



MINUTES FROM THE MAY 9, 2019 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Supervisors

Chair
District 2
Kevin Kokesch

Board Members Present: Jim Hebrink, Kathryn Kelly, Mark Koenig, Kevin Kokesch, Dean Schroeder
Staff Present: Holly Hatlewick, & Melissa Edmonson
Others Present: Rick Schmidt, County Commissioner

Vice Chair
District 4
Kathryn Kelly

Treasurer
District 5
Jim Hebrink

District 1
Mark Koenig

District 3
Dean Schroeder

Staff
District
Administrator
Holly Hatlewick

Farm Bill
Technician
Karen Wermers

WCA/Water Plan
Coordinator
Cody Dale

Buffer
Specialist/Agricultural
Inspector
Michael Sandager

Administrative
Assistant
Melissa
Edmondson

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kokesch at 7:32 A.M.
- II. Citizen Comment Period (2 minutes per person): Dispensed, no citizens present
- III. Consent Agenda, Meeting Minutes, Bills, and Treasurer's Report: Approved the meeting minutes from April 11, 2019 regular meeting, bills, and treasurer's report. (Kelly, Koenig) MSC
- IV. Old Business:
 1. Staff Grievance: Dispensed, no grievance
- V. New Business:
 1. USDA FY17, Annual CR and EEO review- Motion to approve the USDA FY17 Annual CR & EEO. (Hebrink, Koenig) MSC
 2. Reduce Tillage Pilot Program- Hatlewick updated the supervisors on the program.
 3. Lower Middle Minnesota 1W1P resolution- Motion to have Renville County SWCD opt out of the 1W1P planning grant, but support the application. (Kelly, Schroeder) MSC
- VI. Program Updates
 1. Cost-Share Program Updates-
 - a. Buffer cost share: SWCD needs to have all transactions to landowners paid by the end of this year. Approximately 250 contracts left to pay. Motion that customers with 2018 Buffer cost share contracts need to have their buffer strip seeded by September 15, 2019 and their paperwork must be to the SWCD office by November 1, 2019. Anyone who seeds after September 15 or their paperwork is not handed in prior to November 1, will not be eligible for cost share. (Koenig, Hebrink) MSC
 - b. Goblisch Project: Check has not been cashed. SWCD sent a certified letter that we will cancel the check if it is not cashed by June 14, 2019. Motion to add this check is voided after 90 days, to all SWCD checks (Kelly, Schroeder) MSC
 - c. Hawk Creek Skalbeck project- Working with the county. Still don't have a permit from the DNR. Jeff Marlow is trying to get

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a bid. Funds of \$580,000 need to be paid out by December 31, 2019. If we do not use the money it will go back to BWSR. It will cost roughly 1.5 million dollars to repair/replace the bridge.

2. Staff Reports

- a. Hatlewick- MASCWD Administration Course 3-day session, attended and gained a lot of valuable info and resources, attended Minnesota Office of Soil Health (MOSH) staking holders meeting and Dr David Montgomery's lecture, buffer programmatic work, Hawk WRAPS meeting to look at the next 10-year planning schedule and to set priorities for the next cycle of monitoring, Lower M, CRP and CREP work on planning and looking at a strategic plan, Local Work Group meeting, good discussion was held priorities for the county, Area VI attended in New Ulm, meeting with NRCS on Conservation Planning and JAA for Mike Sandager. Discussed additional training needs and future of Conservation Planning Procedures, working with local landowner in Wang township on Soil Health research and data collection, 1W1P Hawk Steering Committee meeting, meet with Office of Mediation, initial meeting complete with more to come once an assessment is completed, JD 15 joint meeting with McLeod County, Buffalo Creek Watershed District and Huston Engineering, a detailed assessment is going to be prepared and reviewed later this summer, meet with Area Technical Training Team to look at the upcoming trainings for 2019.
- b. Edmondson- BWSR Outreach training in Mankato, Hobo thermometers activation and spreadsheet, Schedule staff retreat location tour, Get ad quote from County Shopper, Revise Employee Handbook, Update contact info for American Engineering Testing, Coordinate WALK event, Schedule a windshield replacement on Dodge, Update grant tracker, Send board packet, Coordinate Farmfest details, Post eLink grant reports on SWCD's website, Attended the board meeting, Got lincpass updated, Update 2019 board meeting binder, Mid-month bills, Attended the Area VI meeting, Revise drill contract, Attended Outlook Training at the county, Work with contractors to get bids on the shed project, Send out a press release about the reduce tillage pilot cost share program
- c. Sandager- Administration of the Buffer CS program, Working with landowners on compliance, Conducted County wide site visits for Buffer CS and corrective action notices, Validating compliance for landowners with sufficient buffers who received corrective action notices, Worked with applicators on testing requirements, Held a pesticide applicator test date April 19, Attended April 10th County Ag Inspector (CAI) Area Meeting, Attended April 30th Weed Workshop, Press releases for drill rental, Wrote buffer insert for county newsletter, Created mailing list for Lower Hawk

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- Watershed, Received JAA for ecological practices, Met with Dave Voight for Conservation Planning certification will receive after completing cultural resource training, WRAPS map making, Rental of drill, Admin of rain gauge, DNR Wells
- d. Wermers- CRP is closed to new contracts until further notice, CPO modifications – tract and field changes, ownership changes, mid-mgt updates, Assisting with cost-share and mid-management questions, No new CREP batches are known at this time, Sending out cold estimates, Helping customers with CREP program questions, Processing **34** CREP easements – title work, ownership changes, admin of contract information, communicating with BWSR staff and landowners, **23** easements have been recorded, Updating easement processing tracking spreadsheets, Cross training Cody on Easement processing, Assisting Holly with her cover crop cases project, CRP meeting with FSA and NRCS to plan for when I am on maternity leave
 - e. Dale- Hawk Creek Streambank, Completing conservation plans, improvements and ownership changes, Seeking MN DOT approval for embankment construction in ROW, Construction bid packages, Landowner/township meeting to facilitate restoration discussions, Tree/shrub plantings, Wetland embankment re-builds, CREP field surveys, County wetland determinations, Midtown Wetland Bank draft prospectus submitted, New Limbo Creek culvert and wetland replacement application, Agricultural bank mitigation plan review, Public health meeting 5/1/19, One watershed one plan meeting 5/1/19, Land & Water Management well sealing program, MAWQCP cost-share for successful applicants
3. NRCS Report- printed copy provided
 4. Board Reports:
 - a. Koenig- Attended the local work group meeting, state audit board meeting, and Crow River meeting. The MASWCD Area VI Scholarship Committee chose Ellanna Pomplun as the first-place scholarship winner, and Luke McDonnell as the second-place scholarship winner.
 - b. Schroeder- Attended the 1W1P meeting. Reported that there will be 2 kick off meetings in August to inform the public about plan details.
 - c. Schmidt- Hawk Creek had a mediator that came in for the 1W1P and Schmidt attended the Hawk Creek Watershed meeting. Seth Sparks has had a lot of tile problem reports and most of them haven't been plugged, it's just so wet and systems are over loaded.
 - d. Hebrink- No report
 - e. Kelly- Attended the MOSH and local work group meeting.
 - f. Kokesch thinks we should invite Mark Schnobrich to the next board meeting, so we can discuss the duties. Koenig agreed and said we should have him

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sign an agreement. Edmondson and Hatlewick should create a draft and send it to the board members before the next board meeting for them to review. Discussed Renville SWCD role in assisting Area VI with Administrative duties, Kelly suggested we put a term on when the SWCD will be done assisting the Area and write the duties down.

- g. Kokesch- Attended the Area VI Meeting. Scott Sparlin, MN River Congress, presented a bill that would take Legacy money and implement a new program with standing water. The additional funds will piggyback with CREP. The MN River Congress needed a motion for support of their project. Motion was made by Martin County SWCD to support the MN River Congress. It was not clear verbally, so a hand vote was taken. 7 yays and 6 nays; however, there were 2 yays that were employee votes that should not have counted. Only supervisors can vote at the Area meetings. Martin County SWCD is drafting a resolution. Koenig will speak to Schnobrich about this before the next meeting. Kokesch said that there was a good article about the Minnesota River in the Star Tribune Sunday May 3, 2019. Hatlewick has the link and will send it to the supervisors.

VII. Other:

VIII. Upcoming meetings and dates to remember- WALK May 29, plan board meeting Thursday, July 18 at 5:00 at the Franklin Community Center and invite legislators.

IX. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 am. (Koenig, Hebrink) MSC

CHAIRMAN