

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 12, 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, Anne Koliha, Aaren Mathison, Sara West, Duane Bakke (County Commissioner), Dale Krystosek (BWSR), Adam Beilke (BWSR)

Hazel called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the January – March, 2018 supervisor's vouchers. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Sara West, the newly hired Nutrient Management Specialist, introduced herself to the Board and briefly told of her background.

West left the meeting at 4:35 pm.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Secretary's Report – March 15, 2018 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity reports

Willford reported attending the Local Work Group Meeting.

Hazel reported attending the Local Work Group Meeting and a Personnel Committee meeting.

Gossman reported assisting with interviews for the Roadside Integrated Management Project employee and a Personnel Committee meeting.

Pickett reported attending an Education/Safety Committee meeting and the interviews for the Roadside Integrated Management Project employee.

Tesmer reported attending the Hiawatha Valley RC&D meeting and the Education/Safety Committee meeting.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

- a. Buffer Law APO update-Anne
Koliha reported the BWSR Board had come up with an additional administrative penalty option that was out for public comment. Neither Governor Dayton nor the legislature was aware of the proposed option. BWSR received backlash from many agencies and the option was rejected.

3. Administrator's report

- a. Soil health funding updates
Two grant proposals are being submitted through the SE Tech Joint Powers Board for funding for the Soil Health Technician position – one to LCCMR and the other to NRCS. Both are for funding for three years plus other additional staffing.
- b. Technical staff Individual Development Plans (IDPs)
Technical staff Individual Development Plans have been completed for Dean, Doug, Anne, Aaren, and Sara. Their individual plans are used to set priorities for training.
- c. Bacteria lab assessment
The bacteria lab assessment had eight findings that have all been addressed and accepted.
- d. Roadside Management Project update

Ely Trudo, WSU student, was interviewed for the summer intern position. He seems like a good fit for the job and a contract to hire will be presented for approval.

- e. Spring 2018 Residue Research
The U of MN completed just under 200 points in 2017. The satellite imagery was not very good, so they are going to redo them and hope to get all 300 points done. They ground truth using the satellite imagery.
- f. MN Environmental Initiative Award for the Field to Stream Partnership
The Field to Stream Partnership has won a Minnesota Environmental Initiative Award in the Rural Vitality category which will be presented on May 23rd. Tickets will be available until May 11th.
- g. MACDE Spring Meeting report
Rasmussen attended the MACDE Spring meeting which was held in Redwing at the Anderson Center. Goodhue is sponsoring drone training which is available to other County and SWCD staff. Information was presented on the Technical Training Certification program. LeAnn Buck, MASWCD, talked about their trip to Washington where they told lawmakers of the need for technical assistance in NRCS offices.

4. NRCS

No one from NRCS was present.

5. County

Commissioner Bakke reported the Amish septic system updates are still continuing slowly, but progress is being made. He asked Koliha the current status of the buffer compliance. He stated he is not happy with the BWSR stance on buffers.

Commissioner Bakke suggested corrections to the March meeting minutes in relation to comments made.

There was discussion of not continuing funding for the Sheila-Craig Small Wastewater Coordinator if the area covered is not being expanded.

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

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider Amendment to Contract for Services with Ron Meiners increasing the amount for services and mileage to \$80,131.00 and extending the contract end date to December 1, 2020

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the amendment to Contract for Services with Ron Meiners increasing the amount for services and mileage to \$80,131.00 and extending the contract end date to December 1, 2020. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider Amendment to Contract with Johnny Micheel for 369 acre Forest Stewardship Plan extending the contract expiration date to July 1, 2018

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Tesmer to approve the amendment to Contract with Johnny Micheel for 369 acre Forest Stewardship Plan extending the contract expiration date to July 1, 2018. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider BWSR PRAP Report, Dale Krystosek and Adam Beilke, BWSR

Dale Krystosek, BWSR, reviewed the details of the report with the Board and those present. A comment letter is needed from both the SWCD and the County to finish the review. He stated the report shows great work is being done by the SWCD and Fillmore County Zoning.

4. Consider PRAP Grant Application

BWSR usually requires a 50% match for the grant, but is waiving it due to the urgent nature of mediation between the SWCD and NRCS. BWSR is looking to MCIT for people to mediate.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to apply for the funds available from the PRAP Grant to be used for mediation services as recommended by the PRAP report. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider MDA Weed Grant Contract in the amount of \$25,300.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to approve the MDA Weed Grant Contract in the amount of \$25,300.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider Financial Report for SWCD Local Capacity Service 2016

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the financial report for the SWCD Local Capacity Service 2016 Grant. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider Final Financial Report for Soil Erosion (SEDLCP) 2014 Grant

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve the final financial report for Soil Erosion (SEDLCP) 2014 Grant. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider bid for 2017 Fillmore SWCD Financial Audit

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Willford to approve the bid from Peterson Company in the amount of \$2,650.00 for preparation of the 2017 Fillmore SWCD Financial Audit. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider High School Scholarship recipient per recommendation of the Education Committee

Tesmer reported seven very good applications were received, so it was a difficult decision, but chose Brady Ristau as the scholarship recipient.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to award the \$500.00 Graduating High School Senior scholarship to Brady Ristau, a student at Fillmore Central High School, per the recommendation of the Education Committee. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Discuss MASWCD Resolution Ideas

A suggested resolution was for a cover crop incentive payment to reduce the amount of a producers' crop insurance premium, similar to what Iowa currently has.

Rasmussen will get more information and draft a resolution for the board to review.

6. Consider Conservation Corps Site Agreement

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the Conservation Corps Site Agreement as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Krystosek left the meeting at 6:38 pm.

7. Review BWSR Biennial Budget Request

Rasmussen reviewed both the SWCD and County Biennial Budget request for 2020-2021 with the board. She explained BWSR compiles the information to present to the legislature for funding. No action by the board is needed.

8. Review 2018 Education Plan

Rasmussen reviewed the Education Plan which is based on activities from the 75th anniversary last year and items from the Annual Plan.

It was suggested to purchase a "clicker" to keep track of the number people that are talked to about District programs at the various events to help in the planning of activities for the following year.

Mathison left the meeting at 6:43 pm.

9. Consider bid specifications for Noxious Weed Grant

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve the bid specifications for the Noxious Weed Grant as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Consider resignation/retirement of Rick Grooters, Conservation Technician

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to accept the resignation for retirement from Rick Grooters, Conservation Technician, with regrets and thanks for his years of service. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

11. Consider recommendation from the Personnel Committee regarding filling the Conservation Technician position

The recommendation of the Personnel Committee regarding the filling of the Conservation Technician position is to wait to make a decision whether or not to hire until the PRAP and mediation is completed and the District gets better organized. Until that time, Mathison and Koliha will continue to receive training.

BWSR can do a workload analysis, but that will wait until after the mediation process is complete.

Beilke left the meeting at 6:45 pm.

12. Consider Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY18-02 Charles & Mary Stackhouse, Well Decommissioning, in the amount of \$1,000.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Tesmer to approve the Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY18-02 Charles and Mary Stackhouse, Well Decommissioning, in the amount of \$1,000.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

13. Discuss DNR lease proposal for the Conservation Building

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to counter the five year DNR lease proposal with a two year option as follows:

- Year 1 - \$13.50 per square foot for the office and common areas and \$5.50 per square foot for the garage space
- Year 2 - \$14.00 per square foot for the office and common areas and \$5.75 per square foot for the garage space
- Include a six month opt-out option

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

14. Consider Employment Contract with Ely Trudo for Roadside Integrated Management Project for up to 500 hours at \$15.00 per hour plus employer paid taxes

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Pickett to approve the employment contract with Ely Trudo for Roadside Integrated Management Project for up to 500 hours at \$15.00 per hour plus employer paid taxes. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

15. Consider authorization for Chair to sign Amendment for MPCA Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network Grant to extend the grant for two years

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Pickett to authorize the Chair to sign an Amendment for MPCA Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network Grant to extend the grant for two years. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

16. Consider Clean Water Fund Grant Work Order for Conservation Corps crew for Japanese Hops treatment along the Root River Corridor

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the Clean Water Fund Grant Work Order for the Conservation Corps crew for Japanese Hops treatment along the Root River Corridor. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the April, 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 Tuesday, May 1, 2018. Hazel volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Tesmer