



# ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2018

1567 McMillan St., Ste 3  
Worthington, MN 56187

Kanaranzi-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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**Layton Gruis, Chair**

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

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-21

Telephone: 507-394-2321

**Tim Taylor, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair**

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

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-19

Telephone: 507-472-8422

**Anthony Boyenga, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair**

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

County: Rock

Term Expires: 10-07-21

Telephone: 507-220-9033

**Coleen Gruis, Secretary**

316 N. Bishop Ave., Rushmore, MN 56168

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-20

Telephone: 507-478-4972

**Jerry Brake, Treasurer**

13976 Edwards Ave., Wilmont, MN 56185

County: Nobles

Term Expires: 10-07-20

Telephone: 507-472-8777

## 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 Raddle, 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>\$500.00</i>
<i>OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>
<i>PROJECT EXPENDITURES</i>	<i>\$145,000.00</i>
<i>TOTAL EXPENSES</i>	<i>\$247,600.00</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. One city participated in the program in 2018.*

## **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 2018, the program provided six landowners with cost-share for a combined total of nearly \$4,000.*

## **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. Seven payments were made in 2018. A few contracts are waiting certification before they can be paid out.*

## **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 black hills spruce 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 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 Minnesota.*

### **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 2019.*

### **2019 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 \$140,954 in levied funds for 2019. The levy requests were approved and forwarded to the Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer and the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer. It was decided that \$177,850 of expenditures be approved. The managers decided that the remaining expense balance of \$36,896 would be transferred out of KLR's operating fund to offset the additional 2019 budgeted expenses.*

## Month to Month Activity

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### **January 18, 2018 – Regular Meeting**

*The November 16, 2017 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Cost-Share payments for seven terrace projects, one well sealing project and two conservation use acres were approved. 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.*

### **March 15, 2018– Regular Meeting**

*The January 18, 2018 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. No cost-share contracts were approved this month. The board then approved the 2018 Annual Plan and 2017 Annual Report.*

### **April 19, 2018 – Regular Meeting**

*The March 15, 2018 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Cost-Share contracts for eighteen buffer projects were approved. Shea and Livdahl are working on correcting the watershed boundary between KLR and OOWD.*

### **June 7, 2018 – Regular Meeting**

*The April 19, 2018 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Cost-Share contracts for four WASCOD projects and one well sealing project were approved. The board then approved the 2017 Audit Report provided by Danielle Berg, CPA.*

### **July 19, 2018 – Regular Meeting**

*The June 7, 2018 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Cost-Share payments for five buffer projects. They also approved an additional buffer contract. The board then adopted Resolution #2018-1 regarding the Other Waters in the Buffer Legislation. Shea discussed more on the boundary change. The board then reviewed the draft budget.*



## **September 6, 2018 – Regular & Budget Meeting**

*The July 19, 2018 meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Cost-Share payments for six tree projects were approved. Shea then informed the board that the City of Adrian is looking at purchasing the land around the Wellhead area. 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 2019 KLR budget. The KLR managers decided to increase the levy from \$138,190 to \$140,954. The 2019 expenses were set at \$177,850. It was decided that \$36,896 would be transferred from KLR's General Fund to cover the additional expenses. The managers then approved Resolution #2018-2 that approved the 2019 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.*

## **November 15, 2018 – Regular Meeting**

*The September 6, 2018 regular and budget meeting minutes, financial reports and invoices were approved as part of the agenda. Two cost-share payments were paid for a filterstrip and trees. A cost-share contract was approved for a WASCOB. The SWCD had a new staff person fill the Farmbill Technician position. Shea then informed the board that TSA would be implementing a TSA Cover Crop Grant within the next year.*