

Renville Soil & Water Conservation District
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**MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 13, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
located at the Renville County Office Building**

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

Staff Present: Holly Hatlewick, Cody Dale, Melissa Edmondson

Other Present: None

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kokesch at 7:32 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 December 12, 2019 regular meeting, bills, and treasurer's report. **(Kelly, Schroeder) MSC**
- IV. Old Business:
 1. Staff Grievance: Dispensed, no grievances brought forward for this month
- V. New Business:
 1. Board Reorganization
 - a. Chair: Koenig nominated Kokesch. Kokesch nominated Kelly. Kelly, motioned nominations ceased, and an anonymous closed ballot was taken. Seconded by Koenig. Ballot results 3 votes for Kokesch, and 2 for Kelly.
Vice Chair: Koenig nominated Kelly, second Kokesch, Kelly nominated Schroeder, second Koenig. Koenig moved nominations ceased, and an anonymous closed ballot be taken. 3 votes for Schroeder and 2 for Kelly.
Treasurer: Koenig nominated Hebrink, 2nd by Kelly. **MSC** Kelly motioned nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Hebrink, second Koenig **(MSC)**
Motion to set the policy that there be no limit on the number of consecutive terms an SWCD officer can serve **(Koenig, Schroeder) MSC**
 - b. Motion to keep the Committee Representatives the same as 2019. **(Kelly, Schroeder) MSC**
 - c. Motion to keep the meeting date every 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30 AM. **(Schroeder, Kelly) MSC**
 - d. Motion to continue using the same banking facilities as we currently are. **(Koenig, Schroeder) MSC**
 - e. Motion to have the District Administrator be the delegated signatory authority for the SWCD Board of Supervisor for all BWSR financial obligations and programs, as well as other agencies for the purpose of grant administration and oversight of all SWCD business. **(Kelly, Koenig) MSC**
 - f. Motion to increase Capital Fixed Assets from \$500 to \$2500.00. **(Kelly, Koenig) MSC**
 2. Motion to pay the MASWCD 2020 dues of \$3,590.64. **(Kelly, Koenig) MSC**

VI. 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 Programs:
 - a. Motion to extend the cost share deadline for seeding buffer strips to August 31, 2020 and all paperwork must be turned in by September 30, 2020. **(Schroeder, Hebrink) MSC**
 - b. Motion to handle CRP internally and not hire a new Farmbill Technician at this time. **(Koenig, Hebrink) MSC**
2. Staff Reports-
 - a. Holly Hatlewick
 - Planning 2/18/20 Reduce Tillage Cover Corp meeting
 - Meet with County on 2020 appropriation plan
 - Meetings with partners on CRP/CREP workload
 - Presented at Conservation Tillage Conference Dec 17th & 18th, on Soil Health
 - U of MN, Economics of Soil Health Symposium Committee
 - Presented on Soil Health at MN Cattleman's Annual Convention
 - Partnering with Ridge Water College on 2020 Soil Health Day event March 6th
 - b. Melissa Edmondson
 - Assisted with meeting preparations and attended the Ag Issues Meeting
 - Completed the vehicle log
 - Attended the SafeTALK training in Marshall
 - Took the White Chevy to Redwood to be serviced
 - Attended the Cover Crop Champions meeting at Max's
 - Prepared a 1099 list & asked for W-9s
 - Reserved the county meeting room for the January board meeting
 - Sent the Cover Crop Cost Share Vouchers to the accountant
 - Sent the MASWCD Area VI Scholarship info to District Managers
 - Completed Buffer Cost Share site inspections
 - Prepared an appropriation invoice for the County
 - Grant reconciliation with eLink and CDS
 - c. Michael Sandager
 - Buffer Law
 - 1-3-2020 – Buffer Committee Meeting
 - Validating compliance for landowners who have become compliant after receiving a corrective action notice
 - 213 completed and mailed
 - Cost-Share: 124 contracts have been paid, total of \$76,078.00 sent to landowners

<i>Renville County Buffer Compliance 1-2-2020</i>						
	Yes		Yes, based on prelim		No	
16.5	1982	86%	242	11%	75	3%
16.5 & 50	50	91%	2	4%	3	5%
50	729	99%	5	1%	2	0%
Total	2761	89%	249	8%	80	3%

Agricultural Inspector

- 1-3-2020 – Ag Inspector Committee Meeting
- Discussed pesticide jug pick up dates and logistics

Outreach/Education

- Area 6 Meeting – Nov 21

d. Cody Dale

RIM/CREP

- Conservation plans & updating cover on current easements
- Easement repair surveys & projects
- CREP construction plans & surveys
- RIM tree plantings
- Assisting BWSR/Law office with easement mods

Wetland Conservation Act

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

Other

- RIM alteration policy
- Well sealing
- Ag water quality applications
- Erosion control site visits
- Waterway & grade stabilization projects

3. NRCS Report Jeff Kjorness- None given at this time.

4. Koenig: Attended the December Board Meeting. The MASWCD Area VI Scholarship recipient reported her 4.0 grade point average and has been awarded her funds.

Hebrink: Observed the 1W1P Meeting

Schroeder: Attended the Buffer & Ag Inspector Meeting, and a No Till Conference

Kelly: Attended the Buffer & Ag Inspector Meeting, 1W1P Meeting, Ag Issues Meeting, and plans to attend Legislative Days

Kokesch: Attended the December Board Meeting

Hatlewick: Presenting at the Ridgewater Soil Health Day on March 6, presenting at the Isaac Walton even on March 7 in St. Paul, helping plan the U of M Economics of Soil Health Symposium, there has been discussion that the County Task Force will be dissolving- the Supervisors are not supportive of the Task Force dissolving.

Hatlewick has a MARL application that Kokesch needs to sign. Hatlewick reminded the Board that the MN Finance Campaign Finance Record Report needs to be completed.

X. Other: The Supervisors and SWCD Staff reviewed the SWCD Strategic Plan

XI. Upcoming meetings and dates to remember: Reduce Till Meeting February 18, Legislative Days March 24 & 25.

XII. Motion to adjourn at 12:26 PM. **(Koenig, Kelly)**

CHAIRMAN