



Board of Supervisors Meeting
Tuesday October 17, 2023
USDA Service Center Conference Room
809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Meeting Minutes

Supervisors Present:

Eugene Pavelko, Chair
Michelle Andresen, Vice Chair
Tony Beck, Treasurer
Curt Ballard, Secretary
Travis Schauer, Public Relations

Staff Present:

Bryan Malone, District Administrator
Deana Westberg, Office Manager
Christy Johnson, Office Assistant
Ed Musielewicz, NRCS District Conservationist

Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m.

Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

September 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes and Staff Reports

Motion (Andresen, Beck) to approve the September meeting minutes and staff reports. All in favor, motion carried.

October 17, 2023 Agenda and Consent Agenda

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Reports

Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval

Malone reviewed the Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval.

Motion (Ballard, Schauer) to approve the September Treasurer's Report and pay the October Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

2022 Audit

A Draft copy of the 2022 Audited Financial Statement was given to each Board Supervisor. Malone briefly highlighted the final numbers, notes, and comments.

Motion (Beck, Andresen) to approve the 2022 Audit as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

2024 Prices for Services

Malone presented the suggested prices for 2024 including the No-Till Drill Seeding Services charge be increased to \$350 minimum. Also, the fee for pesticide exams charged each time the test is taken.

Motion (Ballard, Schauer) to approve the 2024 Prices for Services as presented and the pesticide exam test fee be increased by \$10 for each retake (each time a does not pass and must retake). All in favor, motion carried.

2024 Prices for Items

Malone advised that the nursery prices have increased approximately 5%. An increase in trees and tree-related supplies of 5% was suggested.

Motion (Ballard, Beck) to approve a 5% increase in price for trees and tree-related supplies for the 2024 Prices for Items. All in favor, motion carried.

Cost Share

Clean Water Fund Amendment

- CWL-02-TD11 MaFa, WASCBS - Increase Total Amount Authorized to \$56,218.88

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve the Clean Water Fund Amendment as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Clean Water Fund Vouchers

- CWF-06-FFBC TJSc, Cover Crop - Project cost \$11,560.60; Flat Rate Cost Share \$11,560.60
- CWF-07-FFBC TrSc, Cover Crop - Project cost \$26,821.16; Flat Rate Cost Share \$26,821.16

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to approve the Clean Water Fund payments as presented. Schauer Abstained from voting, motion carried.

- CWL-01-TDII KeFa, WASCBS - Project cost \$294,489.06; 90% Cost Share \$14,965.19; EQIP \$161,911.70
- CWL-02-TDII MaFa, WASCBS - Project cost \$74,958.50; 75% Cost Share \$56,218.88
- CWF-05-FFBCII JaNo, Cover Crop - Project cost \$6,383.05; Flat Rate Cost Share \$6,383.05

Motion (Schauer, Andresen) to approve the Clean Water Fund payments as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

State Cost Share Amendment

- SCS-20-15 KeOl, Stream Crossing – Increased Total Amount Authorized to \$5,733.00

Motion (Ballard, Schauer) to approve the State Cost Share Amendment as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

State Cost Share Vouchers

- SCS-20-15 KeOl, Stream Crossing– Project Cost \$8,460.00; 75% Cost Share \$5,733.00

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to approve the State Cost Share payments as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Watershed Based Funding Applications

- 1W1P-07-OT BrTo, Forest Management – Estimated Cost \$620.00; 75% Cost Share \$465.00
- 1W1P-08-OT DaSt, Forest Management – Estimated Cost \$680.00; 75% Cost Share \$510.00

Motion (Andresen, Schauer) to approve the Watershed Based Funding Application as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Watershed Based Funding Vouchers

- 1W1P-01-OT GrBo, Conservation Cover – Total Project Cost \$9,348.00; 50% Cost Share \$4,674.00
- 1W1P-02-OT JoMc, Conservation Cover – Total Project Cost \$4,272.06; 50% Cost Share \$1,954.52

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to approve the Watershed Based Funding payments as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Agreements

Natural Resources Block Grant

The Legislature increased the 2024 and 2025 NRBG Grants for this Biennium to:

- 2024 & 2025 Local Water Management \$17,844.00
- 2024 & 2025 Wetland Conservation Act \$33,088.00
- 2024 Septic Treatment Systems Upgrade \$30,322.00

Motion (Ballard, Schauer) to approve the Natural Resources Block Grant as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Storage Space

Malone advised that the space would probably not be needed but there is space available in the building north of the shop for \$85/vehicle/month.

Local Water Management

Crow Wing River Watershed

Malone gave an update on the Crow Wing River Watershed:

- Working on getting a list of priority lakes categorized by protect, enhance, and restore.
- Policy committee meeting coming up.
- Don Bajumpaa has left for a BWSR position, EOT SWCD has not hired a replacement yet.

MASWCD

Resolutions

Malone and supervisors read through the resolutions and each supervisor documented their votes to have Christy enter online.

Area Meeting November 21st

Reminder regarding the next Area 1 Meeting in Mahnomen Tuesday November 21st.

Convention Registration

2023 Annual MASWCD Convention lodging, and registration materials are now available online. It will be held December 11 – 13, 2023 at the Double-Tree Hotel in Bloomington, MN. Early registration and reservations are advised. Supervisors were advised to please let Christy or Deana know if they plan to attend as soon as possible.

Open Forum – No discussion

Staff Reports

Soil Health Field Day Results

There were 57 people (34 producers, 23 staff from neighboring offices) that attended the event on September 21st. 35 people participated in the afternoon tour. Staff thanked Todd and Michelle Andresen for hosting. Discussion was held on when the next one would be. It could possibly be more of a round table event in the spring.

District Administrator - Bryan Malone

1W1P – Attended the Crow Wing River Watershed Technical Advisory Committee meeting in Staples. Read draft of Section 2 Narrative. Don Bajumpaa, watershed coordinator of EOT SWCD has taken a BWSR position. His knowledge and organizational skills will be missed with the Redeye, Otter Tail and Crow Wing Plans. Buffalo-Red restoration option for RIM Easements. Phil was asked to help with the coordination of the promotion of this restoration project.

Projects – Finally received the Top Down and Lake Protection final payments. Completed a revised tree plan for Tim Hines east of Frazee. Embankments for WASCBS are in the process of being built now as fields are harvested. Hopefully the weather holds out long enough to get all of them done for payments this year. A reported landowner basin was ripped out and needs to be put back in or penalties will be applied. A phone call and letter will be sent out to the landowner.

Education - Soil Health Field Day was held at Andresen's on September 21st. Great turnout and the weather was good. Many thanks to everyone that helped and made it a successful day. Assisted Howard Mooney at the Forestry Station at the 5th grade Conservation Day at Ike Fischer's. The second day was rained out, but Thursday was great! Participated in the Junior Envirothon on October 4th at the Forestry Station. Wrote test and Ed C helped grade the tests. Drizzly day but had a huge turnout. Christy did a great job organizing the event.

Meetings and Other – End of the quarter means numerous reports to be submitted; TSA, NACD, RCPP, Farm Bill Assistance, MAWQCP, and WBIF for Redeye, Otter Tail, Buffalo, and Wild Rice. Training on a new RIM program which entertains 30-year easements on Riparian and Floodplain areas. Attended the Becker County NRM committee meeting. Joint State and Area Training Committee meeting. Turns out Area 1 does a bang-up job offering training. Received tree order confirmations and ran through the number for tree pricing comparisons from last year. Read through resolutions. WCA TEP meeting and RIM Working Lands Technical Committee meeting.

TSA – Received the 2024 NPEA and ESS grants and assisted with preparing those funds for distribution to the SWCDs in the North and South Pods.

Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 11:23 am.

Curtis R Ballal

Board Secretary

11-15-23

Date

Bryan L Malone

District Administrator

11/15/2023

Date