



**MINNESOTA
SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

*Minutes of the January 11, 2018 Board Meeting
Martin Soil and Water Conservation District
Fairmont, Minnesota*

**Meeting called to order by Schmidt at 9:00 am
The Pledge of Allegiance**

Members present: Clair Schmidt – Chair, Judy Beckman – Vice Chair, Linda Meschke – Member, Larry Cowing – Member, and Tyler Ask – Member

Others present: Steve Flohrs – County Commissioner Liaison, Ashley Brenke – District Manager, Greg Johanson – Farm Bill Technician, and Dustin Benes – Technician

Elections

A motion was made by Ask to nominate Beckman as Chair, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Meschke to nominate Cowing as Vice Chair, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Committee Assignments

A motion was made by Meschke to approve all committee assignments, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Institution Designation

A motion was made by Ask to maintain our checking account at State Bank of Fairmont and the District's LISA savings account at Profinium Financial, second by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Schmidt to add Cowing as an authorized signer at State Bank of Fairmont and Profinium Financial, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

Additions to Agenda

Old Business

Joint breakfast with Supervisors and County Commissioners

A motion was made by Ask to approve the agenda with the addition, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the December 14, 2017 Secretary's Report, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Schmidt to approve the December 29, 2017 Special Meeting Secretary's Report, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Schmidt to approve the Treasurer's Report, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Bills - None

Programs

Cost-Share Programs

State Cost-Share

Completed Projects

CS #7-18 Bill Nielson
Township: Rutland
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$2,000.00
Cost Share Requested: \$1,000.00
Eligible Project Cost: \$2,417.50
Cost Share Due: \$1,000.00

A motion was made by Ask to approve payment of \$1,000.00 for CS #7-18, second by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

Buffer Cost Share

Pre-approved

BCS #13-18 Valley News
Township: Westford
Project: Buffer
Project Bid Amount: \$150.00
Cost Share Requested: \$150.00

A motion was made by Meschke to encumber \$150.00 for BCS #13-18, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Completed project

BCS #12-18 Mike Butler
Township: Center Creek
Project: Buffer
Project Bid Amount: \$75.00
Cost Share Requested: \$75.00
Eligible Project Cost: \$75.00
Cost Share Due: \$75.00

A motion was made by Ask to approve payment of \$75.00 for BCS #12-18, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Grant Programs

Final Financial Reports

E-link Financial Reports are due February 1. A list of the final grant closeouts will be brought to the next Board meeting for review and approval.

Old Business

Joint Breakfast

A joint breakfast with County Commissioners will be held at the Ranch Restaurant Tuesday January 16, 7:00 am.

2018 Annual Plan

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the 2018 Annual Plan, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

Watowan River One Watershed, One Plan

A Watowan River One Watershed, One Plan informal meeting will be held January 31.

One Supervisor and one Commissioner will be appointed to the committee.

A motion was made by Schmidt to appoint Ask and Beckman (alternate) as District representatives to the policy committee, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Conservation Update

Articles are being submitted to the Photo Press for the Conservation Update, which will be published on January 24.

Open House

Our open house and tree days will be held on Friday February 2, from 8 to 5, and Saturday February 3, from 8 to Noon.

Job Shadowing by High School Students

Students interested in pursuing a career in Conservation can job shadow through an Ag Literacy program at the Fairmont High School. One or two High School Seniors will be job shadowing SWCD for 1 hour a week from January through April.

A motion was made by Ask to be supportive of the job shadowing program, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Storage Lease

The annual lease payment of \$2,340.00 is due for our three storage units.

A motion was made by Schmidt to approve payment of \$2,340.00 for the storage unit lease, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Days

MASWCD sent out a notice that Legislative Days will be held March 12-13.

Wetlands and Drainage Conference

Rinke Noonan is hosting a Drainage and Wetlands conference on February 15 if any Supervisor is interested in attending.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Summit

An AIS Summit will be held on February 28 and March 1 in Minneapolis. Cost of the event is \$169.00 plus 1 night hotel.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the costs for 1 staff to attend the AIS Summit, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

AgBMP Loan Program

An annual report was given by Johanson.

8 loans for \$500,000 were approved in 2017.

In 2018, \$304,000.00 is available. We can request more funds if needed.

A motion was made by Meschke to accept the AgBMP annual plan, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

County Commissioner – Flohrs

Tom Mahoney was elected as the new Chair, and Kathy Smith elected as the Vice Chair.

An additional \$3,000 was allocated to the District. BWSR will match the allocation dollar for dollar and the funds will be used for conservation projects.

Drainage Authority raised the beaver bounty from \$20 to \$50.

District Conservationist Report – Norland

Handout

The District will host a Local Work Group identifying resource concerns for Martin County. The Local Work Group will meet on March 8 from 10:30 to 12 after the SWCD Board meeting.

District Manager Report – Brenke

Handout

Water Plan Advisory Committee - Beckman

The last water plan meeting was on December 14 at the Fairmont Water Plant.

Herman Bartsch with MDA gave an update on the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). Wendy Chirpich from Planning and Zoning gave an update, and announced an upcoming meeting Septic System 101 for homeowners on February 8.

The Meeting ended with a tour of the water plant.

SCTSA – Schmidt

TSA will continue to host trainings for SWCD's in 2018. The TSA currently has staff vacancies.

GBERBA – Ask

The next Policy meeting is January 12, and Technical meeting on January 24.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Ask to adjourn the meeting, second by Meschke. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:08 am.

Respectfully submitted,

February 8, 2018 Date Approved *Austin Benec* Secretary-Treasurer