

Renville Soil & Water Conservation District  
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**MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 12, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
located at the Renville County Office Building**

Board Members Present: Kathryn Kelly, Mark Koenig, Kevin Kokesch, Dean Schroeder  
Staff Present: Holly Hatlewick, Cody Dale, Mike Sandager  
Other Present: County Residents Rick Jansen, Calvin Butenhoff, County Commissioner Rick 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): Rick Jansen, parcel 10-02130-00. Calvin Butenhoff (Hazel Butenhoff land) parcel 10-01660-00, Section 25 & 35 of Emmet township. Jansen and Butenhoff said they didn't think it was fair that they could be fined financially if they don't comply with the 2015 Buffer Law and are forced to install a buffer. Mike Sandager explained the alternative practices, previously reviewed with the customers, and discussed the number of acres required for a 16.5' buffer. Mike reviewed the location and alternative practice maps with the Board and guests. Chair Kokesch, relayed to the guests that the SWCD is responsible for verifying compliance of the law and the enforcement of county ordinances, such as the Buffer Ordinance, is under the authority of the County Commissioners.
- III. Consent Agenda, additions to the agenda as presented, Meeting Minutes, Bills, and Treasurer's Report (Treasurer's Report not available): Approved the meeting minutes from February 13, 2020 regular meeting and bills. **(Koenig, Kelly) MSC**
- IV. Old Business:
  1. Operational items/staff concerns: Dispensed
  2. Committee Assignment Updates: Motion to approve the draft of the Supervisor Committee Assignments **(Kelly, Schroeder) MSC**. Kelly proposed the alternate move to the lead representative until we fill our current board vacancy, then revisit the committee assignments at that time.
  3. 1W1P- Schroeder and Hatlewick gave an update on the advisory committee meeting and discussed the policy meeting.
- V. New Business:
  1. Supervisor Operation Guide: Reviewed guide, make a few edits then bring back to next meeting. Tabled motion to approve the Supervisor Handbook draft, will discuss more after all board positions are once again filled.
  2. County Spring Road Tour: Road Tour will be held on March 25 and April 1 (April 13 rain date), Kevin Kokesch plans to attend on March 25<sup>th</sup> and Kathryn Kelly on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
  3. Area VI MASWCD Dues: Motion to pay the 2020 Area VI MASWCD Dues of \$400. Tabled discussion will revisit at the April Board meeting when we have an invoice amount.
  4. Board vacancy: Motion to accept with regret Jim Hebrink's letter of resignation, effective immediately **(Kelly, Schroeder) MSC**. Discussed a letter of interest for

**Supervisors:** Chair/District 2 **Kevin Kokesch**, Vice Chair/District 3 **Dean Schroeder**  
Treasurer/District 5 **Jim Hebrink**, District 4 **Kathryn Kelly**, District 1 **Mark Koenig**,  
**Staff:** District Administrator **Holly Hatlewick**, WCA/Water Plan Coordinator **Cody Dale**,  
Buffer Specialist/Agricultural Inspector **Michael Sandager**, Administrative Assistant **Melissa Edmondson**

- potential future Board Member replacement. The Board supports Administrator Hatlewick to reach out to a potential candidate.
5. Treasurer: Motion for Kathryn Kelly to act as Treasurer, in replacement of Jim Hebrink, for the remainder of 2020 (**Schroeder, Koenig**) MSC.

## VI. Program Updates

1. Cost Share Programs
  - a. Contract 0120: Motion to approve the Contract 0120 for a grassed waterway \$12,505.00, in Section 6 of Flora township. Site will convey water to a controlled outlet and repair a gully (**Kelly, Koenig**) MSC
  - b. MAWQCP- Macius Schroeder has completed this certification. Motion to approve contract. (**Koenig, Kelly**) MSC
2. Staff Reports
  - a. Cody: CREP- lots of interest in the county, starting construction on our first batch from 3 years ago, working on easement documents on the second batch, 8-15 new applications in the current batch period that has a March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.
    - RIM/CREP
      - Conservation plans & updating cover on current easements
      - Easement repair surveys & projects
      - CREP construction plans & surveys
      - Submitting new CREP offers
      - Assisting BWSR/Law office with easement mods
      - New CREP proposals
    - Wetland Conservation Act
      - Wetland site visit
      - Road Bank easement sign up
    - Cost-Share Projects
      - **Board approval** needed for Malecek waterway project
    - Other
      - 1 well sealing
      - Completed 1 Ag Water Quality application.
  - b. Holly
    - Planning Middle Minnesota Watershed project planning meeting, held on 3/4/20, in Franklin
    - Planning and meeting prep for 2020 Local Work group meeting
    - Presented at Izaak Walton League, Watershed and Climate Summit on March 7th at Normandale Community College, Topic: Farmers Leading the Way for Soil Health; How SWCD's can Help.
    - Presented on Tillage erosion, at Ridgewater College, March 6th
    - Meeting with County Commissioner on Capacity match use and application
    - 1W1P Advisory, Policy and Steering meeting, working on setting priority areas
    - Co-Hosted with Hawk Creek, Improving your Bottom-Line meeting in Renville on 2/18/20, 52 attendees
    - Participated with Minnesota Office of Soil Health in planning the April 14th, Soil Health Symposium
    - Collaborating with NRCS in the planning of the 2020 Soil Health Bus Tour

- Consulting with the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition on their 2020, Soil Health School, Scheduled for July 22 and 23, 2020

c. Melissa

- MCIT Unemployment report
- Cover Crop Cost Share
- Area VI Meeting price quotes
- Chairs meeting emails
- RSVPs for February 18 meeting
- Report Buffer CS payments on eLink
- Printed off Chair's Meeting pages
- MACDE dues
- Searched for meeting venues
- Direct CRP and CREP calls and customers dropping by
- Buffer Law
- Press release for Middle Min Meeting
- Updated vendor list
- Supervisors' per diems
- BWSR NoFR Reimbursement
- Outreach – updating Facebook and website
- BWSR Title Reimbursement Invoice
- Bus Road Tour planning
- Review Holly's feedlot power point
- Local Work Group Meeting planning
- Vehicle logs

d. Michael

Buffer Law

- Mailed compliance warnings to 44 landowners with parcels found non-compliant after 2019 inspections
  - 36 replies with compliance plans or fall seedings
- Validating compliance for landowners who have become compliant after receiving a corrective action notice
- Cost-Share: 124 contracts have been paid, total of \$76,078.00 sent to landowners
- Developing alternative practices

Agricultural Inspector

- Received MDA Noxious Weed Grant for \$7515
- Held Commercial Pesticide Applicator Testing on 2-28

CRP

- Taken over responsibility for SWCD CRP roles, eligibility and technical assistance
- 45 landowners have expressed interest in CRP in February/March

3. NRCS Report, Jeff Kjorness: The Board reviewed and acknowledged the report.

4. Board Reports

Koenig: Attended the High Island Watershed meeting late February and the Hawk Creek Watershed Project Annual Meeting on March 11

Hebrink: Not present

Schroeder: Attended the 1W1P Policy Meeting and Hawk Creek Watershed Project Annual Meeting

Schmidt: Attended the 1W1P Policy Meeting, discussed DSL fiber will be complete by August 2020, Hospital Board Meeting on March 31- merger has been delayed; however, the merger is final with Health Partners. Roads- low on budget for Road repairs only \$4 million in funding. Asked about County Road 8 bridge- scheduled for 2020 repair with Brown County.

Kelly: Thanked Commissioner Schmidt for being involved with our Board, we appreciate his attending our meeting. 1W1P Policy Meeting, SWCD Personnel Committee Meeting. Year end (June 2020) Administrator evaluation- would like full board involvement and feedback.

Kokesch: Personnel Meeting. Brought up topic of the Coronavirus- visit with employees about virus prevention.

Hatlewick: Update on CRP Workload, WALK outreach events for youth, 1W1P update, bus tour update.

VII. Upcoming meetings and dates to remember: Yellow Medicine Soil Health Luncheon - March 20, State Managers Meeting - March 18 & 19, Legislative Days - March 24 & 25, Area VI MASWCD Meeting, Winnebago - March 31, MOSH Soil Health Symposium - April 14, County Spring Road Tour - March 25 & April 1 (Rain Date April 13)

VIII. Motion to adjourn at 9:40am AM. **(Koenig, Schroeder) MSC**

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**CHAIRMAN**