

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 18, 2020

4:30 P.M.

Conservation Building

912 Houston Street

Preston, MN 55965

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Gossman, Brian Hazel, Bob Pickett, Kathy Tesmer, Travis Willford

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Laura Christensen, Sue Wiegrefe, Aaren Mathison. Attending by Zoom: Duane Bakke

Tesmer called the meeting to order at 4:58 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Approve treasurer's report for May 2020

Motioned by Hazel and seconded by Pickett to approve the May 2020 Treasurer's Report, subject to auditor's recommendations. Affirmative: Tesmer, Pickett, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Payment of District Cost-Share Contract WB20-04, Ben Koren, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$450.50
- B. Payment of FSP Phase II Implementation Contract CC19-04, Dave Mensink, Perennial Vegetative Practice, in the amount of \$1,575.00
- C. Payment of Local Capacity Contract LC FY18-10 Paul Ruen, Terrace, in the amount of \$1,459.82

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

IV. REPORTS

A. Supervisor's activity reports

Willford – conducted check review June 1st

Hazel – nothing to report

Gossman – nothing to report

Pickett – nothing to report

Tesmer – nothing to report

B. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

C. Administrator's report

1. CB exhaust fan

Mathison assisted in completing the installation of an exhaust fan to remove vehicle exhaust from the CB garage. It is appreciated by DNR employees working both in the garage and in the adjoining offices.

2. Windbreak update

Koliha relayed to Christensen that all of the windbreaks planned for this season had been installed to specifications except one – WB20-01.

3. Job description update (WCA)

Christensen affirmed that certain WCA duties were included in the Water Management Coordinator job description.

4. NRCS Feedlot RCPP

BWSR will renew the proposal to NRCS for feedlot RCPP funding.

D. NRCS report –

Jess Bronson submitted a written report that was read which highlighted their recent hiring of Soil Conservationist, Teddy Moreno-Santos.

E. County report –

Bakke reported were no updates on environmental issues at this time.

Shaw joined meeting via Zoom.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discuss/Consider Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation District Personnel Policy Handbook section 3.6 Use of Vehicles and Equipment

Christensen relayed information she had collected from various agencies about their rules regarding accepting and placing phone calls while in government vehicles. She was asked to draft a revision to the handbook that incorporates current state law and hands-free options for consideration at the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider technology updates

A staff member has requested that their computer, scheduled for updating this year, be replaced with a tablet for increased utility in field work. Given the substantial difference in tablet versus laptop options, Christensen was asked to obtain more information in how it would be used so the Board could evaluate whether it is good use of tax dollars.

B. District Bacteria Lab update

A report prepared by Mathison showed a slight decrease in bacteria tests run over the same period last year and a significant increase in revenue. Due to cost of audit and certification, the lab is still not breaking even. Whether it will do so within the year was determined to be dependent on the course of the Covid19 pandemic and people's response to it. Mathison will provide another update prior to making any new large orders/purchases.

C. Consider staff nominations for 2020 Outstanding Conservationist

The Board discussed the nominations submitted by the staff and preferred to support nomination from the district these producers represent. They requested Christensen obtain additional information about the nominees so they could make a more informed decision.

D. Consider approval of Drinking Water Protection Grant DWPG-CP-2020-11 to Sapa Ska Farm, Inc. in the amount of \$1,000 for a Corn Incentive Payment

Motioned by Gossman and seconded by Hazel to approve Drinking Water Protection Grant DWPG-CP-2020-11 to Sapa Ska Farm, Inc. in the amount of \$1,000 for a Corn Incentive Payment.

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

E. Consider approval of Drinking Water Protection Grant DWPG-CP-2020-08 to Nathan Bernau in the amount of \$300.00 for a Corn Incentive Payment

Motioned by Willford and seconded by Pickett to approve Drinking Water Protection Grant DWPG-CP-2020-08 to Nathan Bernau in the amount of \$300.00 for a Corn Incentive Payment.

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

F. Consider approval of Drinking Water Protection Grant DWPG-2020-09 to Ray Keller in the amount of \$300.00 for a Corn Incentive payment

Motioned by Willford and seconded by Pickett to approve Drinking Water Protection Grant DWPG-2020-09 to Ray Keller in the amount of \$300.00 for a Corn Incentive payment.

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

G. Consider payment of SE MASWCD 2020 annual dues in the amount of \$500

Motioned by Willford and seconded by Pickett to pay SE MASWCD 2020 annual dues in the amount of \$500.

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

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motioned by Pickett and seconded by Willford to approve the June, 2020 payables.

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

Wiegrefe asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on July 1st, 2020. Pickett volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Pickett and seconded by Willford to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Travis Willford, Fillmore SWCD Board Secretary