



**MINNESOTA
SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

***Minutes of the January 14, 2016 Board Meeting
Martin Soil and Water Conservation District
Fairmont, Minnesota***

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

Members present: Linda Meschke – Chair/Member, Judy Beckman – Member, Tyler Ask – Member/Chair, Clair Schmidt Jr. – Member/Vice Chair

Absent: Darwin Roberts – Vice Chair/Member

Others present: Ashley Brenke – District Manager, Dustin Benes – District Technician, Greg Johanson – Farm Bill Technician, Rich Perrine – Water Plan/WCA Technician, Steve Flohrs – County Commissioner, Ben Cottrell – NRCS, Reggie Liddell – NRCS

Elections

A motion was made by Beckman to elect Ask as Chair and Schmidt as Vice Chair, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Committee Assignments

A motion was made by Ask to approve the Supervisor Committee Assignments, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Additions to the Agenda

New Business: Storage Unit Rental
Drainage and Wetlands Conference

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

Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

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

Bills to Pay

A motion was made by Meschke to contribute \$1,000.00 to Darwin Roberts for registration costs to attend the NACD conference in Reno, Nevada.

A motion was made by Schmidt to contribute \$800.00 to Darwin Roberts for registration costs to attend the NACD conference in Reno, Nevada, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Beckman to pay vehicle license tabs in the amount of \$64.00, second by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

Programs:

Cost-Share Programs

State Cost-Share

Completed Projects

CS #10-15 Darrel Klenz Well Sealing

Project Bid Amount: \$2,000.00

Cost Share Requested: \$1,000.00

Eligible Project Cost: \$1,915.00

Cost Share Due: \$957.00

Slippage: \$43.00

A motion was made by Meschke to approve payment of \$957.00 for CS #10-15, second by Beckman, motion carried unanimously.

CS #1-16 Glenda Clifford Well Sealing

Project Bid Amount: \$950.00

Cost Share Requested: \$475.00

Eligible Project Cost: \$440.00

Cost Share Due: \$220.00

Slippage: \$255.00

A motion was made by Schmidt to approve payment of \$220.00 for CS #1-16, second by Beckman, motion carried unanimously.

CS #6-16 Neal Becker Well Sealing

Project Bid Amount: \$1,170.00

Cost Share Requested: \$585.00

Eligible Project Cost: \$1,192.50

Cost Share Due: \$585.00

A motion was made by Meschke to approve payment of \$585.00 for CS #6-16, second by Schmidt, motion carried unanimously.

CS #7-16 Clair Schmidt Jr. Well Sealing

Project Bid Amount: \$1,300.00

Cost Share Requested: \$650.00

Eligible Project Cost: \$1,300.00

Cost Share Due: \$650.00

A motion was made by Beckman to approve payment of \$650.00 for CS #7-16, second by Meschke, motion carried unanimously, with Schmidt abstaining.

Clean Water Fund

Partial Payment

CWF #3-14-SWT Gerald Lorenz Wetland

Project Bid Amount: \$36,795.00

Cost Share Requested: \$30,000.00

Eligible Project Cost: \$22,090.00

Cost Share Due: \$20,090.00

A motion was made by Meschke to approve partial payment, second by Beckman. Discussion.

A motion was made by Meschke to amend the amount of the partial payment to 75%, second by Schmidt.

Amendment of partial payment

CWF #3-14-SWT Gerald Lorenz Wetland

Project Bid Amount: \$36,795.00

Cost Share Requested: \$30,000.00

Eligible Project Cost: \$22,090.00

Cost Share Due: \$16,567.00

A motion was made by Meschke to approve amended partial payment amount of \$16,567.00 for CWF #3-14-SWT, second by Schmidt, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion next month on reviewing/changing grant policies.

GBERBA Ravines and Gullies

Cancellation

R&G13 46-02 Larry Cowing Grade Stab

Project Bid Amount: \$120,302.00

Cost Share Requested: \$50,000.00

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the cancellation of R&G13 46-02, second by Beckman, motion carried unanimously.

New Project

R&G13 46-03 Larry Cowing Grade Stab

Project Bid Amount: \$65,000.00

Cost Share Requested: \$50,000.00

A motion was made by Schmidt to approve new contract R&G13 46-03, second by Meschke, motion carried unanimously.

Grant Programs

Brenke reported she is currently working on BWSR eLink reports. Supervisors asked for more information about grants.

A motion was made by Meschke to pursue working with GBERBA on Urban Forestry program, second by Beckman, motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Clear Lake Preservation Association

A motion was made by Meschke to change contract to include an end date of 12/13/19, 4 year deadline for future contracts, second by Beckman, motion carried unanimously.

Buffer Maps

MN DNR is still working on mapping.

Johanson is doing aerial reviews of buffers throughout the County, Township by Township.

Capacity Funding

Brenke reported working with BWSR on our work plan.

2016 Annual Plan/2016 Budget

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the 2016 Annual Plan, second by Beckman, motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Schmidt to approve the 2016 Budget, second by Meschke, motion carried unanimously.

Job Descriptions

A motion was made by Beckman to approve the job descriptions with the additions from the Board, second by Schmidt, motion carried unanimously.

Job descriptions will be revisited each calendar year.

New Business

Conservation Update

Johanson reported he has been working on getting articles for our Conservation Update in the Photo Press. He is planning to have 25 articles. The Update will come out January 27, 2016.

Open House

Martin SWCD is having an Open House January 28th through January 30th, discussing conservation needs in County and Tree Order Days. Comment cards will be available for priority concerns to add to the 2016 Martin County Water Plan.

Martin County Planning Meeting

Perrine reported there is a Martin County Planning Meeting on January 20, 2016 at the Legion in Welcome from 8:30-12:30. Conservation organizations are working with the Conservation Fund to prioritize the criteria for acquisitions.

Storage Lease

A motion was made by Schmidt to approve storage unit lease with Arthur Andrews for \$2,340.00, second by Beckman, motion carried unanimously.

Drainage and Wetlands Conference

A motion was made by Meschke to approve two staff to attend Drainage Wetlands Workshop in St. Cloud on February 11, 2016 at \$95.00 each, second by Beckman, motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Special Meetings

Consensus of Board to change date of next month's meeting from February 11, 2016 to February 4, 2016.

Legislative Days are March 21/22, 2016.

County Commissioner Report - Flohrs

Flohrs agreed GBERBA's grant for Urban Forestry is a good step for towns. Planning and Zoning Office has hired an administrative assistant. Extension is now searching for an administrative assistance.

District Conservationist Report - Liddell

Liddell reported NWQI is available for producers in the NW corner of Martin County. EQIP applications have a step process before they are ranked. Two WRP restorations will be installed during spring/summer 2016. Cottrell reported FSA has many applicants for CRP. Options for CRP include General and Continuous sign-up. Continuous ends February 26, 2016.

District Manager Report - Brenke

See attached report

Johanson reported next meeting we will have an estimate for Truax Drill. The plan is to sell the old trailer at County Auction and work on preparing 6 foot drill for listing.

Water Plan Advisory Committee – Beckman

Beckman reported the timeline of Water Plan Update Process.

Water Plan/WCA Report – Perrine

Perrine will continue to work on updating the County Water Plan.

South Central Technical Service Area

Brenke reported the TSA is establishing a work plan with their Capacity Funding. They plan to hire a Civil Engineering Tech and administrative help. The 11 County area needs a coordinator for trainings and TAA certifications. Remaining funding will be used for equipment needs.

Discussion of Dues being paid to SCTSA. The dues are proposed at \$1,300.00 a year, or \$5,200.00 for 4 years.

GBERBA Report

Brenke reported that Larry Gunderson from MDA gave a presentation on Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plans.

Schmidt reported that the Buffer Initiative was the main discussion item during the MASWCD Convention.

Adjourn

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

Meeting was adjourned at 11:13 am.

Respectfully submitted,

_____ Date Approved _____ Secretary-Treasurer