



**MINNESOTA  
SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

*Minutes of the November 9, 2017 Board Meeting  
Martin Soil and Water Conservation District  
Fairmont, Minnesota*

**Meeting called to order by Beckman at 9:00 am**

**The Pledge of Allegiance**

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

Absent: Clair Schmidt Jr. – Chair

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

**Additions to Agenda**

**New Business**

CRP contribution agreement

Non Structural Land Management Practices Policy (NLMP)

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

**Secretary's Report**

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the 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 Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

**Additional Bills to Pay**

Brush/front guard for Gator quote for \$262.16

A motion was made by Meschke to approve purchasing a front guard for the Gator, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

## Programs

### Cost-Share Programs

#### State Cost-Share

##### *Completed Projects*

CS #15-16                      Alice Barnes  
Township:                      Pleasant Prairie  
Project:                         Windbreak  
Project Bid Amount:         \$510.60  
Cost Share Requested:       \$382.00  
Eligible Project Cost:       \$479.00  
Cost Share Due:               \$359.00

A motion was made by Meschke to approve \$359.00 for CS #15-16, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #28-17                      Neusch Farms  
Township:                      Silver Lake  
Project:                         Well Sealing  
Project Bid Amount:         \$941.46  
Cost Share Requested:       \$470.00  
Eligible Project Cost:       \$784.97  
Cost Share Due:               \$392.00

A motion was made by Ask to approve \$392.00 for CS #28-17, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

##### *New Projects*

CS #1-18                        Tom Davis 1  
Township:                      Jay  
Project:                         Well Sealing  
Project Bid Amount:         \$957.50  
Cost Share Requested:       \$478.00

A motion was made by Meschke to encumber \$478.00 for CS #1-18, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #2-18                        Tom Davis 2  
Township:                      Jay  
Project:                         Well Sealing  
Project Bid Amount:         \$1,475.00  
Cost Share Requested:       \$737.00

A motion was made by Ask to encumber \$737.00 for CS #2-18, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #3-18                        Tom Davis 3  
Township:                      Jay  
Project:                         Well Sealing  
Project Bid Amount:         \$1,020.00  
Cost Share Requested:       \$510.00

A motion was made by Cowing to encumber \$510.00 for CS #3-18, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #4-18 Anna Agerbeck  
Township: Lake Fremont  
Project: Well Sealing  
Project Bid Amount: \$1,922.50  
Cost Share Requested: \$961.00

A motion was made by Meschke to encumber \$961.00 for CS #4-18, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #5-18 Ken Goerndt  
Township: Pleasant Prairie  
Project: Well Sealing  
Project Bid Amount: \$675.00  
Cost Share Requested: \$337.00

A motion was made by Ask to encumber \$337.00 for CS #5-18, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #6-18 Roger Whitman  
Township: East Chain  
Project: Well Sealing  
Project Bid Amount: \$1,260.00  
Cost Share Requested: \$630.00

A motion was made by Meschke to encumber \$630.00 for CS #6-18, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Capacity 2017**

#### *Completed Project*

CF #1-17 Krusemark Farms  
Township: Galena  
Project: 50 acres, 1 species Cover Crops  
Project Bid Amount: \$4,500.00  
Cost Share Requested: \$4,500.00  
Eligible Project Cost: \$4,500.00  
Cost Share Due: \$4,500.00

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

### **Buffer Cost Share**

#### *Pre-approved*

BCS #9-18 Tom Rahm  
Township: Waverly  
Project: Buffer  
Project Bid Amount: \$150.00  
Cost Share Requested: \$150.00

A motion was made by Ask to encumber \$150.00 for BCS #9-18, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

BCS #10-18 Tom Anderson  
Township: Manyaska  
Project: Buffer  
Project Bid Amount: \$300.00  
Cost Share Requested: \$300.00

A motion was made by Meshke to encumber \$300.00 for BCS #10-18, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

BCS #11-18                      Charles Koestler  
Township:                      Pleasant Prairie  
Project:                         Buffer  
Project Bid Amount:        \$75.00  
Cost Share Requested:     \$75.00

A motion was made by Ask to encumber \$75.00 for BCS #11-18, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

**Watowan River One Watershed, One Plan**

GBERBA was awarded the planning grant for the Watowan River. GBERBA will be responsible for the grant administration and Watowan County will be the fiscal agent.

**Buffer Initiative**

Public waters buffer needed to be installed by November 1, 2017. Many landowners have signed waivers for buffer installation due to the wet fall. Approximately 98% of public waters are compliant in Martin County.

**MASWCD Annual Convention**

Two staff plan on attending. \$374.00 per person cost.

A motion was made by Ask to approve payment of \$374.00 per person and hotel costs for 2 staff to attend the Convention, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

**Strategic Plan Review**

A review of the strategic plan was done.

**New Business**

**Health Insurance**

Personnel Committee recommended keeping the health insurance policy the same as the previous year. Premiums and deductibles both increased by 10%.

A motion was made by Ask to approve keeping the same Health Insurance Plan as recommended by the Personnel Committee, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

**Watershed Conservation Planner**

BWSR approached the District about hiring a staff person to do conservation plans for NRCS through a grant. There is only very preliminary information at this point and staff will look into it more.

**Area 6 Meeting**

The next Area 6 meeting will be on November 29 in Waseca. Two staff and two supervisors will attend.

**East Fork Des Moines River Contract**

PCA is looking at hiring an engineering firm as a contractor through the District to complete the East Fork Des Moines TMDL report for \$15,000.00.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve a \$15,000 contract amendment to hire an engineering firm for the TMDL report in the East Fork Des Moines River contingent on the paperwork, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

**CRP Contribution Agreement**

The District has the opportunity to work with NRCS through MASWCD on a CRP Contribution Agreement to do 6 Conservation Plans at \$440.00 per plan, total of \$2,640.00.

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

**Non Structural Land Management Practice Policy**

A draft plan for nonstructural practices FY18 Cost Share was handed out. Cover crop opportunities would stay the same, except for increases in rates.

Discussion about following EQIP rates for strip till/no till. A \$10 per acre max following NRCS policy, for 3 years. Must be an improvement for less tillage. Staff will present different payment scenarios (acres, etc.) to the Board at the December meeting.

Elm and Center Creek watersheds would remain priority areas and Dutch Creek would be added as a priority.

**Reports**

***Special Meetings***

**MN River Congress**

Next meeting will be held on November 16.

***County Commission – Flohrs***

They have been working on the budget.

County Ditch 350 work continues.

***District Conservationist Report***

Report from Norland was handed out discussing EQIP, CSP, RCPP, CRP, ACEP, Program Outreach, Wetland Determinations, Earth Team Volunteer, and upcoming meetings/trainings.

***District Manager Report – Brenke***

Gave an update on what staff has been working on.

Reminder for an upcoming meeting on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

***Water Plan Advisory Committee – Beckman***

Next meeting will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

***SCTSA***

SCTSA is going through some staff changes; no recent meeting.

***GBERBA – Ask***

Next policy/Technical meeting will be held November 17.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Beckman, second by Meschke to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:39 am.

Respectfully submitted,

*December 14, 2017*

Date Approved

*Dustin Benes*

Secretary-Treasurer