

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Friday, October 13, 2017

8:30 A.M.

USDA Service Center
FSA Conference Room
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)

Willford called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER’S REPORT

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

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Pickett to approve the July-September, 2017 Supervisor’s vouchers. Affirmative: Hazel, 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 – September 18, 2017 Special Board Meeting Minutes
2. Payment of SWCD Summer Build Contract SC17-01 Beverly J. Mensink Revocable Trust, Temporary Cover, in the amount of \$211.90
3. Payment of SWCD 2017 Cover Crop Incentive Program Contract CC17-02 Brian Erickson, Cover Crops, 39.28 ac, in the amount of \$1,178.40

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity reports

Willford reported attending the Health Insurance meeting, assisted with the 6th Grade Conservation Tour, and participated in the Wykoff Fall Fest Parade.

Hazel reported attending the Health Insurance meeting.

Gossman reported attending the Health Insurance meeting and a Friends of the Root River (FRR) meeting. The annual meeting for the FRR will be held in Harmony on November 15th.

Pickett reported attending the Health Insurance meeting and assisted with the 6th Grade Conservation Tour.

Tesmer reported attending the Health Insurance meeting, the Hiawatha RC&D meeting where they talked about Cover Crops, carbon farming and were wrapping up their goat project. She also did the Statement Opening and Check review.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

A report prepared by Grooters summarizing the 6th Grade Conservation Tour was given to the board.

3. Administrator's report

a. MASWCD Fall Meeting Report

Rasmussen reported on the various topics from the Fall Meeting including, soil health and cover crops, upcoming presentations by Ray Archuletta, a survey by USDA regarding weed suppression and increased yield, purchasing easements to help with flood damage, the nitrogen rule, NRCS's shortage in staffing, CRP reaching the 24 million acre cap, CSP rule changes and increased learning curve, and the new buffer tool to quantify water quality improvements.

b. NRCS agreements approved and signed

Signed and approved copies of the two NRCS agreements have been received. Rasmussen gave copies of Kathee Pullman's letter to the board for their review.

c. MDA noxious weed grants available

Rasmussen received information on a new grant targeting Palmer Amaranth but which can also be used for other noxious weeds. This is a competitive grant with no match requirements and includes educational activities. Applications are due December 15th. Gossman and Commissioner Bakke volunteered to meet with the County to discuss the use of this grant.

d. 75th anniversary activities

Rasmussen reported participation in parades is completed. The anniversary display has been set up in Harmony and will be there until their Halloween event the weekend of October 21-22. It will then be set up again at the Courthouse before taxes are due.

Thomas will be demonstrating the rain simulator at the FFA Soils contest in Lanesboro. Mathison and Fischer are doing a presentation for the Kingsland Vo-Ag class when they visit the Lanesboro Hatchery.

An ad was included in the Pork Month insert plus a couple more articles will be published before the end of the year.

2017/2018 Capacity Grant Update: Rasmussen reported a 20% reduction in the matching grant that we are eligible for in 2018. Only \$2,000.00 has been requested from the County which will be matched by BWSR and is the same as last year. There were unused funds from 2017 that BWSR and NRCS are entering into a cooperative agreement to use to hire conservation planners for seven watersheds around the state including the Root and Cedar. This person will be an SWCD employee with NRCS providing the space and computer.

e. DNR CWD plans for Conservation Building

DNR is planning to use the Conservation Building again to collect CWD samples. A reefer will be put up on the hill. DNR will put gravel on the driveway to the reefer and an old ramp will be used for people to get into the trailer. They will only be using the garage and no office space.

4. NRCS

Bronson was not present.

5. County

Commissioner Bakke reported that the proposed buffer ordinance has been sent to BWSR and added to the shoreland rules which need to be approved by BWSR. There will be a hearing regarding the buffer ordinance on October 26th at 7:00 pm.

He reported he is on a SWCD/AMC funding committee where they are discussing levy authority for SWCDs.

He explained the reasoning of the negative County Board vote on the acquisition of property and subsequent transfer to DNR.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider approval for Vice-chair to sign Secretary's report from September 14, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Hazel to give approval for the Vice-chair to sign the Secretary's report from September 14, 2017 Regular Board Meeting. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider approval of Secretary's Report from September 14, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Tesmer to approve the Secretary's Report from the September 14, 2017 regular board meeting. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Clarify the intent of motion from September 14th meeting regarding the signing of Cover Crop Contracts (*Motioned by Willford seconded by Tesmer to approve the MN BWSR FY2018 & 2019 SWCD Programs and Operations Grant Agreement in the amount of \$218,844.00 delegating authority to the Administrator to sign Cover Crop Cost Share Contracts until October 12, 2017 and the board signing the contracts after that date.*)

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Pickett to extend authority to the Administrator to also sign Field to Stream Cover Crop Contracts in conjunction with BWSR Funds. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider health insurance coverage policy for 2018

Decisions needed to be made include whether to continue with the 80%/20% district/employee cost, amount of funding to employees for how many years for HSA plans, contributions in a lump sum amount or payments, and for those employees who waive insurance if there would be any support for these employees who are required to pay a fee for coverage with their spouse.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to continue with the 80%/20% district/employee cost of premium split, offer exclusively a Health Savings Account compatible plan, fully fund the employees account with the maximum contribution (\$3,450 for single coverage and \$6,900 for family coverage) for two years, and pay the contribution in one lump sum payment.

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Hazel to amend the original motion stating that 50% of the contribution the first year will be paid in January with the remaining 50% divided into 11 equal monthly payments. In year two the contribution will be made in 12 equal monthly payments. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Pickett to amend the original motion to state the contribution to the employee's Health Savings Account will be \$3,000 for single coverage and \$6,000 for family coverage. Affirmative: Pickett, Willford. Opposed: Hazel, Gossman, Tesmer. Motion failed.

Original motion by Gossman seconded by Tesmer as amended to continue with the 80%/20% district/employees cost of premium split, offer exclusively a Health Savings Account compatible plan, fully fund the employees account with the maximum

contribution (\$3,450 for single coverage and \$6,900 for family for coverage) for two years and pay 50% of the contribution the first year in January with the balance being made in 11 monthly payments and in year two paid in 12 monthly payments.

Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Tesmer. Opposed: Pickett, Willford. Motion carried.

5. Consider payment of LCCMR Cover Crop Contract F-LCCMR 16-01, Brian Hazel, 46.22 acres, in the amount of \$2,270.33

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve payment of LCCMR Cover Crop Contract F-LCCMR 16-01, Brian Hazel, 46.22 acres, in the amount of \$2,270.33.

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review resolutions. (REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR COMPLETED BALLOTS.)

Ballots were turned in and the master ballot signed for submission to MASWCD.

2. Consider Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-6-R, Geoff Halverson, Invasive Species Management-Heavy (12.0 acres) in the amount of \$3,900.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2017-6-R, Geoff Halverson, Invasive Species Management-Heavy (12.0 acres) in the amount of \$3,900.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider FY2018 NACD dues

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve payment of the FY2018 NACD dues in the amount of \$500.00 payable in January of 2018. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider approval of Cover Crop Contracts signed by Administrator: Root River Field to Stream Cover Crop Incentive as listed.

BC-CC17-01	Carter Lee	30 acres	\$900.00
BC-CC17-02	Steve Oian	30 acres	\$900.00
CC-CC17-04	Derek O'Connor	30 acres	\$900.00
CC-CC17-05	Todd Hendrickson	30 acres	\$900.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the following Root River Field to Stream Cover Crop Incentive Contracts signed by the Administrator:

BC-CC17-01	Carter Lee	30 acres	\$900.00
BC-CC17-02	Steve Oian	30 acres	\$900.00
CC-CC17-04	Derek O'Connor	30 acres	\$900.00

CC-CC17-05	Todd Hendrickson	30 acres	\$900.00
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Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider length of service step increase for Employee #23030 to Grade 8, Step 3, effective October 27, 2017, per recommendation of the Administrator

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the length of service step increase for Employee #23030 to Grade 8, Step 3, effective October 27, 2017, per the recommendation of the Administrator. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider approval of Cover Crop Contracts signed by the Administrator: Fillmore SWCD FY2018 3 year Cover Crop Incentive as listed:

FY18-01	Joseph McCabe	17 acres	\$1,530.00
FY18-02	Chris Schultz	35 acres	\$4,200.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve the Fillmore SWCD FY2018 3 year Cover Crop Incentive Contract signed by the Administrator:

FY18-01	Joseph McCabe	17 acres	\$1,530.00
FY18-02	Chris Schultz	35 acres	\$4,200.00

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

7. Consider Technical Assistance percentage from FY2018 & FY2019 State Cost Share Grant

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Gossman to set 20% as the technical assistance amount from the FY2018 & FY2019 State Cost Share Grant. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider payment of 319 Feedlot Grant VI Cost-Share Assistance Contract, Shawn Bergey, Milk House Waste System, in the amount of \$4,325.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Tesmer to approve payment of 319 Feedlot Grant VI Cost Share Assistance Contract, Shawn Bergey, Milk House Waste System, in the amount of \$4,325.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider attendance at MASWCD Annual Convention, December 3-5, 2017

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve attendance at the MASWCD Convention, December 3-5, 2017 for all supervisors, any staff approved by the Administrator, and the Outstanding Conservationists and pay expenses. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Consider investment of 2018 Local Capacity Services funds in the amount of \$100,000.00 and the 2018 Buffer Law funds in the amount of \$30,000.00 into the Money Market Account at the current rate of 1.10%

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Tesmer to invest the 2018 Local Capacity Services funds in the amount of \$100,000.00 and the 2018 Buffer Law funds in the amount of \$30,000.00 into the Money Market Account at the current rate of 1.10%. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on Wednesday, November 1st. Pickett volunteered.

Willford volunteered for the December statement opening and check review on Friday, December 1st.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Gossman