

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 17, 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

Ely Trudo, the intern working on the roadside integrated management project introduced himself.

Hazel called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve the April, 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 – April 12, 2018 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Payment of Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY18-02 Charles and Mary Stackhouse, Well Decommissioning, in the amount of \$1,000.00

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity reports

Willford reported attending a Cost Share Committee meeting and a Building Committee meeting.

Hazel reported attending a Cost Share Committee meeting, Grooters' Retirement Open House, and was in to did the Statement Opening and Check Review.

Gossman reported attending Grooters' Retirement Open House, a Building Committee meeting, the Roadside Pest Management meeting and a Friends of the Root River meeting.

Pickett reported attending a Roadside Pest Management meeting.

Tesmer reported coming in for the statement opening and Check review and attended Grooters' Retirement Open House.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

Also included in the board packet was a report from West regarding the Nutrient Management Training she attended.

3. Administrator's report

a. Roadside integrated management project update

Ely Trudo is drafting a registration form to be sent out to those landowners that don't want their ditches sprayed. The landowner is responsible to keep the weeds controlled if they don't want any spraying done. Signs will be posted in the fall on County roads only.

b. Conservation Corps Minnesota Apprentice

Jess Stevens, the Conservation Corps Minnesota Apprentice will be starting on Monday, May 21st. He is from Ridgeway, Iowa and is attending school at Vermillion in Ely. He will be helping Ely Trudo with signage for the Roadside Integrated Management grant.

4. NRCS

No one was present from NRCS.

5. County

No one was present from the County, but Commissioner Bakke had forwarded information regarding a letter the County Board sent to the SE MN Water Resources Board in support for the facilitators for the Wastewater Initiative offering in-kind assistance, but no cash.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider Operational Policy Handbook revisions to State Cost Share Policy

The changes include increasing the cost share for grade stabilization structures to not exceed \$10,000.00 cost share and reducing the cost share for seeding, mulching and crimping to not exceed \$436.00 per acre, which will more align with EQIP cost share.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the Operational Policy Handbook revisions to the State Cost Share Policy, as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider Lease 12249 with MN DNR for July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020

Rasmussen reported the new lease for the office space will increase by \$0.25 per square foot each year for two years. The lease for the garage space will increase \$0.25 over two years. The new lease includes a 6 month opt out clause.

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Gossman to approve Lease 12249 with the MN DNR for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020 as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider closeout of FY14 Conservation Planning Grant account and transfer \$828.29 to District account for overhead costs

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the closeout of the FY14 Conservation Planning Grant account and transfer \$828.29 to the District account for overhead costs. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider SWCD Board Comment Letter for PRAP Report

The comment letter is the final item needed for the PRAP Report.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the comment letter to BWSR for the PRAP report, as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Review of Soil Erosion complaint process

The soil erosion complaint process was reviewed due to the amount of erosion that has occurred this spring.

6. Discuss review process for Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAWs)

The EAW for a proposed a new 4,890 sow facility in Fillmore County was discussed. Rasmussen asked for direction on preparing a comment, whether she should draft something or have a committee prepare comments.

Suggested comments include: trout streams nearby, whether enough acres are available for manure application, the close proximity of a residential subdivision, the project requires good record keeping and following a good Nutrient Management Plan, the abundance of sensitive features and their setbacks, and high nitrate levels in the surrounding townships.

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Gossman to draft a response to the EAW on the sow unit being proposed in Newburg Township. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider MDA Noxious Weed Grant Amendment to move \$500.00 in the budget to Outreach Activities

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve the MDA Noxious Weed Grant Amendment moving \$500.00 in the budget to Outreach Activities. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider authorizing Administrator to accept bids for Japanese hops control contract and award the bid in collaboration with MDA and DNR staff

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to authorize the Administrator to accept bids for the Japanese hops control contract and award the bid in collaboration with MDA and DNR staff. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider Building Committee recommendations regarding office space discussion with NRCS

The Board discussed extensively the proposed floorplan layout and how to plan for the move.

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Gossman to approve going forward and accept the proposed blueprint per the Building Committee's recommendation, as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider District Summer Construction Conservation Practice Assistance Contract SC17-03 Rodney Koliha, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$1,059.50

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve the District Summer Construction Conservation Practice Assistance Contract SC17-03 Rodney Koliha, Grassed

Waterway, in the amount of \$1,059.50. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Hazel. Opposed: none. Abstained: Willford. Motion carried.

2. Consider Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2018-1-RP, Kristin Washburn, 3200' Forest Road Improvement, in the amount of \$6,400.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Pickett to approve the Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2018-1-RP, Kristin Washburn, 3200' Forest Road Improvement, in the amount of \$6,400.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider Fillmore SWCD Resolution 18-01 Crop Insurance Reduction Incentive for Planting Cover Crops

Motioned by Pickett seconded by Gossman to approve the Fillmore SWCD Resolution 18-01 Crop Insurance Reduction Incentive for Planting Cover Crops, as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider donation to Fillmore County 4-H Federation

Rasmussen reported she had been informed the 4-H has gone away from specific sponsor awards.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to give a donation of \$160.00 to the Fillmore County 4-H Federation with a letter emphasizing it be used towards environmental and natural resources awards, if possible. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider FY2017 Local Capacity Grant Conservation Practice Assistance Contract LC CS 17-02 Steve Eickhoff, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$3,644.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve the FY2017 Local Capacity Grant Conservation Practice Assistance Contract LC CS 17-02 Steve Eickhoff, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$3,644.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider District Summer Construction Conservation Practice Assistance Contract SC 17-05 Steve Eickhoff for Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$1,630.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve the District Summer Construction Conservation Practice Assistance Contract SC 17-05 Steve Eickhoff for Grassed Water, in the amount of \$1,630.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Special Projects Fund to Summer Construction Fund

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Tesmer to approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Special Projects Fund to Summer Construction Fund. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider SE MN Water Resources Board 319 Feedlot VII Grant in the amount of \$30,600.00

The Grant has \$21,000.00 for cost share projects, \$8,000.00 for technical assistance, and \$1,600.00 for staff time to develop a list of priority projects.

Motioned by Tesmer seconded by Pickett to approve the SE MN Resources Board 319 Feedlot VII Grant in the amount of \$30,600.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider authorizing Chair to sign BWSR PRAP Grant Agreement in the amount of \$10,000.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Tesmer to authorize the Chair to sign the BWSR PRAP Grant Agreement in the amount of \$10,000.00 when it is received. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Consider authorizing Chair to sign contract with Sand Creek Workplace Wellness in the amount of \$10,000.00

Sand Creek Workplace Wellness has been recommended by BWSR and MCIT to be the mediator between NRCS and the SWCD. Three phases are recommended:

1. Interviews
2. Develop an action plan
3. Work with management to identify future needs

Billing will be monthly with monthly check-ups to see what the needs are and the progress being made.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to authorize the Chair to sign the contract with Sand Creek Workplace Wellness in the amount of \$10,000.00 contingent on signing the BWSR PRAP grant first. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

11. Consider authorizing Chair to sign contract with Mower SWCD for 365 hours per year engineering technical assistance

The contract would be with Willis Goll, retired NRCS engineer, who is currently working full time at the Mower SWCD. He would provide engineering assistance approximately eight hours per week in Fillmore County.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Tesmer to authorize the Chair to sign a contract with Mower SWCD for 365 hours per year of engineering technical assistance. Affirmative: Gossman, Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the May, 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 Friday, June 1. Pickett volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Tesmer