



# MINNESOTA SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

## *Minutes of the March 10, 2016 Board Meeting Martin Soil and Water Conservation District Fairmont, Minnesota*

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

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

Absent: Darwin Roberts – Member

Others present: Ashley Brenke – District Manager, Rich Perrine – WCA Technician, Greg Johanson – Farm Bill Technician, Ben Cottrell – NRCS, Dustin Benes – Technician

**Changes or Additions to Agenda**  
None

### **Secretary's Report**

A motion was made by Beckman to approve the February 4, 2016 Secretary's Report, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

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

### **Bills to Pay**

No additional bills to pay.

### **Cost-Share Programs**

#### State Cost-Share

#### *Completed Projects*

CS #13-16 Josh Hinrichsen Well Sealing

Project Bid Amount: \$937.50

Cost Share Requested: \$468.00

Eligible Project Cost: \$937.50

Cost Share Due: \$468.00

A motion was made by Meschke to approve payment of \$468.00 for CS #13-16, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

*New Projects*

CS #14-16 Lenore Handevitd Well Sealing

Project Bid Amount: \$2,205.00

Cost Share Requested: \$1,000.00

A motion was made by Schmidt to encumber \$1,000.00 for CS #14-16, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #15-16 Alice Barnes Field Windbreak

Project Bid Amount: \$510.60

Cost Share Requested: \$382.00

A motion was made by Meschke to encumber \$382.00 for CS #15-16, second by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

GBERBA

*Partial Payment*

46-01 R&G 14 Tim Weihe Critical Area Stabilization

Project Bid Amount: \$29,000.00

Cost Share requested: \$ 9,750.00

Eligible Project Cost: \$12,095.00

Cost Share Due: \$ 4,066.00

Other Funds/FLCL: \$ 1,000.00

A motion was made by Meschke to approve partial payment of \$4,066.00, second by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve partial payment of \$1,000.00 from Fox Lake Conservation League, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Certainty

*Completed Projects*

46-01 Certainty Faber Brothers Streambank Restoration

Project Bid Amount: \$33,452.00

Cost Share Requested: \$ 5,000.00

Eligible Project Cost: \$36,231.25

Cost Share Due: \$ 5,000.00

A motion was made by Schmidt to approve payment of \$5,000.00 for 46-01 Certainty, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Grant Programs

*2014 DRAP Grant Policy*

A motion was made by Meschke to cap public funds spending at 100%, with SWCD funds not to exceed 75%, as policy for the 2014 DRAP Grant, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

*2016 Capacity Funding*

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the 2016 Capacity Funding grant agreement, second by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

*2013 State Cost Share Final Financial Report*

A motion was made by Schmidt to approve the 2013 State Cost Share Final Financial Report, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

*Cooperative Weed Management Area Grant FY 2016*

A motion was made by Schmidt to approve using more than 20% of the FY 2016 CWMA Grant funds for technical assistance, second by Beckman. Motion carried. Meschke abstained.

*2016 Conservation Corps Apprentice*

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the 2016 Conservation Corps Apprentice agreement, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

*2014 Audit*

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the 2014 Audit, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

*Legislative Days*

March 21 and 22, 2016 are Legislative Days

*Buffers*

A meeting will be held on April 12 to provide an update on Buffer Legislation with the Drainage Authority, County Attorney, Planning & Zoning staff, and County Commissioners. Ask and Roberts will try to attend.

**New Business**

*Seasonal Staff/Independent Contractors*

Proceed with contract for independent contractors on the LCCMR 13 Counties Grant. Contract will state the rate, maximum hours, maximum dollar amount, and that contractor must furnish any supplies.

*Health Insurance Policy*

A motion was made by Meschke to amend district policy for medical insurance beginning on start date, and probationary period remains 90 days, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

*University of Minnesota Contracts*

A motion was made by Meschke to approve a contract of \$25,000.00 with the University of Minnesota for a Bromide tracer test at the bioreactor research site, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Beckman to approve a contract of \$5,700.00 with the University of Minnesota for additional data analysis on the bioreactors, second by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

*University of Minnesota 319 Grant*

A motion was made by Beckman to write a letter of support for the University of Minnesota's 319 Grant and to approve using the District's State Funds as match, second by Schmidt. Motion carried. Meschke abstained.

*Outreach Coordinator Position*

The Board reviewed the position description for the Outreach Coordinator. Add more responsibilities to the position: Lead person for community outreach and education, assist with general administrative duties. Interviews will be held by Schmidt and Ask. The full Board will approve the hiring.

A motion was made by Beckman to approve the position, with additions, and continue the hiring process, second by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

*Shared Services*

The Area VI meeting discussed shared services between Districts. Martin SWCD will remain open to the possibility of sharing services.

**Reports**

***Special Meetings***

Beckman was invited to attend Soil Sisters webinars, which focuses on women leaders in agriculture.

***District Conservationist Report***

Cottrell reported working on many applications for CSP and CRP, both new contracts and renewals.

Cottrell is the new Veterans Emphasis Program Manager for MN.

Civil Rights Policy and EEO board were discussed and the Civil Rights Policy Statement was signed by the Supervisors.

***District Manager Report***

Brenke discussed partnering with FSA on Bridges to Opportunity, which allows SWCD programs to be posted on a new FSA website. A motion was made by Meschke to approve the agreement with FSA, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Pheasants Forever is no longer buying our leftover trees. We should check with other local conservation clubs.

Discussion about Bryan Gregor building a new horse barn by his CREP.

***Water Plan Advisory Committee***

No meetings

***Water Plan/WCA Report***

Perrine reported the Water Plan Priority Concerns Scoping Document has been completed and submitted.

He has received many written comments about ground and surface water priorities.

Next meeting will be held at the end of June.

Two applications have been submitted for new wetland banking sites. Locations are in Lake Fremont and Center Creek Townships.

***SCTSA***

No meetings

***GBERBA***

Discussion about the Minnesota River Basin Commission.

***Adjourn***

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

Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_ Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary-Treasurer