



MINNESOTA
SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

*Minutes of the May 9, 2019 Board Meeting
Martin Soil and Water Conservation District
Fairmont, Minnesota*

**Meeting called to order by Cowing at 9:00 am
The Pledge of Allegiance**

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

Others present: Steve Flohrs – County Commissioner Liaison, Ashley Brenke – District Manager,
Trent Tumbleson – Local Farmer, Greg Johanson – Farm Bill Technician, Jesse
Walters – Outreach Coordinator, Rich Perrine – Water Plan Technician, and Dustin
Benes – Technician

Changes or Additions to Agenda

Old Business

Williamson CREP Acre proposed submittal

New Business

AIS

A motion was made by Beckman 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 April 11, 2019 Secretary's Report, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

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

Bills to Pay – No additional bills.

Cost-Share Programs

State Cost-Share

New Projects

CS #3-19

Township:

Fred Henning
Westford

Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$990.00
Cost Share Requested: \$495.00

A motion was made by Meschke to encumber \$495.00 for CS #3-19, second by Ask. Motion carried unanimously.

CS #4-19 Connie Hines
Township: Westford
Project: Well Sealing
Project Bid Amount: \$931.99
Cost Share Requested: \$465.00

A motion was made by Schmidt to encumber \$465.00 for CS #4-19, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

GBERBA 319 TMDL Implementation

New Projects

46-06 Wade Krenz
Township: Westford
Project: Cover Crop
Project Bid Amount: \$2,050.00
Cost Share Requested: \$1,025.00

A motion was made by Ask to encumber \$1,025.00 for 46-06, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

Grant Programs

CWMA

An update is needed for the CWMA financial report.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve the financial report update, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

MASWCD Call for Resolutions

Any Resolutions should be submitted at the next Area 6 meeting.

Verle Williamson CREP

In July 2017 a motion was approved for Verle Williamson to pursue a 1:1 ratio replacement for his CREP acres. Perrine has been working on a map and letter, however, acres were larger than what was originally planned. The project has been reviewed by the MN DNR.

A motion was made by Schmidt to approve the letter with changes, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Rich Perrine's retirement

Brenke gave Perrine his exit interview. Perrine has expressed interest in continuing to work on the LCCMR 13 county grant on local ecotype seeds. The District will check with PERA on timing. Perrine's retirement party is set for Friday, May 10 from 1-3. He reaches 20 years of service on July 1, annual leave and comp time will be used until July 1. One quarter of the sick time will be paid out. A motion was made by Meschke to approve using comp and annual leave until July 1, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board would like to thank Perrine for his commitment and years of service. His dedication and commitment to conservation were very much appreciated.

New Business

CREP issues

A local farmer, Trent Tumbleson, is having water from his neighbors CREP flooding his crop field. He presented his concerns and views on how to fix the problem. A meeting is scheduled on site May 10 with Kittleson, Tumbleson, SWCD staff, BWSR Engineer Terry Reagan, and Martin County Drainage authority to review the problem and come up with a solution.

Martin County Fair Booth

A motion was made by Ask to approve getting a booth at the Martin County Fair, second by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

BWSR Regional Wetland Training

Benes will be attending both days instead of just one day of the training. Expenses for one night stay and \$25 extra cost for registration, training is held in Zimmerman MN.

A motion was made by Meschke to approve expenses and registration, second by Beckman. Motion carried unanimously.

Farm Bill Technician RFP

Discussion on Request for Proposal for the Farm Bill Technician position. The position will work on CREP.

A motion was made by Schmidt to submit the Request for Proposal, second by Meschke. Motion carried unanimously.

2020 Budget

Brenke is working on a draft budget. Funding for SWCD is under review in legislation. County did increase their contribution amount by \$3,000 in 2019. As of now there is no additional State match.

AIS - fishing tournaments

Benes is looking for ideas for products to distribute at fishing events for all contestants. Lanyards or waterproof cell phone cases.

Reports

Special Meetings

Area 6 Meeting – Beckman

Water storage and MN River Congress were the two main speakers.

County Commissioner Report – Flohrs

The county is working with lots of drainage issues. A lease with the Martin County Fairgrounds has been approved to move the 4H extension office out to the Fairgrounds office.

District Conservationist Report – Brenke

See handout.

District Manager Report – Brenke

See handout.

Water Plan Advisory Committee – Beckman

Perrine handed out highlights of the 2018 partners report for the Martin County Water Plan. The next water plan meeting will be held on June 20.

SCTSA - Schmidt

No meeting.

GBERBA

Next GBERBA Policy meeting is Friday, May 10. The next Technical meeting will be held on May 22. June 14 will be the next Executive meeting.

Adjourn

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

Meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am. .

Respectfully submitted,

June 13, 2019 Date Approved Austin Benes Secretary-Treasurer

Martin Soil & Water Conservation District
Treasurer's Financial Report
5/31/2019

A. Balance on Hand April 30, 2019	\$	499,704.17
Total Receipts ending 5/31/19	\$	70,682.05
Less Total Expenditures ending 5/31/19	\$	(46,226.43)
	\$	524,159.79

B. Accounts Payable

Wildlife Forever - AIS billboards & commercial		6,530.00
Jesse Walters - Expense reimbursement		26.26
Hannah Neusch - Expense reimbursement		13.42
Dustin Benes - Expense reimbursement		132.24
Frundt Lundquist & Gustafson - CREP		419.50
Frontier Telephone		269.60
Fleet & Farm - Field supplies		231.09
Fairmont Photo Press - Outreach materials		241.75
City of Lakes Media - Radio ads		1,355.00
Verizon Wireless		124.44
Fairmont Ford - Oil changes		74.45
River Bend - Office supplies		312.03
Marco - copier		28.35
MVTL Laboratories - Water samples		510.00
Shooting Star Native Seeds		4,766.35
Schumacher's Nursery - Trees		205.87
Linda Meschke - Tractor rental		500.00
Martin Co Hwy Dept - Fuel		462.02
	\$	16,202.37

C. Accounts Receivable

Hy-Vee		48.32
	\$	48.32

Bills paid as of 5/31/19

#11225	Arthur Andrews Properties, LLC	2,962.53
#11226	MVTL Laboratories - water samples	184.90
#11227	NCPERS - life insurance	32.00
HSA	Further - Health Savings Account	1,000.00
#11228	Greg Johanson - net wages	1,694.01
#11229	Rich Perrine - net wages	1,596.27
#11230	Dustin Benes - net wages	1,254.53
#11231	Jesse Walters - net wages	1,258.97
#11232	Hannah C. Neusch - net wages	1,167.53
#11233	Ashley A. Brenke - net wages	1,617.48

#11234	Verizon Wireless	98.42
#11235	Frontier Telephone	286.58
#11236	Schumachers Nursery - trees	6,189.45
#11237	Martin County Recorder - CREP easements	230.00
#11238	Prairie Moon Nursery	76.50
#11239	BWSR - training	50.00
#11240	MN PEIP - health insurance	3,404.24
#11241	MVTL Laboratories - water samples	226.70
#11242	Crow Wing SWCD - LCCMR	906.15
#11243	Fleet & Farm Supply - field supplies	17.16
#11244	River Bend Business Products	80.91
#11245	Fairmont Photo Press - outreach materials	49.15
#11246	Irvin Johnson - seeder repair	100.00
#11247	Gempler's - field supplies	169.62
#11248	Martin Co Hwy Dept - fuel	330.36
ACH	U.S. Treasurer	7,651.16
ACH	MN Revenue	1,232.00
ACH	PERA	1,660.51
#11249	Martin County Fair	450.00
ACH	PERA	1,660.51
#11250	Greg Johanson - net wages	1,694.01
#11251	Rich Perrine - net wages	1,596.27
#11252	Dustin Benes - net wages	1,254.53
#11253	Jesse Walters - net wages	1,258.97
#11254	Hannah C. Neusch - net wages	1,167.53
#11255	Ashley A. Brenke - net wages	1,617.48
		<u>\$ 46,226.43</u>

Receipts as of 5/31/19

BWSR - CREP Outreach	3,524.00
BWSR - CWMA	5,319.21
BWSR - Farm Bill Technician	5,990.00
Faribault SWCD - Blue Earth Watershed Civic Engagement	3,060.00
Martin County Alocation	24,500.00
Martin County NRBG	10,199.50
Trees	5,493.92
Tree Planting	1,263.00
Sales Tax Payable	370.51
Drill Rental	696.00
GBERBA - Financial Coordinator	705.00
Seeding	9,398.04
State Bank of Fairmont - checking account interest	162.87
	<u>\$ 70,682.05</u>

Treasurer's Monthly Report
Program Summary
5/31/2019

Fund Account	Cash Balance 4/30/2019	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash Balance 5/31/2019
District Funds	\$ 10,760.65	\$ 21,149.34	\$ 12,765.13	\$ 19,144.86
County Funds	(19,860.49)	34,699.50	26,199.50	(11,360.49)
BWSR Service Grant	13,908.00	-	3,000.00	10,908.00
BWSR - Farm Bill/CREP Grant	(10,500.00)	9,514.00	3,000.00	(3,986.00)
BWSR - Capacity Services T & A	189,732.46	-	-	189,732.46
BWSR - Blue Earth WCPI T & A	122,276.32	-	49.15	122,227.17
BWSR - CREP/RIM Grant	(12,464.75)	-	230.00	(12,694.75)
BWSR State Cost Share FY18 T & A	5,692.50	-	-	5,692.50
BWSR State Cost Share FY19 T & A	17,945.00	-	-	17,945.00
BWSR - CWMA FY 16 T & A	(7,500.00)	5,319.21	-	(2,180.79)
BWSR - Flood T & A	92,219.15	-	-	92,219.15
BWSR - Buffer Funds T & A	55,341.18	-	-	55,341.18
LCCMR	(83,439.60)	-	982.65	(84,422.25)
BWSR - Buffer Cost Share T & A	1,593.75	-	-	1,593.75
BWSR - Well Sealing Grant T & A	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00
BWSR - Dutch Creek Grant T & A	119,000.00	-	-	119,000.00
Totals	\$ 499,704.17	\$ 70,682.05	\$ 46,226.43	\$ 524,159.79

Use of Cash	4/30/2019	5/31/2019
Checking Account	349,101.79	373,557.41
Profinium L.I.S.A. Account	150,602.39	150,602.39
	<u>\$ 499,704.18</u>	<u>\$ 524,159.80</u>

Jesse Walters

March 15 to June 12, 2019

CREP

Met with landowners interested in CREP, mapped out potential easement areas, provided information on the program. Continued through the application, title work, conservation plan, easement agreement etc. stage of existing applications. Began submitting new applications.

CRP

Met with multiple landowners interested in CRP, mapped out potential boundaries, provided information on the program. Began working on site checks, as well as suitability and feasibility.

RIM

Worked with landowners on existing RIM sites, managed water levels according to the Conservation Plan provided. Provided program information including haying and grazing planning.

Buffers

Worked with Landowners, Drainage Staff and P&Z staff. Update BuffCAT. 99% compliance on Public Waters, 98% compliance on Public Drainage Ditches. Buffer Task Force meetings.

Blue Earth Civic Engagement and WRAPS

Attend BECE meetings, helped plan the I-90 Soil Health Event in Fairmont. Conducted resident and landowner interviews as part of WRAPS CE process. Began end of grant report for the interviews conducted.

Cover Crops and Conservation Tillage

Educate producers about cover crops and conservation tillage including the soil health event. Assist landowners with cover crop and conservation tillage contracts. Continued education on cover crops and conservation tillage by attending trainings/workshops.

Miscellaneous

Tree program, sales, planting plans and plantings, 1st grade tree program.

Led training session for BWSR outreach training program.

Conducted water plan meeting, recorded minutes, attended commissioner meeting.

1W1P meetings Watonwan and Des Moines.

Attended meetings including: Martin County corn and soybean growers meeting, conservation club meetings, FLF, PF, MCCC.

Multiple trainings, including 2 day cultural resources training.

Assisted with MCW biology field day.

GBEREBA meeting.

Outreach for MAWQCP.

Assisted with interns.

Hannah Neusch, Conservation Planner
Quarterly Update
Q2 2019

AgLearn Training

- Cultural Resources Training Series, Part 1

On the Job Training

- HEL toolkit planning
- Conventional toolkit planning
- CRP, Grassland CRP education
- CREP education
- Self-Led IET training
- Training with Jen Hahn on conservation planning forms and how they relate to the 9 steps of conservation planning
- Met with Mary and other conservation planners for training
- Attending the Sustainable Farming Association meeting in Amboy

Classroom Training

- RUSLE2 Training w/ Laurie
- Attending the cover crop workshop in Blue Earth

Conservation Planning Work

- Continuing to gather and fill out 052's, Implementation requirements, standards, and Job sheets.
- Working within Customer Toolkit, GIS, RUSLE2, WEPS, WN-PST, and WHES
- Have established an office visiting schedule with Jackson, Martin, Faribault, Freeborn, and Blue Earth SWCDs to better serve producers in those counties.
- Planning Watershed Conservation Planner meeting with watershed NRCS DCs, SWCD managers, and BWSR staff.
- Attended SWCD board meetings in Martin, Freeborn, Faribault, Blue Earth, and Jackson Counties.
- Working with Betsy on a large operation converting to organic.
- Ten Total conservation plans completed, totaling 1,760.00+ Acres.
- Two Conservation plans in progress, totaling 300+ Acres.
- One whole farm conservation plan in progress.

Greg Johanson

Quarterly March April May 2019

WORKLOAD

Trees Maintained spreadsheet for all orders. Organized pickup days for trees/delivery day and worked with STS to help unload at fairgrounds. Sold approx. 4800 trees through program.

FIRST GRADER TREES Ordered trees for all first grade students

RIM, RIM/WRP Started site inspections and associated paperwork for contracts

CRP Worked with landowners and operators on enrolling when signup begins

CREP Worked with landowners on signing up for CREP and looked at sites.

Reviewed older sites that have wetland structures that need repairs.

AG BMP Worked with operators on ag bmp loans

NRCS worked on various programs such as EQIP, WRP, CSP and issues relating to their programs.

FSA worked with FSA on CRP program issues and landowner questions on new contracts and old contracts.

RAIN GUAGE NETWORK Sent information to rain guage readers and entered data into admin site.

OUTREACH

Legislative Days organize meetings with legislators and attended

Conservation Update Organize with photo press on conservation paper for 12,000 people for summer edition.

KSUM Radio 4 times on various programs/issues

Water Forum Attended forum in Mankato

MEETINGS/TRAINING

Area 6 meeting at K of C

CREP Training

Vehicles and Equipment schedule oil changes and repair, and maintain SWCD field equipment

Benes 2nd quarter report
3/11/2019 – 6/7/2019

- Conservation trees arrived unloaded shipment, handed out trees to customers. Assisted with tree planting plans and eight tree plantings.
- I assisted customers with cost share and Ag BMP programs.
- I worked on projects for the seeding program. Drill rental program assisted customers with using the drills, 2 customers I helped on site to get it working. I have surveyed 6 sites for CRP plantings.
- I continue to work on administrative duties, mileage reports, minutes, and bank deposits.
- I have been with on discussions and site reviews for CREP sites that are having troubles. I assisted BWSR with surveying and construction review on a CREP site project.
- Assisted with the elected officials WRAPS meeting, Martin county hosted the meeting.
- Attended a water storage forum in Mankato.
- Water sampling; I installed and setup the elm creek station, downloaded information, and sample for water quality. Robert's wetland, I am assisting the University of MN with a grant they received through the MDA. Data loggers were also installed in the bioreactors at Darwin's. Sampling is being done to review the benefits of cover crops. Dutch creek is being sampled on a regular basis. Through the MDA, I am assisting with the surface water pesticide monitoring program.
- I continue to work with the MN DNR on projects. I check thirteen DNR ground water observation wells quarterly. I am assisting the DNR with stream seechi readings. Lake levels are being read at two sites as often as I can get there, at the least once a month. I assisted pheasants forever in signing up for the DNR Walk In Access program.
- I attended a cover crop workshop.
- I surveyed an area through the CPL grants. A new parcel, in the process of being DNR land.
- I continue to lead on the aquatic invasive species program. I have set up the prairie ecology bus attending the Martin County Fair in 2019, one new billboard, a yearly report written, attended a webinar training, continue with radio broadcasts, and update signs at launch access's. I attended the DNR ambassador training. I spent the day with Martin County West students on their biology field day, discussion about AIS.
- I continue to work on the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). I assisted the Martin County Highway department with completing a wetland delineation, Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meeting, Notice of Application and Notice of Decision submitted. Attended County Drainage meetings and site reviews regarding WCA. I held a TEP meeting for a possible wetland banking site. A Notice of Decision was submitted for Great River Energy and Ducks Unlimited/DNR Round lake projects. Two additional sites were reviewed for WCA regulations but no reports were needed. I attended one Wetland Professional Association (WPA) forum and attended a BWSR two day regional training in Zimmerman MN.
- I continue to work towards Conservation Planning certification. One of the requirements is to complete a two day cultural resource training which I completed.