



**MINNESOTA
SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

***Minutes of the September 8, 2016 Board Meeting
Martin Soil and Water Conservation District
Fairmont, Minnesota***

Meeting called to order by Clair Schmidt, Jr. at 9:00 am

The Pledge of Allegiance

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

Members absent: Tyler Ask – Chair

Others present: Ashley Brenke – District Manager, Steve Flohrs – County Commissioner, Jesse Walter – Outreach Coordinator, Rich Perrine – Technician, Betsy Norland – NRCS DC, Greg Johanson – Farm Bill Technician, and Dustin Benes – Technician

Changes or Additions to Agenda

None

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Beckman to approve the August 11, 2016 Secretary's Report with the change of Betsy Norland as permanent DC and clarification that Mary Don Kislingbury was considered for nomination for an MASWCD Award, second by Roberts. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

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

Bills to Pay

No additional bills.

Report

District Conservationist Report – Norland

Betsy Norland is the District Conservationist for Martin County, and is acting DC for Watonwan County. Ben Cottrell is acting DC in Brown County.

Busy with CRP – 99 applications with a deadline of September 8.

There are 39 EQIP applications and 3 CSP renewals.

Cost Share Programs

Clean Water Fund

Cancellation

CWF #4-13 Larry Bergemann

Project: Critical Area Planting

Township: Fraser

Project Bid Amount: \$7,000.00

Cost Share Requested: \$5,250.00

Partial Payment Received: \$3,000.00

Re-encumbered: \$2,250.00

A motion was made by Meschke to cancel the remainder of CWF #4-13 and re-encumber \$2,250.00, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

State Cost-Share

New Projects

CS #1-17 Caven's Landing/Jim Polzine

Project: Well Sealing

Township: Fox Lake

Project Bid Amount: \$1,970.00

Cost Share Requested: \$985.00

A motion was made by Roberts to encumber \$985.00 for CS #1-17, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Amendment

CS #1-15 Darwin Anthony

Project: Critical Area Planting

Township: Galena

Project Bid Amount: \$2,500.00

Cost Share Requested: \$1,875.00

Amendment Time: Time 12/1/16

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the Time Amendment for CS #1-15, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Certainty

Amendment

46-05 Tom Maday

Project: Streambank Restoration

Township: Center Creek

Cost Share Requested: \$5,000.00

Amendment Time: Time 12/1/16

A motion was made by Roberts to approve the Time Amendment for 46-05, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

46-07 Tom Maday

Project: Streambank Restoration

Township: Center Creek

Cost Share Requested: \$5,000.00

Amendment Time: Time 12/1/16

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the Time Amendment for 46-07, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Grant Programs

We received notice of payment for State Cost Share of \$17,945.00, Conservation Delivery of \$18,908.00, Easement Delivery of \$9,640.00.

For FY17 nonstructural practices are acceptable for State Cost Share. Draft policy needs to be written within the next year. We can offer incentives of \$200.00 per acre for installation of buffers.

Old Business

Buffer Initiative

Producers have been making comments and we are making good progress in the County.

2017 Budget

Not officially increasing our District ask to the County for allocation funds.

New Business

BWSR Academy

BWSR Academy is October 24-26, 2016.

2 nights stay, room and registration cost for 3 people is \$771.40. Focus is on beginner level training.

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

October 13, 2016 Board Meeting

As of now, no change to the October 13 meeting date. Beckman will be absent.

Groundwater Workshops

DNR will be presenting a groundwater workshop in Windom on September 21, 2016.

Wetland Conference

A wetland conference/training will be held on September 20, in Brainerd, MN.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve payment of expenses for 2 staff to attend, second by Roberts. Motion carried unanimously.

AIS Summit

An AIS Summit is being held in St. Cloud, MN October 5-6. Registration is \$165.00 plus room \$105.63.

A motion was made by Roberts to approve payment of expenses for 1 staff to attend, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Special Meetings – Meschke

MN River Congress meeting on September 23. Draft Resolutions are due November 17.

County Commissioner Report – Flohrs

Working on Budget and JD350.

District Manager Report – Brenke

See handout

Water Plan Advisory Committee – Beckman

There was a meeting on August 25th with 15 attendees.

September 16th deadline for changes and November the plan will be reviewed by BWSR.

Water Plan/WCA Report – Brenke

Public hearing for the Water Plan was held on Tuesday, September 6th.

SCTSA – Schmidt

No meeting.

GBERBA – Roberts

Tour of bioreactors was held by Winnebago.

September 9 – Policy meeting discussing 319 money, cover crops, and tile intakes.

The next Technical meeting is scheduled for September 28.

Adjourn

A motion by Beckman, second by Meschke to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

_____ Date Approved _____ Secretary-Treasurer

District Manager Report
September 8, 2016

CRP

Greg has been assisting with conservation plans and producer meetings. Last week the deadline was moved forward one week to September 9. FSA and NRCS have been working to get everyone signed up before that deadline.

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. Rich and I attended the hearing with Troy Nemmers from the City of Fairmont and Bruce Moore representing the Foundation. There are a variety of opinions about the project on the Council.

Soil Health Field Day

Jesse attended a Soil Health Field Day at Bingham Lake on Wednesday. He learned a lot at the field day and is looking forward to hosting one in Martin County. The rainfall simulator they had was very informative.

Martin County Fair

There was a lot of interest in our booth at the Fair and lot of informational materials were distributed. Staff have been following up with people who requested assistance with site visits, potential projects, etc.

Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) Update

Watsonwan River – Jesse will be assisting GBERBA staff with interviews/civic engagement.

East Fork Des Moines River – Dustin is finishing up Stressor ID sampling (ie: grabbing water samples).

Blue Earth River – Monitoring and assessment will be beginning soon (2017).

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Brenke