

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 14, 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, Duane Bakke (County Commissioner)

Hazel called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motioned by Willford seconded by Pickett to approve the May, 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 Pickett to approve the following consent agenda items:

1. Secretary's Report – May 17, 2018 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Payment of District Conservation Practice Assistance Contract WB14-11 John Rein, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$612.00
3. Payment of District Conservation practice Assistance Contract WB14-13 Marvin Klema, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$102.00
4. Payment of District Conservation Practice Assistance Contract WB14-14 Brad Kraling, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$391.00
5. Payment of District Conservation Practice Assistance Contract WB14-15 Luke Vatland, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$110.50
6. Payment of District Conservation Practice Assistance Contract WB14-16 Gene Topness, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$314.50

7. Payment of Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-4-RP Kristin Washburn, Crop Tree R release, in the amount of \$5,280.00
8. Payment of Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-2-RP Butch Johnson, Reforestation in the amount of \$275.00
9. Payment of Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-6-RP Geoff Halverson, Invasive Species Management, in the amount of \$3,900.00
10. Payment of Local Capacity Conservation Practice Assistance Contract LC FY17-01 Chris Yule, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$6,000.00
11. Payment of Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY17-01 Neil Fishbauger, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$2,800.00

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity reports

Willford reported he represented the Building Committee and talked with Gary Watson regarding the office reorganization. Willford inquired as to when the phone system will be changed and whether the SWCD number can be transferred to the new SWCD system. He also inquired when changes to the operational agreement should be made. Watson suggests a quarterly update be made as things change; but to wait until the new State Con takes over before making any changes.

Hazel reported attending a 1W1P policy meeting and a Personnel Committee meeting.

Gossman reported attending a Personnel Committee meeting, a Forestry Committee meeting regarding the Forestry Field Day on July 25th at Magelssen Bluff in Rushford, and a Roadside Management project meeting.

Pickett reported coming in for the Statement Opening and attended two Forestry Committee meetings.

Tesmer had nothing to report.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

a. 2018 Tree Sales Summary

A report summarizing the 2018 tree sales was provided for board review.

3. Administrator's report

a. Roadside Integrated Management (RIM) Project update

Rasmussen reported Ely Trudo, the intern hired for the RIM project, has taken another job. Mathison, the Conservation Corp apprentice and Rasmussen met with him to work on the news release, the brochure and the registration form that will be sent out. Registration forms are due back by August 1st.

b. Catalpa LLC swine facility update

Rasmussen reported a public meeting will be held at the Mabel Community Center on Tuesday, June 19th at 6:30 pm regarding the proposed Catalpa LLC swine facility. The comment period has been extended until July 3rd. There have been several sinkholes on the aerial photos that were not shown on the maps attached to the EAW.

c. MDA Noxious Weed Grant update

Rasmussen reported that bid specs were reviewed and sent out to the vendors, but no bids were submitted. She met with MDA, DNR and the Conservation Corps staff to discuss other options. Stantec was contacted again and they are interested in at least the section between Preston and Lanesboro that has been already treated three times. In case there are funds remaining, the grant agreement can be extended until June 1, 2019.

d. PRAP progress

The BWSR grant has been executed and has been sent to Sand Creek for their signatures. This is the grant for mediation services.

e. Mower Technical Assistance contract update

Rasmussen reported the person that was going to provide technical assistance is no longer with the Mower SWCD. The Personnel Committee decided to offer him a contract as an independent contractor for one day per week to work with Keene on structures. He must agree to purchase his own computer and software program and have liability insurance. The board will decide if they feel comfortable with him signing off on projects as long as he assumes the liability.

f. NRCS Multi-State Soil Health Grant award

The District was awarded the grant to fund Thomas' position for three years. Parts of the grant may be cut as there were more requests than funds. At a meeting on June 26th, there will be discussion on what funds will be available and where cuts can be made.

4. NRCS

No one was present.

5. County

Commissioner Bakke reported the County signed a letter of support for the SE Water Resources Board changing the representation for the County to one commissioner with one vote and one alternate. He reported the Small Community Wastewater Initiative is not sure if they will be receiving any more funding.

The County has been receiving lots of emails and phone calls regarding the proposed hog set-up near Mabel.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. ~~Consider HAS contribution to Employee #23012 due to Medicare/IRS rules~~

2. Review 2018 budget and expenditures

Rasmussen reviewed the budget and expenditures to date with the board. It will be reviewed again next month when there is discussion regarding the county appropriation request for 2019.

3. Consider DNR request to use Conservation Building for CWD site

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the request from the DNR to use the Conservation Building for a CWD site. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider amendment to Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2018-1-RP, Kristin Washburn, Forest Road Improvement, to extend completion date to December 1, 2018

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Willford to approve the amendment to the Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2018-1-RP, Kristin Washburn, Forest Road Improvement, extending the completion date to December 1, 2018. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider staff nominations for 2018 Outstanding Conservationist

The staff suggested nominations for Outstanding Conservationist were reviewed by the board. The board asked that the number of nominations be narrowed down to three, obtain more information about each of them and review them again next month.

2. Consider Personnel Policy revisions per recommendation of Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee reviewed in detail the current personnel policy which had also been reviewed by the County HR person. The suggested changes were reviewed with the board.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Tesmer to adopt the Personnel Policy revisions as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Discuss Fillmore County Fair booth and radio interview

The radio interview is scheduled for Thursday, July 19th at 4:30 pm. Activities for children are scheduled on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 2 -3 p.m. Posters from when the Smithsonian Institute was in Lanesboro are being obtained and will also

be displayed. Undies for a "Soil Your Undies" display have been planted, will be dug up and hopefully displayed.

4. Consider DNR Groundwater Level Monitoring Contract (SWIFT #142707) for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 in the amount of \$240.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the DNR Groundwater Level Monitoring Grant (SWIFT #142707) for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 in the amount of \$240.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider Root River 1W1P 2018-2019 BWSR CWF C18-5518 Sub-agreement with Winona SWCD

Motioned by Willford seconded by Tesmer to approve the Root River 2018-2019 BWSR CWF C18-5518 Sub-agreement with Winona SWCD. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Discuss recording of board meetings

No action taken.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the June, 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, July 2. Willford volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Tesmer