



MINUTES FROM THE June 14, 2018 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Renville Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order at 7:30 A.M. by chair, Kevin Kokesch, and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Supervisors

Chair
District 2
Kevin Kokesch

Vice Chair
District 3
Terrylea Ness

Treasurer
District 5
Jim Hebrink

District 4
Kathryn Kelly

District 1
Mark Koenig

Staff
Holly Hatlewick
District
Administrator

Karen Wermers
Farm Bill
Technician

Cody Dale
Technician

Michael Sandager
Technician

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Koenig, Kevin Kokesch, Terrylea Ness, Jim Hebrink, Dr. Kathryn Kelly,

STAFF PRESENT: Holly Hatlewick, Melissa Edmondson, Karen Wermers, Michael Sandager, Cody Dale, and Sarah Maximoqicz (Conservation Corp Apprentice)

Others Present: Commissioner Randy Kramer, Commissioner Doug Erickson, County Administrator Lisa Herges, Representative Tim Miller

Citizens Comment Period: Dispensed, no citizens present

Consent Agenda: Approved the minutes from May, 2018 regular meeting and bills to pay (**Ness, Hebrink**) **MSC**

Treasurers Report: Approved May treasury report (**Kelly, Koenig**) **MSC**

Leadership Institute: Motion was made to have Hatlewick register for the Leadership Institute. (**Kelly, Koenig**) **MSC**

Board and Staff Retreat: reviewed suggested itinerary for the SWCD Retreat. Board approved the itinerary.

Training Software: Motion was made to buy a Training Package with the Traliant. (**Hebrink, Koenig**) **MSC**

Time Tracking: The board agreed to table the time tracking until they can get further information from David Torgelson.

One Watershed One Plan: One Watershed One Plan application has been completed for area 53 on the suggested BWSR One Watershed One Plan Map, which includes the Hawk Creek Watershed and part of the Middle Minnesota Watershed. Ness and/or Koenig had no comments regarding the application.

Staff report:

Administrator Hatlewick:

- Working with Renville, Nicollet, Chippewa and Kandiyohi counties and SWCD on One Watershed One Plan Planning
- Working on BWSR training Acceleration Grant with the Area V training team
- Assisted with Buffer Program
- Working with Melissa on operations and training
- Working with partners on Middle Minnesota Technician position

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- Participated in Minnesota State tillage and erosion committee
- Working with partners to look at starting a MN Soil Health Coalition
- Assisting landowners with SWCD/HCWP Cover Crop Cost Share program
- Looking at SWCD Risk Management needs and assessments
- Discussing county programming that could be implemented by SWCD, with county staff and exploring potential collaboration
- Completed annual employee evaluations

Karen Wermers:

- Tracking CRP re-enrollment interest from landowners
- CRP open for enrollment
- Assisting landowners with CRP questions and seeding advice for this spring
- Staking CREP boundaries
- Going on-site with landowners to discuss potential CREP projects
- CREP deadlines for CP21, CP23, CP23A, CP2
 - June 15
- 2 CREP applications to be submitted for June 15 batch
- Processing title work for 14 easements so far
- To date, 23 funded applications in Renville County
- When requested by BWSR, I put together cultural resource review worksheets for the NRCS cultural resource review specialist
- Continually reporting efforts on created estimates and landowner contacts using BWSR's tracking spreadsheets

Cody Dale:

- Beaver Falls WMA grade stabilization project awarded to Rough Country Excavating.
- Bolton & Menk awarded engineering and design of Hawk Creek streambank restoration. Streambank is a joint project with Renville County.
- Morton Retention Pond construction to begin this spring
- John Kane Waterway construction
- Morton retention pond construction underway.

RIM/CREP

- RIM enhancements projects including grazing, haying and re-seeding pollinator habitat into existing easements.
- Currently 4 restoration projects are planned for the summer of 2018
- Performed surveys on newly acquired CREP easements.
- Conservation plans for new and old easement modifications

Wetland Conservation Act

- CSAH road improvement application for road improvements
- Limbo Creek application
- Wetland bank application

State Cost-Share Projects

- Sacred Heart retention pond project.

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Michael Sandager:

Feedlot

- Inspections have been completed on 29 of the 57 feedlots over 50 AU scheduled for 2018

Buffer Law

- Working with landowners on solutions for their land
- Developing Alternative Practices
- Three landowners have signed up for alternative practices
- Administering Buffer State-Cost Share policy
- Funding was approved for all private landowners and for the County on re-determined ditches
- 252 landowners have signed contracts for a total of \$173,997
- County was approved for 85 acres, a total of \$30,600
- Keeping a waiting list for landowners interested in buffer cost-share, currently have 27 applicants on the list
- Working with BWSR staff in the field

Outreach/Education

- Administering and participating in the precipitation monitoring program
- SWCDs social media and website
- Creating outreach maps for One Watershed One Plan

Melissa Edmondson:

- Created an invitation to the SWCD's Monthly Board Meeting and sent it out to Legislature and County Commissioners
- Received quotes on Hi Vis Vests and getting SWCD printed on the back of the vest
- Created a CREP bookmark for Farm Fest
- Organized the SWCD Retreat Curriculum
- Finding a venue for the Soils and Suds event and creating an invitation
- In the process of finding a caterer for the Soil Health Field Day
- Viewed buffer strips to make sure they were in compliance
- Marked compliant buffer strips as being compliant on the Buff CAT website
- Attended the May Monthly SWCD Board Meeting

Board Report:

Supervisor Kelly: Filed for re-election and provided a BWSR Board update on the Buffers, RIM and funding.

Supervisor Hebrink: No report

Supervisor Ness: Personnel meeting, Terry encouraged all Board members to stopped in the SWCD office and said hello more,

Supervisor Koenig: attended Crow River Meeting, Hawk Creek One Watershed One Plan Meeting, worked on Area VI MASWCD Scholarship; Awarded a high school student from Madelia

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Supervisor Kokesch: Personnel meeting

NRCS Report:

EQIP

Working on field verification for No-till/Strip-till contracts and processing payments. Contacting contact holders to ensure contracts are on schedule. Completed status reviews for all contracts.

CSP

Working on Planning and Ranking for the 15 new CSP applications for 2018. Continue to process modifications to remove acres lost or enrolled into CRP for the 2018 cropping year.

Miscellaneous

The Soil Conservationist position has been announced for the Olivia Field Office and application period closed on June 6th.

Attended meeting to discuss the realignment of NRCS areas (going from 6 to 4 areas) and restructuring of the areas. The new structure will be a 3 to county work area consisting of one District Conservationist, Resource Conservationists, Soil Conservationists, and Soil Conservation Technicians. No date yet when this restructure will occur.

Other:

Personnel Committee: the committee met with Administrator Hatlewick, and each of the employees individually to conduct annual performance evaluations. Personnel Committee member Ness gave a recommendation to give Dale and Sandager a 2% annual salary increase and Hatlewick, and Wermers a 3% annual salary increase. **(Kelly, Koenig) MSC**

Sandager suggested to Ness that he would like a pair of binoculars with a camera. It was tabled for a later date. The board would like Sandager to get prices.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting will be Thursday July 12, 2018 at 7:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center in Olivia, MN.

ADJOURNMENT: To adjourn the Renville SWCD Meeting 10:11 a.m. **(Kelly, Koenig) MSC**

SUPERVISOR