



**MINNESOTA
SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

*Minutes of the June 9, 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, Judy Beckman – Member, Darwin Roberts – Member, Linda Meschke – Member

Others present: Steve Flohrs – County Commissioner, Ashley Brenke – District Manager, Jesse Walters – Outreach Coordinator, Allison Eversman – Conservation Corps Intern, Nicki Miranowski – FSA CED, Rich Perrine – SWCD Technician, Greg Johanson – Farm Bill Technician, Dustin Benes – SWCD Technician.

Changes or Additions to Agenda

New Business

Seed charging policy review

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the changes to the agenda, second by Roberts. Carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Beckman to approve the May 12, 2016 Secretary's Report, second by Roberts. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the May 31, 2016 Special Meeting Secretary's Report, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

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

Additional Bills to Pay

Graham Tire for Gator tire repair \$29.73.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve payment to Graham Tire, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Cost-Share Programs

CWMA

New Project

W-02-16 James Vonderharr Weed Management

Township: Lime – Blue Earth County

Project Bid Amount: \$6,250.00

Cost Share Requested: \$4,687.00

A motion was made by Meschke to encumber \$4,687.00 for W-02-16, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Certainty

Amendment

46-02 Faber Brothers North Shore Shoreland Restoration

Township: Elm Creek

Project Bid Amount: \$15,343.00

Cost-Share Requested: \$ 5,000.00

Amendment Time: 12/1/2016

A motion was made by Roberts to approve the time amendment to 12/1/16 for 46-02, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Payment

46-01 Faber Brothers South Shore Shoreland Restoration

FLCL Payment: \$1,500.00

A motion was made by Roberts to approve the Fox Lake Conservation League payment of \$1,500, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

Payment

Don Moritz

Project: Certification Incentive Payment

Amount requested: \$300.00

A motion was made by Beckman to approve payment to Don Moritz for \$300.00, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

Grant Programs

MDA Bioreactor Grant end date is June 30, 2016.

Farm Bill Assistant Grant has been awarded.

A motion was made by Roberts to approve the Grant agreement, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Buffer Meeting

A public meeting regarding the buffer initiative will be held June 20, at 6:30 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont.

LCCMR Grower Contract

A native Orchid grower has been contacted to grow 650 White Lady Slipper plants at \$5.00 each for a total of \$3,250.00.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the contract with the grower, second by Roberts. Motion carried unanimously.

Area VI Meeting

Area VI meeting is on June 15, 2016 in Winthrop.

New Business

2017 Budget

BWSR will increase Capacity funds to Districts based on increases to their annual allocation received from the County. We are waiting for more details.

A motion was made by Roberts to approve the proposed budget, second by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

Seed Policy

Review of Seed Policy. Currently the markup charge when the District orders seed for a seeding is 10% to cover our costs. No motion was made, policy will remain the same.

CWF FY17 Grant Applications

Brenke will have drafts to review in July. Currently working on two separate grant applications.

1. Cover crop grant focusing on Eastern/Northeastern part of Martin County.
2. Dutch Creek watershed Projects.

The suggestion was made to check previous studies that were done along Dutch Creek. Possible sites for water storage upstream were identified in a BERBI report.

Reports

Special Meetings

Beckman attended a Soil Sisters conference call. There was discussion on the call about being an SWCD Supervisor and promoted that others should become involved.

Beckman and Brenke attended a Women Caring for the Land meeting.

Meschke reported MPCA has a tentative date of July 28, 2016 for a tour in the NWQI watershed in Martin County. They will have a meeting, tour, and then discussion.

Roberts was recently interviewed by the St. James newspaper, The Plaindealer, about being a Soil Health Champion, cover crops, and his involvement with NACD.

Roberts informed everyone about a conference call coming up on June 14, 2016 at 9:00 am EST that will include discussion by Joe Magner about the Tile Outlet Treatment Train.

Roberts reported the NACD conference will be held in Bloomington MN July 15-19, 2016 with a tour on the last day. Registration enrollment is online.

Meschke reported she is currently on the State Technical Committee for NRCS.

County Commissioner Report

Flohers reported they have started working on their budget.

The County is in the process of remodeling a building.

District Conservationist Report

Brenke reported Betsy Norland is acting DC for Martin County while Cottrell is on vacation.

EQIP signup deadline is August 19.

District Manager Report

Brenke reported staff is busy doing field work.

Anyone who is interested may submit articles for the Conservation Update.

Water Plan Advisory Committee

Beckman reported the next meeting will be June 23, 2016 at 7:00 pm with a tour.

Water Plan/WCA Report

Perrine reported two sites are being looked at for Wetland Banking credits. Both sites need a concept plan.

Priority Concerns for the Water Plan were submitted and have been approved by BWSR.

SCTSA

— Schmidt reported next meeting is June 25, 2016.

GBERBA

Roberts and Brenke reported the next meeting will be July 8, 2016, which is a Joint Policy/Technical Committee meeting with a tour.

USDA / FSA

Maronowski gave an update about FSA programs and CRP acres.

Adjourn

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

Meeting was adjourned at 10:33 am.

Respectfully submitted,

_____ Date Approved _____ Secretary-Treasurer