



**MINNESOTA
SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

*Minutes of the July 13, 2017 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 Jr. – Chair, Judy Beckman – Vice Chair, Linda Meschke – Member, and Larry Cowing – Member

Absent: Tyler Ask – Member

Others present: Ashley Brenke – District Manager, Alyson Eversman – Conservation Corps Intern, Steve Flohrs – County Commissioner Liaison, Jesse Walters – Outreach Coordinator, Rich Perrine – Technician, Greg Johanson – Technician, Veryle Williamson – Land Owner, Steve Williamson – Land Owner, Betsy Norland – District Conservationist, and Dustin Benes – Technician

Changes or Additions to Agenda

Old Business

NRCS Operational Agreement

New Business

MDA Proposed Nitrogen Rule

A motion was made by Beckman to approve the additions to Agenda, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the June 8, 2017 Secretary's Report, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

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

Bills to Pay

No additional bills to pay

Programs
Cost-Share Programs

State Cost-Share

Completed Projects

CS #12-17 Jeff Nelson
Township: Silver Lake
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$1,047.82
Cost Share Requested: \$523.00
Eligible Project Cost: \$981.48
Cost Share Due: \$490.00
Slippage: \$33.00

A motion was made by Meschke to approve payment of \$490.00 for CS #12-17, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

New Projects

CS #18-17 Sandra Larson
Township: Center Creek
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$2,535.00
Cost Share Requested: \$1,000.00

A motion was made by Beckman to encumber \$1,000.00 for CS #18-17, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #19-17 Lynn Altman
Township: Galena
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$1,185.00
Cost Share Requested: \$592.00

A motion was made by Meschke to encumber \$592.00 for CS #19-17, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #20-17 Dale Jurs 1
Township: Lake Belt
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$907.50
Cost Share Requested: \$453.00

A motion was made by Beckman to encumber \$453.00 for CS #20-17, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #21-17 Dale Jurs 2
Township: Lake Belt
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$200.00
Cost Share Requested: \$100.00

A motion was made by Beckman to encumber \$100.00 for CS #21-17, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

CF #1-17 Krusemark Farms
Township: Galena
Project: Cover Crops 1 species
Project Size: 50 Acres @ \$30.00 Acre
Contract Term: 3 Years
Cost Share Requested: \$4,500.00

A motion was made by Meschke to encumber \$4,500.00 for CF #1-17, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

CF #2-17 Faber Brothers
Township: Elm Creek
Project: Cover Crops multiple species
Project Size: 30 Acres @ \$41.00 Acre
Contract Term: 3 Years
Cost Share Requested: \$3,690.00

A motion was made by Beckman to encumber \$3,690.00 for CF #2-17, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

DRAP Phase 3 (Flood Projects)

New Projects

DRAP #1-16 Chuck Johnson
Township: Waverly
Project: Waterway
Project Bid Amount: \$55,000.00
Cost Share Requested: \$34,958.00

A motion was made by Meschke to encumber \$34,958.00 for DRAP #1-16, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Grant Programs

Buffer Implementation Grant agreement for \$60,000.00 from BWSR for project funds.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve Buffer Implementation Grant agreement, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Buffer Initiative

District Staff continue to work with landowners to install buffers.

25 X 25 Community Meetings

Governor Dayton's new goal to improve water quality by 25 percent by the year 2025. There will be community meetings held throughout the state addressing the issue. Open to the public, one will be held at MSU Mankato on August 16, at 6:00 pm.

CWF FY18 Grant Application

Application for CWF FY18 is due August 9, 2017. Applying for a \$210,000.00 CWF FY18 Grant for the Fairmont Chain of Lakes Watershed. Focusing on Treatment Wetlands along Dutch Creek and reducing Nitrogen coming into Fairmont's drinking source water.

A motion was made by Beckman to approve submitting a CWF FY18 Grant Application, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Operational Agreement

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the Cooperative Working Agreement between NRCS and Martin SWCD, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Beckman to approve the Operational Agreement with 2 Common Computing Environment Seats, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Cost-Share Policy

A motion was made by Meschke to adopt the updated Cost-Share Policy, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

NACD Update/Letter

NACD is asking Districts to send a letters to Senators and Representatives to support funding for NRCS. Meschke will prepare a draft letter for review.

Job Approval Authority (JAA)

BWSR is working on getting training to Districts for Job Approval Authority.

Williamson CREP Easement Alteration Request

Steve and Veryle Williamson were present to discuss their CREP alteration request. The Williamsons would like to close an open private ditch which their easement surrounds as a buffer (letter attached). They would like to move the easement to a different location on the same field. In 2006 the BWSR Easement Policy was set at a 2:1 ratio for easement alterations. They are asking the District to support a 1:1 easement alteration.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve submitting a letter to BWSR supporting 1:1 Easement Alteration Request, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously. This motion in no way expresses an opinion on the proposed drainage project.

Martin County Fair

The District Fair booth will feature Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species and Nutrient Management. 4H is asking for \$100.00 to support their Blue Ribbon Auction.

A motion was made by Beckman to approve \$100.00 for the Blue Ribbon Auction, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

Aquatic Invasive Species

A motion was made by Meschke to approve hiring Prairie Ecology Bus Center for MCW school curriculum on AIS, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Beckman to approve purchasing signs from Visual Identity, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Beckman to purchase 10 AIS t-shirts for staff at approximately \$18.00 each, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Nitrogen Rule

MDA is proposing a new Nitrogen rule, targeting vulnerable groundwater areas.

Reports

Special Meetings

DNR AIS Ambassador

Walters, Eversman, Benes, and Tyler Cowing attended AIS Ambassador training in St. James hosted by the DNR.

Area VI Meeting

Beckman, Cowing, Walters, Brenke and Benes attended the Area VI meeting. Education task force scholarship program guidelines approved. Area VI will be participating in Farm Fest, \$500.00 payment for two years with Area V, 2017 and 2018. Two resolutions were presented, one from Martin and one from Waseca, both passed. Job Approval Authority (JAA) - BWSR is working on getting training for SWCD's. Governor Dayton's 25 X 25 was discussed and community meetings are scheduled around the state.

County Commissioners Report – Flohrs

County is working on Drainage and the Budget. The Commissioner's meeting time has been changed to 9:00 a.m., starting August 1, 2017.

District Conservationist Report - Norland

EQIP 2018 application deadline is August 18, 2017. Updates were given on CSP, RCPP, CRP, ACEP, Program Outreach, Wetland Determinations, and upcoming meetings and trainings.

District Manager Report - Brenke

Watowan River Watershed was awarded a planning grant for One Watershed One Plan. Nitrogen Smart meeting will be held August 29 at the Knights of Columbus.

Water Plan Advisory Committee

Meeting was held on June 29, discussed the Other Waters category for the buffer initiation. The Committee then went on a field tour of District projects.

SCTSA – Schmidt

The TSA Board met in June. Discussed budget, grants, and new staff.

GBERBA

Next GBERBA meeting is a Joint Tech and Policy meeting on July 14, 2017.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Cowing, second by Beckman to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:07 am.

Respectfully submitted,

August 10, 2017 Date Approved Dustin Benes Secretary-Treasurer