

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 15, 2017

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, Doug Keene, Madeline Snyder (Conservation Corp Apprentice), Jessica Bronson (NRCS), Duane Bakke (County Commissioner)

Willford called the meeting to order at 4:28 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER’S REPORT

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

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Secretary’s Report – May 15, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Payment of Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-08 Dean E. Johnson, Grassed Waterways, in the amount of \$1,950.00
3. Payment of Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-10 Phil Kahoun, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$225.00
4. Payment of Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-09 Rick Ruberg, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$225.00
5. Payment of FSP Phase II Implementation Conservation Practice Assistance Contract BC16-05, Johnson Rolling Acres, Grassed Waterway and Mulch/Seeding, in the amount of \$26,100.00

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity reports

Willford reported coming in for the statement opening and check detail, attended a Building Committee meeting regarding telephone and operational and cooperative working agreements. He also attended a Personnel Committee meeting.

Hazel reported attending a Personnel Committee meeting.

Gossman reported attending a Building Committee meeting and a Forestry Committee meeting. He also reported visiting the Lost Creek Hiking Trail with Madeline Snyder, Conservation Corp apprentice, to make plans to update the SWCD signs and brochure.

Pickett reported attending a Forestry Committee meeting and an Education Committee meeting.

Tesmer reported attending the Hiawatha RC&D meeting on May 22 and attended an Education Committee meeting.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

3. Administrator's report

Rasmussen introduced Madeline Snyder, the Conservation Corp intern.

Snyder left the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

a. 2018 funding update

Rasmussen reported the Local Capacity Grants will be the same as last year in the amount of \$100,000.00 plus the additional funding based on whatever increase is received from the County with a maximum of \$14,000.00. Funding for the Buffer law remains at \$30,000.00 which is the same as last year. There will also be funds for establishment of buffers, but expects the demand will be low as many have already done their seeding. Base grants remain the same. Funding for One Watershed One Plan will be available, but funding levels aren't known yet. Competitive grant funding will be reduced for 2017.

b. DNR Energy Funds for the Conservation Building

Rasmussen reported DNR had \$300 to be used for Energy Conservation. It was used to replace the weather stripping around the overhead doors.

c. MDA postcard mailing

MDA has received funding to mail postcards with information from the Field to Stream Project to farmers in the watershed. At least two more cards will be sent. The next card will have nitrogen information.

d. Crop residue survey report

The crop residue survey was completed on May 9th-12th which was a follow-up to imagery taken on May 7th. Thomas and Christenson assisted. Two hundred of the 300 points were completed before moving on to another county.

e. 75th anniversary update

Rasmussen reported on the progress of the Conservation Tour and meal. A brochure for the bus tour is being finalized. MASWCD, BWSR, NRCS will all have a few words after the meal.

The SWCD will be participating at the Gammel Dag parade, Dairy Night on the Farm, Cattlemen's Steak Fry, Fourth of July Parades in Cherry Grove and Harmony, and Fillmore County Fair which are all coming up in the next few weeks. The Prairie Walk has been scheduled for August.

4. NRCS

Bronson reported she was processing payments, working on status reviews, and dealing with compliance and violation issues.

5. County

a. Buffer update

Bakke reported the County had adopted the resolution opting to handle the enforcement for the Buffer Law. He said it was a "reluctant" vote as the Commissioners weren't sure what they were getting into.

The County is continuing to deal with the Amish septic system law suit. It started in Fillmore County, went to the State level and is now coming back to Fillmore County. They have been told to come into compliance.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider payment of Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-06 Steve McCallson, Grassed Waterways, in the amount of \$1,413.75

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve payment of Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-06 Steve McCallson, Grassed Waterways, in the amount of \$1,413.75. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Abstained: Hazel. Motion carried.

2. Consider balance of payment of Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-07 Milton Hallum, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$364.00 due to error

The total cost share payment should have been \$564.00. Last month payment was approved for \$182.00. Serfling put the landowner cost into payables and on the agenda instead of the cost share amount. The balance due the landowner is \$364.00.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Tesmer to approve payment of the balance of Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-07 Milton Hallum, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$364.00 due to error. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider resolution to adopt summary of "Other Waters" for inclusion in the Local Water Management plan

Koliha reported on the concerns of the County in regards to adding more buffer areas with the possible outcome of them being mandated and having addition regulations. The SWCD is mandated to identify "other waters" or justify why they aren't identified.

Three versions of the "other waters" resolution were presented for Supervisor review:

- one with "other waters" in map format
- one with "other waters" in descriptive format
- one stating the "other waters" may already be identified in the One Watershed One Plan implementation plan.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Tesmer to approve the resolution to adopt the One Watershed One Plan version of "Other Waters" for inclusion in the Local Water Management plan. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Bronson left the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

4. Consider payment of Anez Consulting Invoice #8951 in the amount of \$2,012.25

The history of the invoice was reviewed. Pros and cons of payment were discussed.

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Hazel to approve a final payment of \$1,000.00 for Anez Consulting invoice #8951 based on the extra acres and the fact that no notification was received for the additional expenses incurred. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Rasmussen will draft a letter to Anez Consulting for the board to review which will explain the board decision for the reduced payment.

5. Consider selection of 2017 Outstanding Conservationist

Additional information was obtained for the producers nominated by staff as requested by the Board. Rasmussen reported receiving a call with concerns about the conservation practices of one of the producers on the list. The board reviewed the practices and comments for each producer.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Pickett to select Kris & Kevin Borgen as the 2017 Outstanding Conservationists. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider cancellation of District Conservation Practice Assistance Contract SC17-02 Wade Krahn, Summer Construction Incentive, (9 acres), in the amount of \$1,467.00

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Hazel to approve the cancellation of District Conservation Practice Assistance Contract SC17-02 Wade Krahn, Summer Construction Incentive, 9 acres, in the amount of \$1,467.00

7. Review 2017 budget

Rasmussen reviewed the budget and actual income and expenses as of May 31, 2017 with the board.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider pre-approval of Verizon Wireless bills for the next twelve months, not to exceed \$300.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to pre-approve the Verizon Wireless bills for the next twelve months, not to exceed \$300.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Hazel and Keene left the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

2. Consider sponsorship of the following Fillmore County 4-H awards in the amount of \$160.00

Champion Exploring the Environment	\$20.00
Reserve Champion Exploring the Environment	\$20.00
Champion Fishing Sports	\$20.00
Reserve Champion Fishing Sports	\$20.00
Champion Forest Resources	\$20.00
Reserve Champion Forest Resources	\$20.00
Champion Wildlife/Biology	\$20.00
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Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve sponsorship of the following Fillmore County 4-H awards in the amount of \$160.00:

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Reserve Champion Wildlife/Biology	\$20.00

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

3. Consider re-investment of CD #8118 at Home Federal Savings Bank, which matures on June 20, 2017, for a term of 39 months at 1.61% APY

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Pickett to approve reinvesting CD #8118 at Home Federal Savings Bank, which matures on June 20, 2017, for a term of 39 months at 1.61% APY. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider MASWCD Leadership Institute registration
No action taken.

5. Consider approval of Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-3-R, Tom Ferris, Forest Road Improvement, in the amount of \$5,100.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-3-R, Tom Ferris, Forest Road Improvement, in the amount of \$5,100.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-4-R, Tom Tiedemann, Invasive Species Management, in the amount of \$7,020.00

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Gossman to approve Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-4-R, Tom Tiedemann, Invasive Species Management, in the amount of \$7,020.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider scholarships for Rush-Pine Farmer Led Council soil health trip to South Dakota

The Rush-Pine Farmer Led Council is sponsoring a soil health trip to South Dakota. They plan to attend the Ag PhD field day, stay overnight and go on a private guided tour of the Dakota Lakes Research Farm the following day.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to offer two scholarships of \$100.00 each to Fillmore County residents, one per family, that attend the Rush-Pine Farmer Led Council soil health trip to South Dakota. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider amendment to subcontract with Mower SWCD for 2017-2019 MDA Field to Stream Partnership monitoring grant

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve the amendment to the subcontract with Mower SWCD for 2017-2019 MDA Field to Stream Partnership

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

9. Consider Cooperative Working Agreement between the USDA-NRCS and Fillmore SWCD

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Gossman to approve the Cooperative Working Agreement between the USDA-NRCS and the Fillmore SWCD, as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Consider Operational Agreement between the NRCS and Fillmore SWCD

Rasmussen reported the Operational Agreement is new and is required for SWCD & NRCS offices that are co-located. The agreement proposal and calculations were reviewed by the board.

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Pickett to approve the Operational Agreement between NRCS and the Fillmore SWCD, as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

11. Consider DNR Groundwater Level Monitoring Contract (SWIFT# 125753) for July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 in the amount of \$240.00

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Tesmer to approve the DNR Groundwater Level Monitoring Contract (SWIFT# 125753) for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 20, 2018 in the amount of \$240.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

12. Consider Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-11 Kristin Washburn, Critical Area Seeding, in the amount of \$3,450.00 using \$1,409.25 from FY2016 funds and \$2,040.75 from FY2017 funds

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY16-11 Kristin Washburn, Critical Area Seeding, in the amount of \$3,450.00 using \$1,409.25 from FY2016 funds and \$2,040.75 from FY2017 funds. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

13. Consider Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-3-RP, Kristin Washburn, Invasive Species Management, in the amount of \$5,200.00

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Gossman to approve the Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-3-RP, Kristin Washburn, Invasive Species Management, in the amount of \$5,200.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

14. Consider approval of BWSR Rainfall Simulator Lease Agreement

Rasmussen reported the Attorney General advised BWSR to have a lease agreement on file for the Rainfall Simulator. The Simulator is owned and insured by BWSR, but is being used and housed by the District. The lease lists who is responsible for maintenance and/or repairs to the equipment.

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Pickett to approve the BWSR Rainfall Simulator Lease Agreement as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried

15. Accept resignation of Scott Christenson, effective June 16, 2017

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Gossman to accept the resignation of Scott Christenson, effective June 16, 2017. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

16. Consider hiring process for Conservation Technician position per recommendation of the Personnel Committee

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to contact three of the previous applicants. If there are one or less applicants, then the position will be re-advertised. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

16. Consider reimbursement to Mower SWCD for Targeted Watershed Grant Cost Share Projects in the amount of \$16,137.03

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Tesmer to approve reimbursement to Mower SWCD for Targeted Watershed Grant Cost Share Projects in the amount of \$16,137.03. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on Monday, July, 3rd. Tesmer volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Gossman