



**MINNESOTA
SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

*Minutes of the April 12, 2018 Board Meeting
Martin Soil and Water Conservation District
Fairmont, Minnesota*

Meeting called to order by Beckman at 9:00 am

The Pledge of Allegiance

Members present: Judy Beckman – Chair, Larry Cowing – Vice Chair, Linda Meschke – member, Tyler Ask – member, and Clair Schmidt Jr. – member

Others present: Ashley Brenke – District Manager, Greg Johanson – Farm Bill Technician, Rich Perrine – Water Plan/WCA Technician, and Dustin Benes – Technician.

Changes or Additions to Agenda

Old Business

Non Structural Land Management Practices (NLMP)

A motion was made by Ask to approve the Additions to the Agenda, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the March 8, 2018 Secretary's Report, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

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

Additional Bills to Pay - None

Programs

Cost-Share Programs

State Cost-Share

Completed Projects

CS #18-16

Carmen Reckard

Township:

Waverly

Project:

Critical Area Planting

Project Bid Amount:

\$1,000.00

Cost-Share Requested: \$750.00
Eligible Project Cost: \$1,000.00
Cost Share Due: \$750.00

A motion was made by Meschke to approve payment for CS #18-16, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #18-17 Sandra Larson
Township: Center Creek
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$2,535.00
Cost Share Requested: \$1,000.00
Eligible Project Cost: \$2,877.50
Cost Share due: \$1,000.00

A motion was made by Cowing to approve payment of \$1,000.00 for CS #18-17, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

Cancelled

CS #10-16 Julie Riegel
Township: East Chain
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$1,077.50
Cost Share Requested: \$538.00
Slippage: \$538.00

A motion was made by Ask to cancel CS #10-16, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #17-16 Larson Family Farms
Township: Jay
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$10,282.50
Cost Share Requested: \$1,000.00
Slippage: \$1,000.00

A motion was made by Meschke to cancel CS #17-16, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #19-16 Carmen Reckard
Township: Waverly
Project: Streambank
Project Bid Amount: \$4,000.00
Cost Share Requested: \$3,000.00
Slippage: \$3,000.00

A motion was made by Ask to cancel CS #19-16, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

New Projects

CS #20-16 Stephen Melson 1
Township: Cedar
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$800.00
Cost Share Requested: \$400.00

A motion was made by Meschke to encumber \$400.00 for CS #20-16, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #21-16 Stephen Melson 2
Township: Cedar
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$700.00
Cost Share Requested: \$350.00

A motion was made by Ask to encumber \$350.00 for CS #21-16, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Cooperative Weed Management Area (GBERBA)

New Projects

W05-16 Nelson Township
Township: Nelson Township, Watonwan County
Project: CWMA
Project Bid Amount: \$6,381.00
Cost Share Requested: \$2,000.00

A motion was made by Meschke to encumber \$2,000.00 for W05-16, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

W06-16 Riverdale Township
Township: Riverdale Township, Watonwan County
Project: CWMA
Project Bid Amount: \$3,825.00
Cost Share Requested: \$2,000.00

A motion was made by Ask to encumber \$2,000.00 for W06-16, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Grant Programs

Ag-BMP Loan Program

We are receiving an additional \$85,000.00 available for the Ag-BMP Loan Program.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the additional funds for the Ag-BMP Loan Program, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Corps Apprentice Agreement

A motion was made by Ask to approve the Conservation Corps Apprentice Agreement, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Watershed Conservation Planner

An update on the contribution agreement between BWSR and NRCS for a Watershed Conservation Planner staff position. No agreement yet, a meeting is scheduled between NRCS and SWCD Districts involved.

FY2020-21 Biennial Budget Request (BBR)

The BBR was reviewed and summary attached, additional items were added to the list. Drainage Management \$50,000.00 and Streambank restorations \$100,000.00 were added.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the Biennial Budget Request with the additions, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Cell Phone Agreement

Brenke is working with Verizon on an agreement for two i-phones, unlimited data, verifying insurance is included, and purchasing 3 vehicle chargers.

A motion was made by Ask to approve the agreement with Verizon and purchase chargers, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Nonstructural Land Management Practices (NLMP),

A policy was reviewed for Nonstructural Land Management Practices and Implementation Plan for Cover Crops and Residue and Tillage Management following the 2017 NRCS guidelines.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the NLMP policy, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ask to approve adding NLMP to the Cost Share Policy, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

2017 Financial Statements & Audit Bid

The financial statements for 2017 were reviewed. A bid for the 2017 Audit was submitted by Peterson Company for \$2,350.00.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the 2017 Financial Statements, second by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ask to accept the 2017 Audit Bid from Peterson Company for \$2,350.00, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

2018 Elections

Three Supervisor positions are up for reelection. Nominations for District 2, District 4, and District 5 will be open May 22–June 5, 2018.

MASWCD Resolutions

Resolutions must be submitted before the Area 6 meeting in June.

319 Application

MPCA 319 Grants are being restructured, geared more for HUC 12 watersheds.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Annual DNR Grant Application and Background check for Ambassadors Benes and Walters are due for 2018. Project plans and proposals were discussed. Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive species update meeting is being planned for April 24 at Knights of Columbus Hall.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve submitting the Annual DNR Grant Agreement and Background check for the AIS Ambassadors, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve 2018 Project Proposals, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

Summer Independent Contractor

Gerald Lorenz continues to grow and care for rare and endangered prairie plants, costs for this is about \$7,000.00 for about 3,000 plants. Plants will be transplanted onto protected prairie sites.

A motion was made by Schmidt to approve \$7,000.00 for an Independent contractor, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

GBERBA Financial Coordinator

Kathy Smith has resigned from GBERBA and has asked Brenke to assist with Quickbooks during the transition period while getting someone hired. Hourly pay of \$47 an hour, and set an end date of October 31, 2018.

A motion was made by Ask to approve Brenke/Martin SWCD as GBERBA's Financial Coordinator, second by Schmidt. Schmidt, Ask, Cowing voted yes; Meschke voted no. Motion carried.

Reports

Special Meetings

Local Working Group – Beckman

A meeting was held on March 8 for the Local Working Group. Natural resource concerns and geographic areas were identified and ranked. Road blocks for implementing conservation practices were discussed and identified.

Blue Earth Elected Officials Meeting

A meeting was held in Blue Earth for the township elected officials. Meeting was well attended, stations were set up around the room. A different Agencies was at each station discussing what they are monitoring.

DNR Groundwater Monitoring

A meeting was held in Fairmont on March 15 discussing the downward trend with groundwater and what is required for water use permits. Anyone that uses more than one million gallons of water a year are required to have a permit. Many DNR sites have monitoring wells around the county.

AIS Task Force Meeting

An AIS Task Force meeting was held on April 6 at the City of Fairmont Water Plant. A review of 2017 was given. Information was discussed on the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species and the pathways in which it could reach Martin County. 2018 project proposals were discussed.

Area 6 Meeting - Beckman

MN River Congress gave an update about changes to their web page. Jerad Bach gave an update on staff and SWCD's relationship working with SCTSA's. SWCD are more known throughout the state; more training is needed for the additional administrative requirements.

District Manager Report - Brenke

See handout.

MPCA is hosting a two day watershed approach workshop, Brenke will be attending.

A motion was made by Ask to approve overnight costs for Brenke to attend the workshop, second by Cowing. Motion carried unanimously.

District Conservationist's Report – Norland

See handout.

Water Plan/WCA Report – Perrine

Water Plan Report was given.

FLCL has asked about potential equipment needs for the District.

Spencer from the Department of Agriculture reported not many are taking advantage of the Nutrient Management Program.

SCTSA – Schmidt

Two staff have been hired to fill positions.

GBERBA – Meschke

Panel discussion of high concerns on drainage. Good conversation, innovative ideas, and very well attended. Next meetings are April 13, Executive Meeting and April 25, Technical Meeting.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Ask to adjourn the meeting, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

May 10, 2018 Date Approved Austin Bevan Secretary-Treasurer