



MINNESOTA SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the August 11, 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 – Acting Chair, Darwin Roberts – Member, and Judy Beckman – Member

Absent: Tyler Ask – Chair and Clair Schmidt Jr. – Vice Chair

Others Present: Ashley Brenke – District Manager, Ben Cottrell – NRCS, Steve Flohrs – County Commissioner, Greg Johanson – Farm Bill Technician, and Dustin Benes – Technician

Changes or Additions to Agenda

Old Business

New Business – U of M seeking funding for Roberts Wetland Project maintenance

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

Report

District Conservationist Report – Cottrell

Cottrell will be Acting DC in Brown County starting August 21. Betsy Norland will be Acting DC in Martin County starting August 22.

97 CRP contracts need to be written by September 9th and returned to FSA.

EQIP deadline is approaching.

Cottrell discussed the “The Don’ts and Don’ts of Political Activity” that must be followed in the office.

Secretary’s Report

A motion was made by Roberts to approve the July 14, 2016 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 Roberts. Carried unanimously.

Bills to Pay

No additional bills to pay.

Cost-Share Programs

Clean Water Fund (CWF)

New Projects

CWF #8-14-Well Bruce Krahmer Well Sealing
Township: Galena 24
Project Bid Amount: \$1,175.50
Cost-Share Requested: \$ 587.00

A motion was made by Roberts to encumber \$587.00 for CWF #8-14-Well, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

CWF #9-14-Well Bruce Krahmer Well Sealing
Township: Galena 24
Project Bid Amount: \$905.50
Cost-Share Requested: \$452.00

A motion was made by Roberts to encumber \$452.00 for CWF #9-14-Well, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

CWF #10-14-Well Richard Palmer Well Sealing
Township: Center Creek 17
Project Bid Amount: \$1,052.50
Cost-Share Requested: \$ 526.00

A motion was made by Beckman to encumber \$526.00 for CWF #10-14-Well, second by Roberts. Motion carried unanimously.

CWF #11-14-Well Richard Palmer Well Sealing
Township: Center Creek 8
Project Bid Amount: \$1,044.00
Cost-Share Requested: \$ 522.00

A motion was made by Beckman to encumber \$522.00 for CWF #11-14-Well, second by Roberts. Motion carried unanimously.

Grant Programs

Brenke reported 2017 Cost Share funding is coming soon.

Old Business

Buffer Initiative

A roundtable meeting was held August 8 discussing buffers. DNR is still working on the Buffer Maps – only 50% of the comments submitted have been addressed.

Martin County Fair

Martin County Fair begins the week of August 15, 2016. Signup sheet was passed around to verify shifts to work. Supervisors, staff, and FSA will split the shifts. Focus for the booth will be Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), Buffers, and Cover Crops.

Strategic Plan Review

The Strategic Plan Review has been tabled.

2017 Budget

Currently the County Commissioners are working on the County budget. Discussion of State matching funds available to the District.

New Business

MASWCD Officers

MASWCD is currently open for election of supervisor officers. Brenke handed out a packet on the process to become eligible.

MASWCD Awards/Outstanding Conservationist

Nominations are currently being accepted for MASWCD Awards. Discussion about what areas for nominations are eligible. Teacher nominations were discussed. Discussion about a group nomination. Community conservationist nomination suggestion was Mary Don.

A motion was made by Roberts to nominate the John Helvig Family for the Outstanding Conservationist award, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

FY 2017 Local Capacity Services Amendment

FY17 we have been awarded \$20,337.00 additional to our Capacity Services grant.

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

U of M Seeking Funds

Roberts had received an email from Chris Lenhart at the University of Minnesota seeking funds for maintenance on the wetland project at the Roberts site. Discussion on possible actions and funding. No funding is available from the District but labor can be provided.

Reports

Special Meetings

MPCA Discussion and Tour – Meschke

MPCA meeting and tour was held on July 28. Good discussions occurred.

MN River Congress – Meschke

August 23, 2016 meeting in Fairmont for the MN River Congress.

CRP Subcommittee – Meschke

CRP subcommittee will be meeting on September 1, 2016 and is open for comments.

County Commissioner Report – Flohrs

Commissioners continue to work on the budget.

JD 350 in Cedar Township has been redetermined again.

Currently the phone lines are being updated at Courthouse.

The County is working on contracts with the Transit System.

District Manager Report – Brenke

See attached

Water Plan Advisory Committee – Beckman

Next meeting will be August 25, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Water Plan/WCA Report

Brenke and Perrine will attend the next Commissioner meeting to discuss the public hearing which will be September 6, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

SCTSA

No recent meeting

GBERBA – Roberts

The next Technical meeting will be held August 24, 2016, and the next Policy meeting will be September 9, 2016

Adjourn

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

Meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_____ Date Approved _____ Secretary-Treasurer

District Manager Report
August 11, 2016

Clean Water Fund Applications

We completed two applications to the FY 2017 Clean Water Fund Projects & Practices. One application was targeted cover crops in the northeast part of the County and the other was for practices in the Fairmont Chain of Lakes Watershed. GBERBA applied for a Blue Earth Watershed Coordinator, similar to those in the Watonwan and Le Sueur Watersheds. If funded, this person would help identify projects, etc. in the Blue Earth River Watershed.

NRCS Training

Dustin recently spent three days with staff members of the NRCS Area Office going over waterway design, etc. training. Hopefully he will be able to obtain Technical Approval Authority (TAA) for this conservation practice in the future after he designs a few waterways.

Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

The application for Dutch Creek habitat improvement the Fairmont Lakes Foundation submitted to LSOHC was selected for a hearing at the end of August.

Monitoring

Dustin and I continue to work with staff at MDA to reestablish a long term monitoring site on Dutch Creek. We have been sampling this stream all year. Dustin also continues to monitor Elm Creek and The East Fork Des Moines River.

Faribault County Field Day

Faribault County/SWCD recently held a cover crop/bioreactor field day that Greg and I attended. There was good discussion among area farmers at the meeting.

Conservation Corps

Our Conservation Corps Intern, Alyson Everson, has her last day on Friday. She has done a great job for the office this summer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Brenke