

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 13, 2017

3:30 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, Doug Keene, Jessica Bronson (NRCS), Duane Bakke (County Commissioner), Adam Beilke (BWSR)

Willford called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the March, 2017 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Pickett to approve the January – March, 2017 supervisors vouchers. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the following consent agenda items:

1. Secretary's Report – March 14, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Payment to Mitch Gilbert for Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Forest Stewardship Plan for 410 acres in the amount of \$4,100.00
3. Payment to Johnny Micheel for Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Forest Stewardship plan for 3016 acres in the amount of \$3,060.00

4. Payment of Field to Stream Partnership Phase II Implementation Grant Conservation Practice Assistance Contract CC16-04 Todd Hendrickson, Grassed Waterways, in the amount of \$457.20

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity reports

Willford reported attending the Soil Health Field Day at Josh Simon's, several Personnel Committee meetings and Hiring Committee meetings, Vehicle Committee meeting and with Grooters to discuss the purchase of the new vehicle.

Hazel reported attending a 1W1P meeting, the Soil Health Field Day at Simon's and job interviews.

Gossman reported attending a Soil Health Field Day in New Prague.

Pickett reported doing the statement opening and check review, Vehicle Committee meeting, and Education Committee to review scholarship applications.

Tesmer reported attending a RC& D meeting in Mankato, a TSA meeting, was present for job interviews and reviewed scholarship applications with Pickett.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

3. Administrator's report

a. MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol report

Rasmussen reported a record turnout. Monday included a presentation on buffers, legislative procedures, CWF audit which got good reviews and the funding for 1W1P is still in tact.

Tuesday she had appointments with Davids and Miller along with representatives of the Root River SWCD. The focus of their meeting was to keep local funding coming to SWCDs, which they supported.

b. MDA Township Testing Program update

Rasmussen reported she is working on getting the mailing addresses ready for the staff at the Olmsted County Lab. She attended the Township meeting to inform them of the program. Press releases will be sent out prior to the test kits being sent. The bulk of the funds go to the lab for testing and sending out the kits. Other counties report a 30% to 45% return rate.

- c. Conservation Corp apprentice
Rasmussen reported Madeline Snyder was been chosen as the Conservation Corp apprentice. She will start May 22 and work until sometime in August. She currently is a student at Iowa State.
- d. MASWCD resolution re: pond cleanouts
BWSR is working on policy to allow the use of state cost share funds for pond cleanouts. Current standards will need to be met which may require a retrofit of an old pond needing more fill or a larger pipe. Hopefully, SWCDs will have some input on the discussions before BWSR makes a decision.
- e. MACDE Area Employees meeting report
Rasmussen reported on the different presentations at the Area meeting which included:
- Tom Gile, BWSR, Buffers and Alternative Practices
 - CREP Presentation
 - FBA grants are to be submitted in May
 - Training plans
 - Technology recommendations
 - Presentation by Mower Soil Health Team Members, Tom Kotter and Tom Finnegan
- f. WCA shared position update
Rasmussen and Fischer met to discuss the proposed WCA shared position. Wabasha is still considering housing the halftime position with the other half providing technician duties for them. Winona County is completing a wage study and will be able to set a salary when that is completed. Winona County is also checking with the City of Winona to partner with us as their wetland's person is retiring.
- g. Regional organization discussions (Water Resources Board and TSA)
The Water Resources Board and the TSA executive committee met to talk about administrative duties for the hiring of a new director.

4. NRCS

Bronson reported there was good attendance at the Field Day held at Josh Simon's farm. Farmers volunteered to have data loggers put in their fields and they have been installed throughout the County.

Current NRCS workload includes CRP, CSP, EQIP, and wetlands.

5. County

Bakke reported on the buffer bills and buffer law.

Some Amish are filing suit against the County for gray water systems requirements. No official documents have been received yet.

He also reported on the Water Resources Board discussion on the replacement of Linda Dahl who has resigned.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss 75th Anniversary activities

Rasmussen reported no entries were received for the logo contest.

All schools are participating in Arbor Day. Fifth grade students will each get a lilac bush and a potted tree will be planted at each school. It was suggested Rasmussen contact St. John's Lutheran School in Wykoff and St. Paul's Lutheran School in Chatfield to see if they would like to participate also.

The Trail Walk scheduled for May 6th with Brenda Pohlman will be held at a wildlife area near Choice.

The Conservation Tour will run from approximately 1 – 5 pm on June 27th. The tour may include looking at the historical East Willow structure, the Edge of Field study or FSP sites, conservation practices showing the changes over the years and what the emphasis is now. The tour will be followed by a catered meal and program starting at 6 pm in the Commercial Building at the Fairgrounds. The program may consist of past and current employees and past or long-term supervisors who could talk about how conservation has changed.

Rasmussen was encouraged to get information out as soon as possible.

2. Review health insurance information

3. Consider vehicle purchase proposal per recommendation of committee

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to order a 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee four wheel drive SUV from Nelson Auto Center at a cost of \$30,569.65 per the recommendation of the committee. The vehicle will be paid for with funds from the Vehicle Replacement Fund and the Local Capacity Grant. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider sale of 2002 Jeep

Pickett reported Kelly Blue Book values range from \$2,166 to \$2,748 for the sale of the vehicle. It was noted the vehicle needs tires.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Pickett to keep the 2002 Jeep for the summer and review its usage in the fall. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider 2016 BWSR Year-end Financial Reports

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Hazel to approve the 2016 BWSR Year-end Financial Reports as presented. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider transfer of \$11,486.20 from District Funds to Compensated Absences per year end calculations

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Pickett to approve the transfer of \$11,486.20 from District Funds to Compensated Absences per year end calculations. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider High School Scholarship Recipient per recommendation of the Education Committee

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to award the High School Scholarship to Jared Troendle, Lanesboro High School, per the recommendation of the Education Committee. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider bids for the 2016 Fillmore SWCD Financial Audit

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Tesmer to have Peterson Company perform the 2016 Fillmore SWCD Financial Audit. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider reinvestment of CD #43369

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Gossman to reinvest CD #43369 for a three year term at 1.50% at First Southeast Bank. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider SE MN Water Resources Board 319 Feedlot VI grant agreement in the amount of \$21,000.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the SE MN Water Resources Board 319 Feedlot VI grant agreement in the amount of \$21,000.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-08 Dean E. Johnson, Grassed Waterways, in the amount of \$2,400.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve the Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-08 Dean E. Johnson, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$2,400.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-2-RP, Butch Johnson, Reforestation, in the amount of \$300.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Pickett to approve the Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-2-RP, Butch Johnson, Reforestation, in the amount of \$300.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider approval of University of Minnesota Quick Contract for Professional Services #0001364410 for Tillage and Erosion Project research in the amount of \$5,000.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the University of Minnesota Quick Contract for Professional Services #0001364410 for Tillage and Erosion Project research in the amount of \$5,000.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Discuss MASWCD resolution ideas

Rasmussen asked the board to bring ideas for resolutions to the next meeting.

11. Consider Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-09 Rick Ruberg, Grassed Waterway in the amount of \$360.00

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Tesmer to approve Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-09 Rick Ruberg, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$360.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

12. Consider Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-10 Phil Kahoun, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$300.00 using \$93.91 from FY16 funds and \$206.91 from FY17 funds

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Tesmer to approve the Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-10 Phil Kahoun, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$300.00 using \$93.91 from FY16 funds and \$206.91 from FY17 funds. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

13. Consider hiring Conservation Technician per recommendation of the Hiring Committee

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Hazel to hire Scott Christenson as the new Conservation Technician at Grade 6, Step 8 with a start date of May 1, 2017, per the recommendation of the Hiring Committee. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

14. Consider Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY17-01 Neil Fishbaugher, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$2,800.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY17-01 Neil Fishbaugher, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$2,800.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Adam Beilke, BWSR, reported on meetings that are scheduled:

- April 27th at Peoples Energy Co-op at 10 am – Follow-up with SWCDs regarding the Alternative Practices relating to the Buffer Law
- Early to mid-June at RCTC – 1W1P work plan training for staff working with PTMapp
- June 6 in Rochester, PM – CWF Grant writing training workshop to assist grant writers in knowing what BWSR is looking for in new grants
- May 11 – MCIT Building, St. Paul 9:30 am to 3:30 pm – “Sidestep Risks when Conducting SWCD Business” co-sponsored BWSR and MCIT

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Pickett to change the date and time of the May Board meeting to Monday, May 15th at 3:30 p.m. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Hazel to grant approval for Rasmussen to attend a seminar co-sponsored by BWSR and MCIT, “ Sidestep Risks When Conducting SWCD Business” on May 11, 2017 at a cost of \$35.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the April 2017 payables. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on Monday, May 1st. Gossman volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Gossman

