



MINNESOTA SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the February 9, 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, Tyler Ask – Member, Larry Cowing – Member, and Linda Meschke – Member

Others present: Betsy Norland – NRCS District Conservationist, Steve Flohrs – County Commissioner Liaison, Ashley Brenke – District Manager, Rich Perrine – Technician, Greg Johanson – Farm Bill Technician, and Dustin Benes – Technician.

Changes or Additions to Agenda

Old Business SWAG Contract

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

Reports

District Conservationist Report – Norland

Updates were given on EQIP, CSP, RCPP, CRP, ACEP, Program Outreach, Wetland Determinations, and meeting/training dates.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the January 12, 2017 Secretary's Report, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Beckman to approve the Treasurer's Report and the revised December Program Summary, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Bills to Pay

Profinium Bank invoice for safety deposit box for \$35.00, and MCIT invoice for \$60.00.

A motion was made by Beckman to approve additional bills to pay, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

Programs

Cost-Share Programs

Clean Water Fund

Partial Payment

CWF #1-14-SWT Robert Adams
Township: Nashville
Project: Treatment
Project Bid Amount: \$55,000.00
Cost Share Requested: \$41,250.00
Eligible Project Cost: \$17,055.00
Cost Share Due: \$12,791.00
Other Funds (FLCL): \$4,264.00

A motion was made by Meschke to approve partial payment from CWF and FLCL for CWF #1-14-SWT, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

State Cost-Share

Completed Project

CS #2-17 Amanda Meger
Township: Rolling Green 31
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$700.00
Cost Share Requested: \$350.00
Eligible Project Cost: \$700.00
Cost Share Due: \$350.00

A motion was made by Ask to approve payment for CS #2-17, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

CWMA

Cancellation

W02-16 SHEEK
Township: Elm Creek
Project: Weed Management
Project Bid Amount: \$4,000.00
Cost Share Requested: \$3,000.00

A motion was made by Meschke to approve cancellation of W02-16, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

New Project

W03-16 SHEEK
Township: Elm Creek
Project: Weed Management
Project Bid Amount: \$4,000.00
Cost Share Requested: \$3,000.00

A motion was made by Beckman to encumber \$3,000.00 for W03-16, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

Grant Programs

BWSR is changing the Easement Delivery grant to a Master Agreement.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the BWSR Easement contract agreement, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Buffer Initiative

Buffer enforcement soft deadline for acceptance is March 30. Possibly funding available to Counties. Ashley and Pam from Planning and Zoning will present at the March County Commissioner meeting.

Open House Tree Days

There was a good turnout during the Open House and we're glad we switched it to two days. We still have an inventory of trees available for sale; trees will arrive mid-April.

Capacity Work Plan

A motion was made by Beckman to approve the Capacity Work Plan, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

319 Grant Application

Deadlines are being pushed back.

Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG)

Passed around contract template and information.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the contract contingent on receiving the necessary paperwork, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

CREP

Governor Mark Dayton signed \$500 million MN CREP agreement with the USDA. 60,000 acres in MN is the CREP goal. The training for field staff will be held Mid-February and late March. CREP targets four conservation practices; CP2 wellhead protection, CP21 Filter Strips, CP23 100 year floodplain wetlands, and CP23a non-100 year floodplain wetlands.

ArcGIS Software

ArcGIS Software will run \$2,641.95 for two licenses, annual fee upgrades \$600.00 per year for the new licenses. TSA will assist with training.

A motion was made by Ask to approve purchasing two ArcGIS license agreements, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Days

Legislative Days are March 20 and 21st and we are scheduled to meet with Bob Gunther and Julie Rosen on Tuesday.

Issues to discuss: Capacity funding and CREP; locally Dutch Creek is a priority. \$80.00 fee plus \$135.00 for hotel stay per person. 3 staff would like to attend.

A motion was made by Beckman to approve payment for 3 staff to attend Legislative Days, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

Wetlands Drainage Conference

Rinke Noonan Drainage and Wetlands conference is February 13 at the St. Cloud Rivers Edge Convention Center. 2 staff would like to attend. Cost per person is \$95.00.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve payment of \$190.00 for 2 staff to attend the conference, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Nitrogen Conference

University of Minnesota Nitrogen Conference will be held in Mankato on February 16.

2016 Year End

Draft will be available for the March meeting.

AgBMP Loans

AgBMP loan program is open to any bank who gets set up with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

A motion was made by Meschke to remove the origination fee for Welcome State Bank, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

County Commissioner Report – Flohrs

County Commissioner meeting time has changed to 4:00 pm.

Water Plan committee needs one additional person, preferably a well driller.

Still working on drainage – JD 350 is approved for construction but DNR requested holding off until April due to Northern spawning.

2 Commissioners and 2 Drainage staff will be attending the Drainage and Wetlands conference in St. Cloud.

County Commissioner Legislative Days are in February; topics of concern are Human Services and Transportation.

District Manager Report – Brenke

See handout.

Water Plan Advisory Committee – Beckman

Water Plan Advisory Committee meets four times a year. The next meeting is tentative for March 30, 2017.

SCTSA – Schmidt Jr.

South Central Technical Service Area held a meeting. They approved funding for an ATV, trailer and equipment. Mentioned assisting with training and equipment set up for SWCD's.

GBERBA – Ask

Policy meeting was held January 25. They elected new officials and had discussion about One Watershed, One Plan.

Water Plan/WCA – Perrine

Currently working on 2 possible wetland banking sites.

Area 6 Meeting – Beckman

Chair meeting is on February 14th.

Adjourn

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

Meeting was adjourned at 10:28 am.

Respectfully submitted,

_____ Date Approved

_____ Secretary-Treasurer

District Manager Report
February 9, 2017

Conservation Update

Everyone did a great job writing their articles and submitting pictures for the Conservation Update. We again received numerous compliments on the newspaper.

Farm Bill Assistant Meeting

Greg will be attending a Farm Bill Assistant meeting in Minneapolis. He has been spending time doing CRP work for NRCS. CRP was highlighted multiple times during our Conservation Update and we continue to receive a lot of questions about the program.

Soil Health Meeting

Jesse attended a soil health meeting in Faribault County. Gabe Brown from North Dakota was the main presenter. There was a good turnout with farmers from Martin County present as well.

TSA/Survey

Dustin and Rich have been working with Ryan Jones, TSA Engineer, on the Adams project. TSA staff have also been providing training to Dustin on the new survey equipment.

Blue Earth Watershed Civic Engagement

We have been working with PCA and other Districts/Counties in the Blue Earth River watershed to develop plans for civic engagement in the watershed. Our current plan is to focus on landowner interviews with the goals of increasing BMP adoption and assisting PCA with developing their implementation strategies.

Grants Closed Out

2014 Clean Water Fund Well Sealing
2014 State Cost Share
2015 State Cost Share
2016 NRBG Water Plan
2016 NRBG WCA
2016 NRBG Shoreland (County)
2016 NRBG SSTS (County)
2016 Conservation Delivery
2016 Easement Delivery

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Brenke