



MINNESOTA SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the May 4, 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, Tyler Ask – Member, Linda Meschke – Member, Larry Cowing – Member

Absent: Judy Beckman – Vice Chair

Others present: Ashley Brenke – District Manager, Steve Flohrs – County Commissioner Liaison, Jesse Walters – Outreach Coordinator, Greg Johanson – Farm Bill Technician, Rich Perrine – WCA Technician, and Dustin Benes – Technician

Changes or Additions to Agenda

New Business

Technology Upgrades

Drainage Grant

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

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the April 13, 2017 Secretary's Report, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

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

Bills to Pay

No additional bills to pay

Programs

Cost-Share Programs

State Cost-Share

New Projects

CS #17-17 Jackie Mann

Township: Manyaska
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$540.00
Cost Share Requested: \$270.00

A motion was made by Meschke to encumber \$270.00 for CS #17-17, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

GBERBA

New Project

46-01 Larry Cowing
Township: Center Creek
Project: Cover Crops
Project Bid Amount: \$1,800.00
Cost Share Requested: \$1,350.00

A motion was made by Ask to encumber \$1,350.00 for 46-01, second by Meschke. Motion passed. Cowing abstained.

Grant Programs

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the FY17 Capacity Grant for \$103,000.00, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Buffer Initiative

Discussion about alternative practices.
Some stretches were removed from the public waters list.

Survey Work Policy

A draft policy was wrote up for using our survey equipment.
A motion was made by Meschke to approve the policy with changes discussed, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

MASWCD Resolutions

Report back in June about Resolutions.

New Business

Technology Upgrade

Discussion about looking into a computer server. Discussion about a new host for our website and emails.

Certified Wetland Delineator

University of Minnesota will have a five day wetland delineator course in Little Falls, September 11-15, Benes is looking to attend. Tuition for the course is \$900.00 plus \$100.00 for the certification exam and hotel cost for 5 nights.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve expenses for 1 staff to attend, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

John Deere Gator Repair

Repair costs to fix the brakes, 4 wheel drive, and front axle shaft will run \$650.00 for our 2007 John Deere Gator. Discussion about purchasing a new Gator.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve fixing the Gator, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

Martin County Fair Booth

Martin County Fair is August 14-20, cost for two booths are \$450.00.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve payment of \$450.00 for two booths, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

UMN Elm Creek Grant Application

Researchers from the University of Minnesota are submitting a grant application for funds to work in the Elm Creek watershed, in partnership with Rural Advantage and the District.

A motion was made by Ask to approve a letter supporting the grant application, second by Cowing. Motion passed. Meschke abstained.

Fairmont Lakes Foundation Grant Application

Fairmont Lakes Foundation is interested in submitting a grant application to the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Discussion about last year's proposal and assistance from SWCD staff.

FY2018 Farm Bill Assistant Proposal

Fifty percent of the Farm Bill Technician's pay comes from this grant.

A motion was made by Ask to submit the FY2018 Farm Bill Assistant proposal for \$29,250.00, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Drainage Grant

Martin County Drainage Authority, with assistance from ISG, is submitting an application for funds for water storage through LCCMR and are asking for grant support.

A motion was made by Meschke to be a grant supporting partner, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Special Meetings

Area 6 Scholarship meeting – Meschke

Two scholarships will be awarded to students seeking a conservation related degree. Participating students are asked to submit a 1,000 word essay on a selected topic. Two \$500.00 scholarships per year. More information about the scholarships will be available in June.

County Commissioners Report – Flohrs

New playground equipment installed at Cedar Hanson Park.

Rose Lake wind energy project being discussed.

Working on ditches JD50 and CD11.

Discussion about resurfacing County Road 38.

\$15,000.00 in funds put towards drainage at the Fairgrounds.

District Manager Report – Brenke

See handout

Water Plan/WCA Report – Perrine

Next meeting for the Water Plan Advisory Committee will be June 29 at 7:00 p.m.

SCTSA – Schmidt

No SCTSA meeting

GBERBA – Ask

Next Policy meeting will be May 12 at 1:00 pm, and the next Technical meeting will be May 24.

Adjourn

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

Meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June 8, 2017 Date Approved Austin Benes Secretary-Treasurer