

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 16, 2017

4:30 P.M.

USDA Service Center

SWCD Office

Preston, MN 55965

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Gossman, Bob Picket, Kathy Tesmer, Travis Willford

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Hazel

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Rasmussen, Jeanette Serfling, Chuck Aug (C&G Properties)

Willford called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Gossman to approve the October, 2017 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. Affirmative: 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 – October 13, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Payment of Fillmore SWCD 2017 Cover Crop Incentive Contract CC17-01, Phillip Hebrink, 91 acres, in the amount of \$2,730.00
3. Payment of Fillmore SWCD 2018 Cover Crop Incentive Contract FY18-02, Chris Schultz, 35 acres, in the amount of \$1,400.00
4. Payment of Fillmore SWCD 2017 Cover Crop Incentive Contract CC17-04, Mike D. Johnson, 50 acres, in the amount of \$1,500.00
5. Payment of Fillmore SWCD 2017 Cover Crop Incentive Contract CC17-06, Andrew Borgen, 17.87 acres, in the amount of \$536.10
6. Payment of SE MN Cover Crop Soil Health Incentive Contract F-LCCMR 16-03 Simon Farms, LLP, 90.07 acres, in the amount of \$4,043.24
7. Payment of Fillmore SWCD 2018 Cover Crop Incentive Program Contract FY18-01 Joseph McCabe, 17 acres in the amount of \$510.00
8. Payment of Fillmore SWCD 2017 Cover Crop Incentive Contract CC17-03 Dan Montgomery, 52.83 acres, in the amount of \$1,584.90

9. Payment of Fillmore SWCD 2017 Cover Crop Incentive Contract FY17-05 Dan McKenna, 83.35 acres, in the amount of \$2,500.50

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity reports

Willford reported receiving a complaint from a landowner.

Hazel was not present.

Gossman reported attending a Forestry Committee meeting regarding the Noxious Weeds Grant. He also attended the Friends of the Root River Annual Meeting in Harmony.

Pickett reported attending two Forestry Committee meetings regarding the Noxious Weeds Grant.

Tesmer reported receiving a complaint from a landowner.

Willford and Tesmer provided more detail about the complaint received by both of them. The Board discussed how to avoid this situation from happening in the future.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

- a. BWSR Academy report – Aaren Mathison, Donna Rasmussen
Mathison and Rasmussen each provided a written report regarding their training at the BWSR Academy. Mathison attended WCA related sessions while Rasmussen attended administrative and civic engagement ones.

3. Administrator's report

- a. WCA Shared Services update
Rasmussen attended a meeting between the Winona SWCD, Winona County, BWSR and Wabasha SWCD to continue the discussion of WCA shared services. Winona County is not supportive of shared staff, so if they aren't interested in participating, then Wabasha and Fillmore will probably share a person. Half of the WCA funds can be used for Mathison's staff time and attending TEP meetings a couple of times per year.
- b. Noxious Weed Grant meeting
Rasmussen reported the original thought was to work on a wild parsnip project. MDA suggested the emphasis should be on Japanese hops in order to get funded. Extension will help with the educational component.

There was support from the group regarding wild parsnip, education on how to control it and less toxic methods for removing it. Winona State and St. Mary's University are both interested in having students help out.

The group was supportive of applying for the noxious weeds grant for Japanese hops and a grant for a CCC work crew to possibly work together with Houston County.

Consensus from the board was to have Rasmussen pursue the grants focusing on Japanese Hops, consider self-funding a project for wild parsnip and come back in December with the proposals. Receiving grant funds might be better with the joint efforts of multiple groups. The board felt it was important to continue moving forward.

c. Soil Health funding update

The Soil Health grant will run out in June or July of 2018. The JPB has committed funds from their Local Capacity Grant to extend the position until the end of the year. There possibly could be funds from BWSR and NRCS to use for six training sessions around the state.

Aug entered the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

d. BWSR updates

NRCS and BWSR have an agreement to hire watershed conservation planners for seven watersheds around the state, including the Root and Cedar. BWSR will coordinate the program with NRCS committing office space, phone, computers, etc. The planners will work with farmers to identify conservation needs and help get them ready for EQIP.

Alyssa Core has been hired as the new WCA specialist for Rochester. Aaron Peter, who was the area engineer for NRCS, has been hired as a training engineer for BWSR to assist in training staff to gain Job Approval Authority.

4. NRCS

Bronson was not present, but provided the following written report.

NRCS is currently working on Farmbill related programs and completing conservation planning activities. FY2018 has started on a great note and things have been running as planned for the months of September through November.

5. County

Commissioner Bakke was not present, but provided the following written report.

The County Board passed the buffer ordinance on Tuesday. The biggest question I have been asked (Brian has also mentioned this), is when mother nature floods and destroys the buffer area, why should the landowner have to give up more land for another buffer because the cycle will just continue to occur.

I noticed last year's planning session, recognition supper was on the 4th Thursday. 3rd or 4th Thursday will work for me. Only date after Jan. 15th, at this time (schedule could change) that would not work for me is Tues. January 23rd.

Last meeting between MASWCD and AMC discussion about long term SWCD funding is scheduled for Nov. 27th. While I do not oppose SWCD's ability for levy authority, I doubt AMC (county commissioners) will support. Hopefully we can create or help extend capacity dollars, etc. from state sources. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider building lease with C & G Properties of Preston, Inc. – Chuck Aug

Chuck Aug was present to discuss the building lease. The current lease expires on December 31, 2017. In 2004 the lease payment was \$1,475.00 and is currently \$1,650.00. He proposed to increase the payment for 2018 to \$1,675.00.

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Gossman to enter into a one year lease agreement with C & G Properties of Preston, Inc. for calendar year 2018 at a monthly lease payment of \$1,675.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review 2018 budget

Tesmer left the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

Rasmussen reviewed in detail the changes to the 2018 budget that have been made since the last review by the board. Additional changes will be made before final review and approval at the December board meeting.

Tesmer re-entered the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

2. Discuss distribution of 2017 plat books

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to sell the 2017 plat books to county departments for \$24.00 each. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider amendment to FY14 Competitive Grants Program Grant Agreement (PO#3000004428) extending the expiration date to June 30, 2018

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the Amendment to the FY14 Competitive Grants Program Agreement (PO#3000004428) extending the expiration date to June 30, 2018. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider payment of SE MN Cover Crop Soil Health Incentive Contract F-LCCMR 16-02 Travis Willford, 85.43 acres, in the amount of \$4,196.32

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Pickett to approve payment of the SE MN Cover Crop Soil Healthy Incentive Contract F-LCCMR 16-02 Travis Willford, 85.43 acres, in the amount of \$4,196.32. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer. Opposed: none. Abstained: Willford. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS, continued

2. Discuss Annual Planning Meeting

The Annual Planning Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2018 at the Conservation Building.

3. Discuss Recognition Luncheon/Meal

The Recognition Meal is also scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2018 at the Branding Iron Restaurant in Preston at 6:30 p.m.

4. Consider Local Capacity Grant Conservation Practice Cost Share Contract LC FY17-01 Chris Yule, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$6,000.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the Local Capacity Grant Conservation Practice Cost Share Contract LC FY17-01 Chris Yule, Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$6,000.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider payment of MACDE dues for 2018 (9 employees @ \$20.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve payment of the MACDE dues for 2018 for nine employees at \$20.00 each for a total of \$180.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Discuss and compile answers for NACD's Conservation District Survey

The board reviewed the NACD Conservation District Survey and answered the questions as a group as was requested by NACD.

7. Consider sponsorship of Soil Health Workshops with Ray Archuleta in cooperation with Land Stewardship Project and neighboring SWCDs

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve sponsorship of the Soil Health Workshops with Ray Archuleta in cooperation with the Land Stewardship Project and neighboring SWCDs in the amount of \$250.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider Conservation Corps Minnesota funding application(s) for 2018

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Gossman to consider Conservation Corps Minnesota funding applications for 2018 for one apprentice and one work crew for submission by

December 15, 2017. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Consider approval for registration and related expenses for Nutrient Management to attend Iowa State Integrated Crop Management Conference Nov. 29-30, 2017, in Ames, Iowa

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Gossman to approve registration and related expenses for the Nutrient Management Specialist to attend the Iowa State Integrated Crop Management Conference Nov. 29-30, 2017 in Ames, Iowa. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Willford volunteered last month to do the statement opening and check review on Friday, December 1st.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Gossman