

Renville Soil & Water Conservation District
1008 West Lincoln, Olivia MN 56277
Phone: 320-523-1550 ext. 3 Fax: 320-523-2389



MINUTES FROM THE JULY 9, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
located at the SWCD Shed, 215 26th St North Olivia, MN

Social distance and other in person CDC recommendation apply during this meeting.

Board Members Present: Koenig, Kelly, Schroeder, Kokesch, Jepson
Staff Present: Holly Hatlewick, Ethan Dahl
Other Present: Lyle Lundstrum, County Commissioner Schmidt

- I. Call to order 7:31am
- 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 June 2020 regular meeting and bills. **(Kelly, Schroeder) MSC**
- IV. Old Business
 1. Operational items/staff concerns: none brought forward
 2. 1W1P update: Update provided by Administrator Hatlewick; Hawk/Middle MN plan is progressing. The South Fork Crow application for planning funding was submitted and is currently under BWSR review.
- V. New Business
 1. Outreach Events: Discussed a possible fall field event and the concerns related to bringing a group together in person. If a field event is planned the Board would like all in attendance to wear masks. Motion: To move forward with planning a fall soil health tour based on the discretion of Administrator Hatlewick and partners involved in the event. **(Koenig, Schroeder) MSC**
- VI. Personnel Committee
- VII. Program Updates
 1. Cost Share Programs: Buffer cost share and cover crop cost share for 2020, are proceeding along.
 2. Staff Reports
 - a. Holly Hatlewick:
 - 2021 budget work and grant reviews
 - Fridays on the Farm, live videos, prep. First video will air live on 7/10/20
 - Soil health planning with Hawk Creek
 - 1W1P HSPF-Sam modeling with Zach from Chippewa SWCD, goal proposal work for Advisory Committee and Steering team meeting
 - Training with Ethan on Buffers and Ag Inspector
 - Buffer Committee meeting
 - Prep work in MSHC First School, Scheduled for Sep 10 & 11, 2020
 - Accepted in the MARL class of XI!

Supervisors: Chair/District 2 **Kevin Kokesch**, Vice Chair/District 3 **Dean Schroeder**,
Treasurer/District 5 **Richard Jepson**, District 4 **Kathryn Kelly**, District 1 **Mark Koenig**,
Staff: District Administrator **Holly Hatlewick**, Administrative Assistant **Melissa Edmondson**, Buffer
Specialist/Agricultural Inspector **Ethan Dahl**

- b. Melissa Edmondson:
 - RIM site inspections
 - Unpaid leave
 - Outreach activities
 - Buffer and Ag Inspector Committee Meeting

- c. Cody Dale:

- RIM/CREP

- 6 CREP applications submitted and pending approval
 - 3 CREP wetland restoration projects completed in June. Ginsburg, Schafer, Zimmerman
 - 1 RIM wetland repair project in progress (rained out). Groen/Maurice
 - Assisting multiple landowners with easement recording process.
 - Seeding reimbursements

- Wetland Conservation Act

- Kingman Wetland Bank final application noticed for review and comments

- d. Ethan Dahl:

- Buffer Law

- Buffer and Ag Inspector meeting on 06/29/20, discussed disciplinary actions on those still not in compliance
 - Will be mailing out compliance warnings still found non-compliant
 - Buffer inspections on site complaints
 - Buffer trainings with Paul Erdman and Holly

- Agricultural Inspector

- Noxious Weed Inspections on site complaints
 - Buried underwear and tea bags around the county
 - Cover Crops Virtual online seminar

- MAWQCP

- Completion of Brian Greenslit's initial MAWQCP assessment, in the fall Herman and I will do a site visit to address what can be done to get him into compliance.
 - Erik Nelson looks interested in getting certified, working with him on the application process
 - Additional endorsements meant to recognize those producers who are going above and beyond in the areas of soil health, integrated pest management, and wildlife.

- Other

- Ag Learn Training on Conservation Planner Certification
 - KOLV radio guest talk and twitter write up on wild parsnip

- 3. NRCS Report – Jeff Kjorness, DC: attached

- 4. Board Reports

- Kokesch:** Personnel committee meeting and frequent communications with Administrator Hatlewick on COVID operations.

- Kelly:** Some BWSR meetings and behind the scenes work.

- Jepson:** nothing to report

- Schroeder:** Buffer/Ag Inspector meeting at Landfill.

- Koenig:** Area VI TSA phone meeting and The Farmer Mag write up of the scholarship program.

- Schmidt:** 1W1P Policy virtual meeting was surprised at the cost of preparing the plan. Discussed county tire collection event. County commissioners will once again be meeting in person starting June 23rd.

VIII. Other: Addition added prior to agenda approval.

1. SWCD Vacancy, the Water Resource Technician Job will become vacant on 7/17/20. Motion to authorize Administrator Hatlewick with oversight from the Personnel Committee to evaluate the position, advertise the vacancy, interview and move forward with an offer of employment on the Board's behalf. **(Koenig, Schroder) MSC**
 2. Shared services agreements; discussed possible shared services agreements with partners for WCA and Technical Services. Motion: Authorize Administrator Hatlewick to move forward and negotiate as needed on the Board's behalf, **(Kelly, Koenig) MSC**
 3. Buffalo Creek Watershed Project/JD15 proposal; the group is looking at a possible BWSR Clean Water Grant for Multi-Purpose Drainage Water Management Plan (MDMP). At this point the planning is in the development phase and the group is simply looking for support to move forward with developing a plan. Motion: To support plan development only at this time, not implantation of a MDMP or plan content. **(Jepson, Koenig) MSC**
- IX. Upcoming meetings and dates to remember: None at this time. Aug SWCD meeting will also be held at the District Shed.
- X. Motion to adjourn at 8:56 A.M. **(Koenig, Schroeder) MSC**

CHAIRMAN