

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 15, 2018

4:30 P.M.

USDA Service Center

SWCD Office

Preston, MN 55965

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Gossman, Brian Hazel, Bob Pickett, Kathy Tesmer, Travis Willford

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Rasmussen, Jeanette Serfling, Aaren Mathison, Anne Koliha, Jessica Bronson (NRCS), Keith Feliciano-Cortes (NRCS), Gary Watson (NRCS), Duane Bakke (County Commissioner), Matthew Lambert (Agri News)

Hazel called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Pickett to approve the agenda. Affirmative: Tesmer, Pickett, Gossman, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Gossman to approve the February, 2018 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by Willford seconded by Tesmer to approve the following consent agenda items:

1. Secretary's Report – February 22, 2018 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity reports

Willford reported reviewing and ranking the applications for the Nutrient Management position, came in for the check detail, attended the MAWQCP Lunch and Learn, and the Data Logger meeting.

Hazel reported attending the Data Logger meeting and was on the panel to interview the Nutrient Management applicants.

Gossman reported attending the Wabasha County Forestry Field Day, was on the panel to interview the Nutrient Management applicants and a Forestry Committee meeting regarding Roadside Weed Control.

Pickett reported attending a Forestry Committee meeting regarding Roadside Weed Control.

Tesmer had nothing to report.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

- a. Water Steward Program-Aaren Mathison
Mathison reported on the Water Steward Program presentation he attended at Whitewater State Park. He handed out information and explained what the program is about and what it could potentially help with.
- b. Phase III Soil Health Training - Anne Koliha
Koliha reported she had attended Phase III of Soil Health Training. "Healthy soil breathes, unhealthy soil is suffocating."

3. Administrator's report

- a. MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol
Rasmussen reported attending the Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol. The legislative priorities remain about the same as last year.
- c. PRAP Update
The surveys for the PRAP have all been sent out. All were reminded to complete them by March 26th. The WCA portion has been completed with no major issues to be addressed.
- d. BWSR Grants: Local Capacity Grant reconciliation; website reports
Rasmussen reported Julie Krebs, BWSR will be coming to reconcile the Local Capacity Grant on March 26th.

All required BWSR reports have been posted to the website.

- e. Noxious Weed Grant
MDA funded the request for the Noxious Weed Grant, but at a reduced amount. \$30,000.00 was requested, but was approved at a reduced amount of \$25,300.00. The funds for admin and education were removed.

- f. Phone information
Koliha is working with the County on a new phone system. Marco is putting together a proposal with options and pricing. Marco is also working with the County on a managed IT system which probably will not work for us.

Bluff Country Computer has been here assisting with getting the new server and backup system set up.

- g. Active Threat Training
DNR has invited FSA and the SWCD to attend Active Threat Training at the Conservation Building. In light of recent events, this will be a good training to attend. Most staff will be attending.
- h. MDA Township Testing Initial Results
Initial results have been received from the Township Testing program. 4,400 kits were sent out with 1,479 being returned. Those households with nitrates over 10 parts per million will be contacted to have the test run again and have a site assessment done. A final report will be available in 2019.
- i. NRCS competitive grants
Rasmussen reported attending a webinar with MASWCD and NRCS which discussed the competitive grants available through NRCS. RCPP EQIP money has been approved for the 1W1P for watersheds and water planners.
Competitive grants are available for Minnesota for soil health to continue Thomas' position through a multi county proposal.
- j. BWSR Biennial Budget Request (BBR) deadline is April 12th
The biennial budget request is required every two years. Since the submission deadline is the day of the board meeting, Rasmussen will email it to the board for their review.

4. NRCS

Gary Watson, Acting Area State Conservationist for Area Six, was present. He said the Agency is changing how they do business and can't share information as in the past. He had two items for the board's consideration.

1. Communication – A third person mediator is being arranged to come, hopefully within the next month, to help mediate communication between the NRCS and SWCD.
2. Office space – A leasing agent will be coming to measure and identify everyone's space, which may require rearranging offices or building a wall to separate the NRCS from the SWCD.

5. County

Commissioner Bakke reported the Southeast Water Resources Board met at Eagle Bluff to look at the Karst exhibit, which needs to be upgraded. There was discussion of not continuing funding for Sheila Craig if she is not expanding her area.

AMC – Commissioner Bakke reported they are opposing SWCD statutory funding authority.

He reported attending two soil health meetings and found them interesting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider approval to hire Nutrient Management Specialist per recommendation from the Hiring Committee

Motioned by Willford seconded by Pickett to approve hiring Sara West as the Nutrient Management Specialist per the recommendation of the Hiring Committee effective April 2, 2018 at Grade 8, Step 1. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider amendment to FY2018 & 2019 SWCD Local Capacity Services Grant increasing the amount from \$100,000.00 to \$102,000.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Pickett to approve the amendment to FY2018 & 2019 SWCD Local Capacity Services Grant increasing the amount from \$100,000.00 to \$102,000.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider budget revision for MDA Noxious Weed Grant and authorize Chair to sign acknowledgement form for \$25,300.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to accept the budget revision for the MDA Noxious Weed Grant and authorize Chair to sign the acknowledgement form for \$25,300.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval for Chair to sign sub-agreement with Olmsted County SWCD for MPCA Surface Water Assessment Grant for Root River Cycle 2 monitoring

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Willford to grant approval for the Chair to Sign the sub-agreement with Olmsted County SWCD for MPCA Surface Water Assessment Grant for Root River Cycle 2 monitoring. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider 2017 BWSR Year-end Financial Reports

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Gossman to approve the 2017 BWSR Year-end Financial Reports as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider transfer of \$3,472.98 from Compensated Absences to District Account per year-end calculations

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Pickett to approve the transfer of \$3,472.98 from Compensated Absences to the District Account per year-end calculations. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider Final Financial Report for Buffer Cost Share 2018

Motioned by Willford seconded by Pickett to approve the final financial Report for the Buffer Cost Share 2018 Grant. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider return of funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 for Buffer Cost Share Grant 2018

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve the return of funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the Buffer Cost Share 2018 Grant. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY18-01 Delores Christopherson, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$1,320.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Tesmer to approve Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY18-01 Delores Christopherson, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$1,320.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider Local Capacity Grant Conservation Practice Assistance Contract LC FY17-03 Luverne Barth, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$3,552.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the Local Capacity Grant Conservation Practice Assistance Contract LC FY17-03 Luverne Barth, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$3,552.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider RR Field to Stream Partnership Conservation Practice Assistance Contract CC 18-01 Derek O'Connor, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$1,827.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Pickett to approve the RR Field to Stream Partnership Conservation Practice Assistance Contract CC 18-01 Derek O'Connor, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$1,827.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider approval to Chair to sign sub-recipient agreement with the SE MN Water Resources Board for the MDA N BMP Outreach Grant in the amount of \$103,302.00

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Tesmer to grant approval for the Chair to sign the sub-recipient agreement with the SE MN Water Resources Board for the MDA N BMP Outreach Grant in the amount of \$103,302.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Consider staff registration (\$20) and MACDE annual dues (\$10) for Area 7 Employees meeting on April 3rd

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Pickett to approve staff registrations of \$20.00 per person and annual dues of \$10.00 per person for the Area 7 Employees meeting on April 3, 2018. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve the March, 2018 payables. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on Monday, April 2nd. Tesmer volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Willford seconded by Pickett to adjourn the meeting. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Tesmer