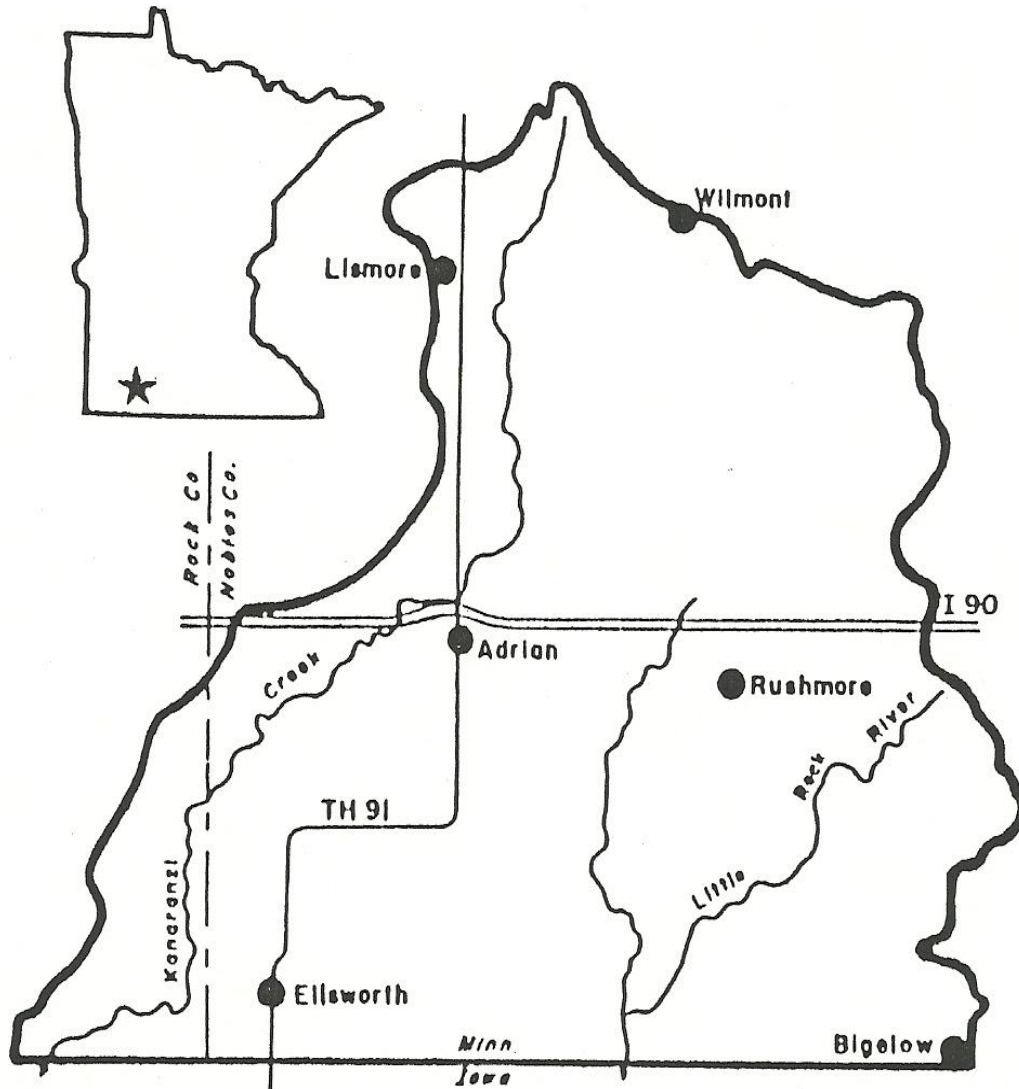
The September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes, the financial reports, and the invoices were approved for payment. The board approved two cost-share payments. Shea reported on 1W1P and Nobles SWCD staffing. Boyer is now the District Technician at the SWCD.

## NOVEMBER 16, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING

The October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes, the financial reports, and the invoices were approved for payment. Dale Krystosek and Doug Goodrich (BWSR) were present to follow up on the 2014 PRAP. They covered the action items with the board and asked what items have been addressed. A few suggestions were made by BWSR on how things should continue. Shea informed the board of Profit Zone Manager. Shea then touched on the NCD #11 and 1W1P before the meeting adjourned.

# KANARANZI-LITTLE ROCK WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Watershed Boundaries



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