

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, August 17, 2017

4:30 P.M.

USDA Service Center

SWCD Office

Preston, MN 55965

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Gossman, Brian Hazel, Bob Picket, Travis Willford

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathy Tesmer

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Rasmussen, Jeanette Serfling

Rasmussen introduced Aaren Mathison, newly hired Conservation Technician. Mathison told of his past employment history and his family.

Willford called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Secretary's Report – July 20, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Payment of Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-3-R, Tom Ferris, Forest Road Improvement, 2,550 feet, in the amount of \$5,100.00
3. Payment of FSP Phase II Implementation Grant Conservation Practice Assistance Contract BC16-02 Truman Dahl, Grassed Waterways, in the amount of \$2,484.00

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity reports

Willford reported attending Cost Share Committee meeting on July 25th.

Hazel reported attending a Soil Health event in Allamakee County and attended the hiring/personnel committee meetings with the hiring of Mathison. He also attended a Cost Share Committee meeting and participated in two parades, Rushford and Peterson.

Gossman reported attending the Governor's 25 X 25 water quality meeting on July 31, did the Statement opening and check review on August 1st, and attended the Forestry wrap up meeting and Prairie walk at Savanna Spring on August 8th. He said next year's Forestry Field Day is to be at Magellsen Bluff in Rushford.

Pickett reported attending the Forestry Field Day on July 26th and the Forestry Committee follow-up on August 8th.

Tesmer was not present.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

3. Administrator's report

a. SE MN Technical Support JPB meeting

Rasmussen reported on the many things discussed at the meeting which included administration fees, purchases including a new pickup for Pete Fryer, a sub-agreement with the Water Resources Board (WRB) to share administrative duties between the JPB and WRB, RCPP-feedlot projects with SWCDs which is funding for technical assistance for development of projects. Approval was given for the JPB to use the remaining dollars of their Local Capacity Grant to support the soil health technician and encouraged SWCDs to do the same.

A cash match is needed by the JPB so the amount was divided between the SWCDs at approximately \$1,567.00 each. SWCDs were billed for about half now and the balance after the first of the year with hopes that other funding might possibly be found.

Two tech engineers are being hired for across the state to offer more frequent training for technical staff.

b. 25x25 Town Hall and follow up with BWSR staff

Rasmussen reported attending the 25 x 25 Town Hall in Rochester. About a week later she attended the follow up to that meeting with BWSR staff. Federal programs have a big influence on land management and related programs. At the local level, there needs to be state programs with more education in schools and rewards for conservation, flood control and nitrogen best management practices (BMP).

They also discussed CREP, urban N BMP's, regional-joint administration which might also include One Watershed, One Plan administration, and watershed grants for implementation and solar projects in wetlands.

c. 75th Anniversary activities

There was a good turnout at the Forestry Field Day at Forestville State Park and at the Prairie Walk at Savanna Spring Nature Area in Chatfield.

There are three more parades in which the District will participate: Ag Days in Spring Valley, Steam Engine Days in Mabel and Fall Fest in Wykoff.

Mathison is contacting Vo-ag teachers regarding presentations at the schools with the Ground Water Model.

The 6th Grade Conservation Day is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20th.

d. Conservation Building maintenance and 2018 CWD use

Rasmussen reported the drain trap has been cleaned out at the Conservation Building. DNR is making plans to use the building as a check station for CWD possibly for bow season or if there is a special season. Dates have not been specified.

e. Hiawatha Valley RC&D meeting

Rasmussen attended the RC&D meeting where the final report on the goat grazing project was presented. They are looking at a couple projects outside of the area. John Beckwith mentioned the Bee/Duck Creek project that they may be interested in helping with.

2002 Jeep Discussion

There was discussion on whether to keep or sell the 2002 Jeep. It needs tires which can be purchased for about \$500.00.

Board consensus was to keep the Jeep for the fall and spring seasons, assess how much it has been used during that time period, and then decide what to do with it.

Board members want staff to keep a log book for mileage and gas usage for all District vehicles which will list the date, beginning and ending odometer readings, where staff went and why, plus fuel usage. The log books will be kept from September 1st through the end of the year.

4. NRCS

Bronson was not present.

5. County

Commissioner Bakke was not present.

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Review revised soil erosion complaint process

The changes suggested at last month's meeting were made in addition to changes suggested by Commissioner Bakke which added one more step before enforcement action.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Pickett to approve the recommended procedure for soil erosion complaints, as presented. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Discuss information needed for health insurance discussion

The enrollment period for health insurance runs from November 1st to December 1st. New rates should be known by early October. For budget purposes, 8% increase in rates was used.

Board consensus was to have a representative from PEIP come to a meeting so that questions can be asked. Tentative dates are Wednesday, September 20th at 5:00 pm or as an alternate date, Monday, September 18th at 4:30 p.m.

One question is how to make tiers (single, employee plus one, and family) more equitable for everyone. Additional questions should be gotten to Rasmussen prior to the meeting so PEIP can be prepared with answers.

3. Consider amendment to FSP Phase II Implementation Conservation Practice Assistance Contract CC16-10 Dave Scheevel increasing the contract amount from \$3,250.00 to \$5,200.00 to allow 90% cost share

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the amendment to FSP Phase II Implementation Conservation Practice Assistance Contract CC16-10 Dave Scheevel increasing the contract amount from \$3,250.00 to \$5,200.00 to allow 90% cost share. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider Fillmore SWCD 2017 Cover Crop Incentive Program Conservation Practice Assistance Contracts as listed:

CC17-02	Brian Erickson	Cover Crops	39.28 ac.	\$1,178.40
CC17-03	Dan Montgomery	Cover Crops	52.83 ac.	\$1,584.90

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the Fillmore SWCD 2017 Cover Crop Incentive Program Conservation Practice Assistance Contracts as listed:

CC17-02	Brian Erickson	Cover Crops	39.28 ac.	\$1,178.40
CC17-03	Dan Montgomery	Cover Crops	52.83 ac.	\$1,584.90

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

2. Consider scheduled step increase for Employee #23027 to Grade 8, Step 2, effective September 13, 2017, per recommendation of Administrator

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve the step increase for Employee #23027 to Grade 8, Step 2, effective September 13, 2017, per the recommendation of the Administrator. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider Sub-agreement with SE SWCD Technical Support JPB for BWSR Funding for Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management in Minnesota 2017 in the amount of \$20,000.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Pickett to approve the sub-agreement with the SE SWCD Technical Support JPB for BWSR Funding for Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management in Minnesota 2017 in the amount of \$20,000.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider transfer of \$10,990.32 from DNR Healthy Forests for Healthy Water account to Non-grant personnel for Administrative expenses and close the account

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the transfer of \$10,990.32 from the DNR Healthy Forests for Healthy Water account to Non-grant personnel for Administrative expenses and to close the account. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider transfer of funds from U of MN Tillage and Erosion Project account to the following accounts:

Soil Health Tech	Staff time/Thomas	\$140.97
Engineering Tech	Staff time/Koliha	\$103.28
Farm Bill Assistance	Staff time/Christenson	\$1,078.82
Non-grant Personnel	Staff time & admin/Rasmussen	\$1,769.92

for a total transfer of \$3,092.99 and close the account.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Pickett to approve the transfer of funds from the U of M Tillage and Erosion Project account to the following accounts:

Soil Health Tech	Staff time/Thomas	\$140.97
Engineering Tech	Staff time/Koliha	\$103.28
Farm Bill Assistance	Staff time/Christenson	\$1,078.82
Non-grant Personnel	Staff time & admin/Rasmussen	\$1,769.92

for a total transfer of \$3,092.99 and to close the account. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Pickett, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider Returning College Student Scholarship Recipient

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to award the \$500.00 Returning College Student Scholarship to Madeline Snyder, Lanesboro. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Pickett, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider Nonstructural Land Management Practice Policy

BWSR requires this type of policy so that funds may be used for cover crops for a three year commitment period with the same number of acres. Specific questions were answered and then reviewed by BWSR.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the Nonstructural Land Management Practice Policy as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Pickett, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider approval for Water Management Coordinator to enroll in online U of M Watershed Specialist Course at a cost of \$840.00 from September 5 to December 17, 2017

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to grant approval for the Water Management Coordinator to enroll in the online U of M Watershed Specialist Course, which runs from September 5 to December 17, 2017, at a cost of \$840.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Pickett, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider BWSR Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contracts:

2017-5-R	Geoff Halverson	Forest Road Improvement, 2,790 ft.	\$5,580.00
2017-4-RP	Kristin Washburn	Forest Stand Improvement, 192. ac.	\$5,280.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the BWSR Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contracts as listed:

2017-5-R	Geoff Halverson	Forest Road Improvement, 2,790 ft.	\$5,580.00
2017-4-RP	Kristin Washburn	Forest Stand Improvement, 19.2 ac.	\$5,280.00

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

10. Consider payment of 319 Feedlot VI Grant Cost Share Assistance Contract F6G-08, Terry Schwartz, Milk House Waste System for calf barn, in the amount of \$3,419.48

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Gossman to approve the payment of the 319 Feedlot VI Grant Cost Share Assistance Contract F6G-08 Terry Schwartz, Milk House Waste System for calf barn, in the amount of \$3,419.48. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Pickett, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

11. Consider Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY17-02 Eric Kammer, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$6,000.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY17-02 Eric Kammer, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$6,000.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Pickett, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on Friday, September 1st. Hazel volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Gossman