

Renville Soil & Water Conservation District
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MINUTES FROM THE JULY 18, 2019 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Staff Present: Cody Dale, Holly Hatlewick, & Mike Sandager

Others Present: Representative Tim Miller; Greg Snow, Renville County Commissioners; Heidi Raunhorst, Hawk Creek Watershed Project; Dave & Lanae Wordes, Champion Farmers; Scott, City of Franklin Community Coop member.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kokesch at 5:00 P.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 June 13, 2019 regular meeting, bills, and treasurer's report. **(Koenig, Schroeder) MSC**
- IV. Reports of officers, board, and committees:
 1. Scott- gave a background on how Franklin was able to build a community center and community operated day care center. Franklin formed a local co-op, sold stocks, and used multiple funding sources.
 2. Tim Miller – Gave a legislative update and explained it was budget year which made for a busy session. Discussed capacity funding sources and that it has been coming from the Legacy tax, and Miller believes it should stay there. Discussed the Limbo Creek cleanout project.
 3. Kelly: Has had some personnel committee meetings. Attended the Area VI Meeting, discussed the resolutions and that Area VI will not be submitting any for convention in 2019. Also, at the Area meeting the Area pledged support of \$2000.00 for the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition and will continue for 2019 & 2020, and to partner with Area V on a Farm Fest booth.
 4. Hebrink: Attended the Prevent Plant meeting on June 26th hosted by the SWCD and Hawk creek, thought the meeting was well attended and had good discussion.
 5. Schroeder: Attended the June 26th Prevent Plant meeting, thought it was a good crowd and had new attendees. Thought the meeting was beneficial to local farmers and neighboring counties farmers who also attended.
 6. Koenig: Attended Area VI meeting and enjoyed the presentation on the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition. Presented on the Scholarship program and thanked the Board and staff for their efforts on this.
 7. Kokesch: Attended personnel committee meetings, otherwise busy with his work duties and no other SWCD activities to report
- V. Unfinished Business:
 1. Staff Grievance: Dispensed, no grievances
- VI. New Business:
 1. Petition to abandon public tile easement # 65-13-18-01 and # 65-10-18-01 **(Koenig, Schroeder) MSC**

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**

VII. Program Updates

1. Cost-Share Program Updates-

- a. Buffers- Sandager gave an update on Buffer compliance. We discussed the cutoff for cost share of Sept 15th and how it will affect those landowners who had planned to seed their buffer this fall. There are 2200 parcels in Renville County affected by the law.
- b. Ag Inspector- Sandager relayed his recent activities and workload relevant to this topic, mostly thistle complaints and some wild parsnips in Flora township.
- c. CREP- Dale gave an update on and relayed Renville has submitted 3 CREP apps in the first batch and possible 9 will go in on 7/26, in the second batch. No CREP construction has happened yet this summer, Dale is hoping for some fall construction.
- d. Cover Crop Cost Share- Hatlewick relayed we have 57 contracts and have encumbered \$70,446.00. There are no additional funds remaining, but we are taking names on a waiting list.
- e. Cost Share- Hatlewick gave an update on planned projects. Discussed the need for a small repair to a retention dam outlet in Birch Cooley 19; motion, provide 100% cost share for up to \$5000.00 on dam outlet that was completed in fall 2018, authorize Administrator Hatlewick all obligatory and approval authority for this repair contract oversight. **(Kelly, Koenig) MSC**

2. Staff Reports

- a. Holly Hatlewick
 - Collaborating with Yellow Medicine SWCD, University of MN and Hawk Creek for a three-day series event Sept 10,11,12 in Granite Falls, including a producer training, SWCD/partners training and a women's landowner event.
 - Launched 2019 NWF cameras, and data collection materials
 - Preparing MASWCD Farmfest booth with Edmondson
 - Planted plots for farm plots for Minnesota Soil Health Coalition
 - Prepared and submitted a joint grant application with Hawk Creek Watershed Project for \$20,000 in NWF research funds, funding decided end of July
 - Graduate from the First MASWCD Admin Course, was a very valuable course and well worth the time and expense
 - Working on CREP and CRP eligibility, contract revisions and modifications, during our Farm Bill Assistances absence. CRP eligibility completed 11, and CREP eligibility completed 2
 - Goblisch, DRAP II, dam was damaged from large storm event, working with AREA II and BWSR, on potential repair options
 - Skolbeck stream bank, working with Cody on partners on bid process
- b. Melissa Edmondson
 - Assisted with the Cover Crop Cost Share Program
 - Farm Fest booth planning
 - Ordered water bottles with SWCD & MN Soil Health Coalition logos on labels
 - Soil Health & Cover Crop Field Day planning meeting

- Ordered freebie items for the Fair and Farm Fest
 - Created Drill Rental Invoices
 - Edited website
 - Prevent Plant Meeting planning
 - Attended the Native Plant ID Training
 - Sent payroll to accountant
 - Shed concrete bids
- c. Michael Sandager
- Buffer Law
- Working with landowners on compliance
 - Conducted 23 site visits for Buffer CS and corrective action notices
 - Validating compliance for landowners with sufficient buffers
 - Buffer Cost-Share
 - 69 completed contracts paying a total of \$54,421
 - 28 contracts in process of payment for a total of \$14,288
 - Submitted 18-11, 18-123, 18-198, 18-202, 18-217, 18-220, 18-222 for payment
 - Creating Master Inspection List for Non-Compliant Parcels, Buf CS required inspections, and yearly required inspections.
- Agricultural Inspector
- Worked with applicators on testing requirements
 - Conducted seed inspection of buffer seed mixes for palmer amaranth
 - Worked with landowners on thistle control
- Outreach/Education
- Organized Pesticide Container Pick-up for August 21
- Other
- Rental of drill
 - Admin of rain gauge
 - Assisting landowners with preventive planting and cover crop cost-share
 - 6-27 to 6-28 Attended Basics of Construction Plans and Construction Supervision Training
- d. Karen Wermers
- On Maternity Leave
- e. Cody Dale
- RIM/CREP
- Creating & submitting CREP applications
 - Received \$75,000 grant funds for RIM project(s).
 - Received \$15,000 work budget for specific RIM repair
 - Received \$30,000 work budget for specific RIM repair
- Wetland Conservation Act
- Wetland bank prospectus

4. NRCS Report- printed copy provided

VIII. Resolutions or Board actions to be taken:

1. Handsfree policy- discussed at this time following the Renville County policy and equipping the dodge with a Bluetooth accessory within the new law.

2. Discussed the shed repairs, Hatlewick gave an update that the hope is construction will begin in August.
- IX. Other: Koenig asked for an update on the SWCD Lease and future location plans. Hatlewick relayed she has been discussing this topic with the County and will explore other options before the August Board Meeting.
 - X. Upcoming meetings and dates to remember- SWCD Board Meeting August 8, Minnesota Soil Health Coalition Kick Off August 16, Area V & VI ATTT Cover Crop Training August 27 & 28, MASWCD Governance 101 September 12 & 13, Renville SWCD & Hawk Creek Cover Crop Field Day September 20.
 - XI. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 P.M. (**Hebrink, Koenig**) MSC

CHAIRMAN