



MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 10, 2019 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board Members Present: Kathryn Kelly, Mark Koenig, Kevin Kokesch, Dean Schroeder
Staff Present: Holly Hatlewick & Melissa Edmondson
Other Present: Jeremy Maul, BWSR; Rick Schmidt, Renville County Commissioner

- 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 September 12, 2019 regular meeting, bills, and treasurer's report. **(Kelly, Koenig) MSC**
- IV. Reports of officers, board, and committees:
 1. Kathryn Kelly: Attended the Renville Co. SWCD Board Meeting, 1W1P funding proposals that are coming in, Committee meetings appointed to serve on the central committee where she approves watershed plans. MN Dept of Health Fall conference.
 2. Dean Schroeder: Attended the HCWP & SWCD Field Day, 1W1P meeting
 3. Mark Koenig: Technical Service meeting in Mankato, State Finance Board Meeting in St. Paul.
 4. Kevin Kokesch: Attended the last board meeting. Did not attend any other meetings.
 5. Jeremy Maul: This is Jeremy's week for Board Meetings. He is attending all 6 in his area.
 6. Rick Schmidt: Busy with RRRSWA, Prime West with health insurance, Court House security, a lot of reports about bad roads again.
- V. Unfinished Business:
 1. Staff Grievance: Dispensed, no grievances brought forward for this month
 2. SWCD office space: Lease expires June 2021. F & M Bank second level, Citizen State Bank whole building. \$34-40/square foot to construct a commercial building. Motion to create a committee to explore a new office space. **(Koenig, Kelly) MSC** Koenig volunteered to be on the committee and Hebrink was nominated by the Board Chair.
 3. Staff training- MARL: Motion to allow Administrator Hatlewick to submit an application for the 2020 MARL Program. **(Kelly, Schroeder) MSC**
- VI. New Business:
 1. Strategic Summary Report: Plan on reviewing the Summary Report with staff in January, following the January Board meeting. Hatlewick will send a doodle poll for the January Board meeting date.
 2. 2019 MASWCD Resolution – Completed Ballot
 3. South Fork CROW 1W1P: Discussed the possibility of a planning grant being submitted in 2020. The Board is supportive of the South Fork Crow 1W1P and would like to move forward with planning at this time.
- VII. Personnel: Hatlewick requested to schedule a Personnel Committee Meeting
- VIII. Program Updates

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**

1. Cost-Share Program, extension on 2017 State Cost-Share: Motion to apply for an extension **(Kelly, Schroeder) MSC**
Motion to allow Hatlewick signatory approval for an extension on the 2018 Buffer Cost and 2017 State Cost-share. **(Kelly, Koenig) MSC**
2. Staff Report- Mike Sandager: Update on buffer inspections. 1/3 of county every 3 years: Area A scheduled to inspect all parcels with a ditch system or public waterway. Area B and C parcels were inspected due to questionable compliancy. 3-5% non-compliant, unable to determine some of the parcel's compliancy- will be working with the County to determine if they are compliant or not. Paid out 117 Buffer Cost Share Contracts, \$71,000. Roger Heller alternative practice design complete, County will be applying for another round of Cost Share. Has found some wild parsnip in road ditches. The Townships and County will be spraying to control this Fall.
3. Staff Reports-
 - a. Holly Hatlewick
 - Field Day on the 20th- a different group of producers attended. 1W1P- taking the lead on the Advisory Committee. Met with Senator Tina Smith. Asked to meet with National Geographic on November 22, 2019. Discussing having a mental health meeting in December with HCWP and Renville County Health. We are hosting the MASWCD Area VI Meeting on November 21. The Renville SWCD did not nominate an Outstanding Conservationist this year. We were unable to get a producer to accept the nomination. Discussed starting earlier in the year to award a producer at the local level so that the producer can get comfortable when it comes time to be awarded at the state level.
 - b. Melissa Edmondson
 - Helping Mike with buffer inspections and attended many Field Days and outreach events.
 - Made informal contracts for contractors
 - Reached out to businesses about catering the Area VI Meeting
 - Prepped and worked the Soil Health & Cover Crop Field Day
 - Attended the Governance 101 training
 - Worked the U of M field day
 - Inspected buffers in Brookfield, Hector, Melville, and Martinsburg
 - Attended the Hawk Creek Appreciation Picnic
 - c. Michael Sandager
 - Buffer Law
 - Inspections completed for Wang, Ericson, Crooks, Winfield, Kingman, Brookfield, Hawk Creek, Sacred Heart, Sacred Heart South, Emmet, Troy, Bird Island, Melville, Hector, Sioux Agency, Flora, Henryville, Delhi, Beaver Falls, Cairo Township
 - Cost-Share: Submitted 18-131, 18-132, 18-133, 18-134, 18-138, 18-139, 18-153, 18-154, 18-186, 18-198, 19-3, 19-19, 19-34, 19-35, 19-36, 19-38, 19-39, 19-40, 19-42, 19-43, 19-49 for payment
 - Agricultural Inspector
 - Responded to complaints of wild parsnip
 - Completed weed inspections during buffer site visits

- Outreach/Education
 - Life in the Pits, 9-11-19
- d. Karen Wermers
 - CRP
 - Creating seed plans and maps for CRP
 - Assisting with cost-share and management questions
 - CREP
 - 33 out of 34 easements from 2018 are recorded
 - 15 new CREP easements
 - Gathering ownership/eligibility documents for CREP easements
 - Updated boundaries and payment information for CREP easements
 - Updating easement tracker spreadsheets
 - Assisting BWSR and FSA with CREP easements
 - OTHER
 - Attended Hawk Creek Watershed Project appreciation picnic
 - Life in the Pits, 9-11-19
- e. Cody Dale
 - RIM/CREP
 - Completed 2019 RIM inspections
 - CREP construction plans
 - Wetland Conservation Act
 - Limbo Creek culvert replacement
 - Other
 - BWSR Academy October 29-31
 - Attended cover crop field day Sibley & Renville

4. NRCS Report

IX. Resolutions or Board actions to be taken:

1. Motion to approve the amendment on DRAP II 65-11-14 contract for \$460,960.00.

(Schroeder, Koenig) MSC

- X. Miscellaneous announcements: The MASWCD Convention information has come out. Registration deadline is November 27. The Convention will be held December 8-10, 2019. Koenig will attend Monday. Hatlewick will be attending Monday through Tuesday morning. Kelly plans to attend, when is yet to be determined

XI. Other:

1. Kelly gave a BWSR Buffer Program Update: 16 counties are fully compliant, and 37 counties have enforcement cases in progress. 3,000 alternative practices recorded.
2. Maul: Update on work areas, Jason Beckler head of easement position, Tara Ostendorf took a position with private consulting firm. Jeremy picked up some watershed areas.

XII. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 am. **(Kelly, Koenig) MSC**

CHAIRMAN