

Renville Soil & Water Conservation District  
1008 West Lincoln, Olivia MN 56277  
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**MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 12, 2019 REGULAR BOARD MEETING located at  
the Renville Community Center**

Board Members Present: Kathryn Kelly, Mark Koenig, Kevin Kokesch, Dean Schroeder, Jim Hebrink

Staff Present: Holly Hatlewick, Cody Dale, Jeff Kjorness -NRCS

Other Present: Commissioner Schmidt

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kokesch at 7:30 A.M.
- II. Public Address to the Board (2 minutes per person): Dispensed, no citizens present
- III. Consent Agenda, Meeting Minutes, Bills, and Treasurer's Report: Approved the meeting minutes from Nov. 14, 2019 regular meeting, bills, and treasurer's report. **(Schroeder, Kelly) MSC**
- IV. Reports of officers, board, and committees:
  1. Kathryn Kelly: Attended the Area VI Meeting in Franklin, SWWC Board was with 17<sup>th</sup> other the National Conference in AZ. Attended AMC Convention, talked with Doug Bartheolome? and said how great the SWCD Staff and Hawk Creek Staff are to work with.
  2. Dean Schroeder: Attended the Area VI Meeting.
  3. Mark Koenig: Attended the Area VI Meeting and MASWCD State Convention on 12/10. Discussed with Area VI Chair supporting the MSCH on an annual basis.
  4. Kevin Kokesch: Attended the County Board Meeting and Area VI Meeting
  5. Jim Hebrink: No SWCD report
  6. Commissioner Schmidt: Attended AMC Convention, RRSSWA Redwood site has transitioned to a transfer station only, this will be a large savings for the County. Hospital is looking at a possible merger.
- V. Unfinished Business:
  1. Staff Grievance: Dispensed, no grievances brought forward for this month
- VI. New Business:
  1. Conservation Easements Alterations: Cody discussed with the Board a possible policy for portal easement alterations dated 12/12/19, motion to adopt as Renville SWCD Policy **(Kelly, Koenig) MSC**.
  2. 2020 NACD Dues: Silver leave \$501, Motion Kelly no second, motion died. Support NACD for 2020 with Dues of \$300 **(Koenig, Schroeder) MSC**
- VII. Personnel: Farm Bill Assistant position was discussed with the Board, the SWCD isn't sure if they will hire a new Farm Bill Tech at this time.
- VIII. Program Updates
  1. Cost Share Programs: Authorize Administrator Hatlewick to sign any BWRS related extensions or agreements for DRAP II **(Kelly, Schroeder) MSC**
  2. Staff Reports-
    - a. Holly Hatlewick

**Supervisors:** Chair/District 2 **Kevin Kokesch**, 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**

- Presented at MASWCD Convention on why SWCD should be Leading Soil Health.
  - Presenting at MN Cattleman's meeting Dec 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Presenting at U of MN Conservation Tillage Conference
  - Working with City of Morton on Water Task Force Committee
  - Planning logistics for Dec 12th producer meeting
  - Prepared presentations for MASWCD, Minnesota Cattleman's, and Conservation Tillage Conference, will present at all three events
  - Assisted with hosting Area VI Meeting
  - Continued work on Hawk Creek 1W1P
  - Starting assessment of applying for South Fork Crow 1W1P in 2020
  - Completed cover crops cost share inspections
- b. Melissa Edmondson
- Assisted with Dec 12th meeting logistics
  - Attended a buffer meeting with Paul Erdmann
  - Sent the 1W1P Steering Committee letters
  - Assisted with Area VI meeting logistics
  - Attended the Buffer Committee Meeting
  - Sent the Area VI Scholarship info to the Area Managers
  - Created the Meeting Minutes for the Area VI Meeting
  - Sent a press release on the Area VI Scholarship and Ag Issues Meeting
- c. Michael Sandager
- Buffer Law
- November 14th, 2019 - Met with BWSR representative Paul Erdmann about Renville Buffers, we are exceeding their expectations
  - November 25th, 2019 – Buffer Committee meeting
  - Validating compliance for landowners who have become compliant after receiving a corrective action notice
  - 73 completed and mailed
  - Cost-Share: 118 contracts have been paid, total of \$72,553.25 sent to landowners
- Agricultural Inspector
- Wrote and coordinated Noxious Weed Grant for Wild Parsnip for a total of about \$9,000
- Outreach/Education
- Area 6 Meeting – Nov 21
- a. Karen Wermers
- CRP
- Assisting with cost-share and management questions
  - Answering questions about CRP program
- CREP
- 33 out of 34 easements from 2018 are recorded
  - Working through Larry Boyum CREP easement title issues
  - 15 new CREP easements
  - Assisting BWSR and FSA with CREP easements
- OTHER

- Area 6 meeting setup Nov 20
- Area 6 Meeting – Nov 21
- Current Ag Issues Meeting – Dec 12

b. Cody Dale

RIM/CREP

- Conservation plans & updating cover on current easements
- Easement repair surveys & projects
- CREP construction plans
- RIM direct hardwood seeding project

Wetland Conservation Act

- Solar garden applications
- Wetland site visit
- CSAH 21 & 2 shoulder widening

Other

- RIM alteration policy
- Well sealing
- Ag water quality applications
- Erosion control site visits

3. NRCS Report Jeff Kjorness- Update on EQIP and CSP current and future program plans.

IX. Unfinished Business:

IX. Resolutions or Board actions to be taken:

1. 2020 Ag Inspector Agreement: Approve 2020 agreement and authorize Chair Kokesch and Administrator Hatlewick to sign the agreement. **(Hebrink, Kelly) MSC**
2. The next board meeting will be held on January 13, 2020, the location TBD, hope to hold at the County office building.

X. Miscellaneous announcements:

XI. Other:

- 1.

XII. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49am. **(Koenig, Hebrink) MSC**

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**CHAIRMAN**