



# ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2019

1567 McMillan St., Ste 3  
Worthington, MN 56187

Kanaranzhi-Little Rock  
Watershed District

p. 507-376-9150 ext. 3  
[www.klrwatershed.org](http://www.klrwatershed.org)

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## Board of Managers

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### **Tim Taylor, Chair**

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

County: Nobles

Term Expired: 10-07-19

Telephone: 507-472-8422

### **Anthony Boyenga, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair**

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

County: Rock

Term Expired: 10-07-19

Telephone: 507-220-9033

### **Coleen Gruis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair**

316 N. Bishop Ave., Rushmore, MN 56168

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-20

Telephone: 507-478-4972

### **Layton Gruis, Secretary**

18262 320<sup>th</sup> Street, Adrian, MN 56110

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-21

Telephone: 507-394-2321

### **Jerry Brake, Treasurer**

13976 Edwards Ave., Wilmont, MN 56185

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-20

Telephone: 507-472-8777

### **Adam Henning**

21316 300<sup>th</sup> Street, Rushmore, MN 56168

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-22

Telephone: 507-227-9522

### **William Jansma**

152 200<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ellsworth, MN 56129

County: Rock

Term Expires: 10-07-22

Telephone: 507-920-6617

## Conservation Staff

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### **Nobles Soil & Water Conservation District**

1567 McMillan St. Suite #3  
Worthington, MN 56187  
Phone: 507-376-9150 Ext. #3  
[www.noblesswcd.org](http://www.noblesswcd.org)

*John Shea, Executive Secretary/District Manager*  
[John.shea@noblesswcd.org](mailto:John.shea@noblesswcd.org)

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

### **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 Soil & Water Conservation District**

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

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

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

311 W. Gabrielson Road  
Luverne, MN 56156  
Phone: 507-283-8862 ext. 3

## Budget Summary

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<i>BOARD COMPENSATION</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>
<i>SWCD ADMIN/TECHNICAL CONTRACT</i>	<i>\$70,000.00</i>
<i>MILEAGE &amp; TRAVEL</i>	<i>\$2,500.00</i>
<i>INSURANCE &amp; BONDS</i>	<i>\$2,600.00</i>
<i>AUDIT</i>	<i>\$3,000.00</i>
<i>LEGAL FEES</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>
<i>PROFESSIONAL COSTS/MAWD &amp; LMC</i>	<i>\$6,000.00</i>
<i>PUBLICATIONS &amp; HEARINGS</i>	<i>\$2,000.00</i>
<i>SUPPLIES &amp; POSTAGE</i>	<i>\$750.00</i>
<i>OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>
<i>PROJECT EXPENDITURES</i>	<i>\$75,000.00</i>
<i>TOTAL EXPENSES</i>	<i>\$177,850.00</i>

# Year-in-Review

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## **Municipal Tree Cost-Share Program**

*The KLR Managers continues 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 city is \$500.00 per year. KLR did not have any cities participate in 2019.*

## **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 it didn't take effect until 2016. The program provides a 50% Cost-Share up to \$1,000 to landowners that qualify. In 2019, the program provided three landowners with cost-share for a combined total of over \$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 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. Thirteen payments were made in 2019. KLR paid a combined total of \$14,490 to help landowners establish buffers.*

## **Fourth-Grade Foresters – Arbor Day**

*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 white pine seedling to care for and to share with their families.*

## **Learning Area Tours**

*In September, KLR funded the use of the Ecology Bus for local 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. 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, Adrian High School Biology*

students educated the younger students on native grasses, the water cycle and the local wildlife.

### **Nobles County Fair**

*In August, KLR rented a booth at the Nobles County Fair. 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 prairies and how they survive.*

### **Nobles County Ditch #11 Project**

*The KLR Board of Managers transferred Ditch #11B to the county in 2017. In 2018, the Board of Commissioners opposed the ditch petition. Those pursuing the petition took the chance to file an appeal. The final appeal decision is planned for 2020.*

### **2020 Budget Preparation**

*The KLR Managers hosted a public hearing to share and collect information that would impact KLR's 2019 budget. Information was reviewed by Nobles SWCD personnel. After discussion, the board moved to request \$146,592 in levied funds for 2020. The levy requests were approved and forwarded to the Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer and the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer. It was decided that \$183,850 of expenditures be approved. The managers decided that the remaining expense balance of \$37,258 would be transferred out of KLR's operating fund to offset the additional 2020 budgeted expenses.*

## Month to Month Activity

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### **January 17, 2019 – Regular Meeting**

*The November 15, 2018 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. The City of Adrian requested cost-share for renting the land around the well field. The board then completed their annual housekeeping tasks: set mileage rate, designated depositories and nominated offices and committees.*

### **February 21, 2019– Regular Meeting**

*The January 17, 2019 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. One cost-share contract was approved and paid this month. The board then approved the 2019 Annual Plan and 2018 Annual Report.*

### **April 18, 2019 – Regular Meeting**

*The February 21, 2019 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Cost-Share contracts for four WASCOD projects, one well sealing project, one waterway project and one conservation use acres project were approved. BWSR is one step closer in completing the boundary change of the KLRWD and OOWD.*

### **June 20, 2019 – Regular Meeting**

*The April 18, 2019 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Cost-Share contracts for three conservation use acres projects and one buffer project were approved. The board then accepted the 2018 Audit Report provided by Danielle Berg, CPA.*

### **July 18, 2019 – Regular Meeting**

*The June 20, 2019 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Cost-Share payments for three tree program projects. The board then reviewed the draft budget.*



### **September 5, 2019 – Regular & Budget Meeting**

*The July 18, 2019 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. One cost-share contract was approved. 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 2020 KLR budget. The KLR managers decided to increase the levy from \$140,954 to \$146,592. The 2020 expenses were set at \$183,850. It was decided that \$37,258 would be transferred from KLR's General Fund to cover the additional expenses. The managers then approved Resolution #2019-1 that approved the 2020 budget. Raddle was directed to forward the levy requests to the Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer and the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer. The public hearing was then adjourned.*

### **October 17, 2019 – Regular Meeting**

*The September 5, 2019 regular and budget meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Thirteen buffer cost-share payments were paid, as well as, one conservation use acres contract. Shea then informed the board of the two new board members, Adam Henning and William Jansma.*

### **December 12, 2019 – Regular Meeting**

*The October 17, 2019 regular and budget meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Seven cost-share payments were paid, and one contract was cancelled. The board then approved a two-year agreement with Nobles SWCD for services in 2020 and 2021.*