



Red River Valley Conservation Service Area

**Board of Directors
Tuesday, June 20, 2017**

University of MN Crookston, 2900 University Ave, Crookston, MN 56716

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the RRVCSA – TSA 1 was held on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 in the Bede Ballroom of U of M Crookston campus. Attendance was taken and is available upon request.

Call to Order

Chairman Flottesmesch called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.

Approval of April Meeting Minutes

With no changes to report, motion (Schoff, Pederson) to approve the April 5, 2017 meeting minutes as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Program Summary and Treasurer's Report

Peter Mead, RRVCSA Host Manager presented the program summary and Treasurer's report for May. Motion (Christenson, Revier) to approve the May 2017 treasurer's report as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Enhanced Shared Services

At the last regular meeting there was a motion to split ESS funds dedicated for software/shared network into 16 equal increments to be used at member districts discretions with some "sideboards" and pending BWSR Approval. BWSR's response highlights three points: 1) The intent of the funds is shared services, not just shared money. 2) The allocation is from CWF Accelerated Implementation Grants, so activities must meet the requirements of that program. 3) TSA activities are to be consistent with the NPEA program policies. Mead and BWSR BC Brett Arne explained that, in short, distributing the money evenly for districts to use individually at their discretion does not meet the intent of Enhanced Shared Services Funding.

Darren Newville, EOT Manager, has been working with LCSC (Lakes Country Service Cooperative) and area Districts that are interested in sharing certain data and technology costs and services as had been discussed and in the original workplan.

Per the MOU with LCSC, start-up costs are \$50,484. At least seven (7) SWCDs must participate to enact the agreement. Upon the initial engagement (deadline of 7/31/2017), each participating SWCD will agree to pay ongoing annual licensing and maintenance costs.

Thus far, six Districts have confirmed interest in forming the cooperative and purchasing the technology enhancements. Under current workplan categories, the TSA would be able to pay the start-up costs with group members responsible for the maintenance and annual licensing fees.

Motion (Schoff, Dittmann) to authorize spending of \$50,484 in start-up costs from 2017 Enhanced Shared Services Part 1 funds for those Districts interested in forming a membership group with LCSC for sharing data and technology equipment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Another question arose regarding phone systems that may need to be purchased by many Districts who do not coexist with NRCS partners. No answer was given, but Brett Arne & Peter Mead both encouraged districts to come forward with formal proposals for consideration. If proposed activities fall within ESS funding guidelines and are approved by the board, the workplan may be amended to fund eligible activities.

Revised Amendments to Joint Powers Agreement

Though all other member districts have passed unanimous resolutions to amend the TSA's joint powers agreement, Mahnomen SWCD has refused, citing discomfort with the option of allowing managers to act as members of the TSA board. Since the last meeting TSA staff developed a slight change to the resolution verbiage as it pertains to *section 5.5, option A Quorum and Voting*:

Quorum. A majority of directors or alternates shall constitute a quorum for all regular and special meetings of the board. A quorum will only be recognized if the simple majority of representative members present at the meeting are elected officials of the member boards with the remainder district managers or staff with delegated authority to exercise powers on behalf of their boards.

This would allow for more than half of the board to be elected officials which should address concerns. Existing signed resolutions would remain relevant. Mahnomen would need to approve the changes at their next regular board meeting.

Pete Revier spoke of his disapproval of the changes on behalf of his board and mentioned the need for other options to boost attendance at TSA meetings, specifically suggesting again that the TSA provide financial incentives to board members for attendance. He believes we need to continue looking at the reasons why there remains a problem finding quorum.

Wentz read an excerpt from the April meeting minutes regarding Pennington's letter to their board in favor of forming 2 TSA's or revisiting options. Mead again re-iterated that no one in the room or TSA has the power to do that, nor is there any likelihood of state approval.

The other option mentioned at April's meeting, to offer proxy delegation for managers to act as voting members when supervisors are not present or able to attend and to complete and confirm a meeting agenda a month in advance which cannot be changed. Mead pointed out that the existing Joint Powers agreement specifically states that proxy voting **is not an option**.

Other ideas brought forward include, schedule meetings in advance and over a one year period to allow better planning for everyone; complete and deliver draft meeting minutes within one week of completed meetings and noting the next scheduled meeting date, time and location.

Adjourn

As there is no further business, motion (Pederson, Schoff) to adjourn the meeting at 2:52 p.m.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Mahnomon County Courthouse,
311 N Main St, Mahnomon**

Approved: Peter Revier, RRVCSA TSA-1 Secretary

Date: November 8, 2017