



Board of Supervisors Meeting
Wednesday November 15, 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
Wes Drake, District Engineer
Mike Yrjo, WOT SWCD Engineering Technician
Ed Musielewicz, NRCS District Conservationist

Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

October 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes and Staff Reports

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

November 15, 2023 Agenda and Consent Agenda

Motion (Andresen, 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 October Treasurer's Report and pay the November Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

Cost Share

Clean Water Fund Voucher

- CWF-04-FFBC SchO, Cover Crop - Project cost \$31,406.40; Flat Rate Cost Share \$31,406.40

Motion (Beck, Andresen) to approve the Clean Water Fund payment as presented. All in Favor, motion carried.

State Cost Share Vouchers

- SCS-22-1 FoRe, Conservation Cover – Project Cost \$948.75; 50% Cost Share \$474.38
- SCS-22-4 ToDe, Conservation Cover – Project Cost \$13,885.85; 75% Cost Share \$10,414.39

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

Local Water Management

Crow Wing River Watershed Lake and Stream priorities

Malone gave an update on the Crow Wing River Watershed. A map of the Crow Wing Watershed Lake Prioritization broke out by vigilance, protect, enhance, and restore was displayed and discussed.

MASWCD

Area Meeting November 21st

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

Convention Schedule and Arrangements

2023 Annual MASWCD Convention registrations were done online. It will be held December 11 – 13, 2023 at the Double-Tree Hotel in Bloomington, MN. Lodging reservations were also made online. Any changes let Deana know.

Open Forum –

NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz gave his staff report, talking about RCPP and MAWQCP.

Christy Johnson brought up the Annual Board Retreat coming up in February. The date was agreed on February 20, 2024.

Deana Westberg announced her plan to retire in May 2024. Discussion about filling the position. Everyone agreed that the posting should be soon to give time for selecting a good candidate and for extensive training.

Staff Reports

District Engineer - Wes Drake/ WOT Engineering Technician – Mike Yrjo

- Thank you was given to NRCS Engineer Technician Max Rykhus for being such an asset to the Engineering Team.
- Mike and Wes reported on construction and the struggle with the shortage of contractors.
- Many incentive ideas were discussed on how to get contractors and landowner/farmers to finish projects in a timelier manner.
- Develop a contractor list for bids.
- Time tracker was shown and discussed.

District Administrator - Bryan Malone

1W1P – Attended the Crow Wing River Watershed Technical Advisory Committee meeting in Staples. The Policy Committee met a couple days prior to that and did not have enough members for a quorum. They will meet again in January. Working on the priority lakes and streams in the watershed. The Landscape Stewardship Plan (Forestry Priorities) is in final draft now and needs final approval from the DNR. This will be incorporated into the Crow Wing River CWMP. Wild Rice planning team meeting on the 13th preparing for Nov 27th policy committee meeting. Sent in a request to extend the FY21 WBIF grant agreement as it expires at the end of 2023. This is due to construction probably not being complete to pay out projects by the end of the year. Worked on the tracking spreadsheet. Will attend Otter Tail and Redeye planning committee meetings also.

Projects – 2 AgBMP loan applications for SSTS and still \$53,000 uncommitted to projects improving water quality. The fabric machine is done at Janssen's. Should have room for it in the shop. Kicking around an idea for incentives to finish construction prior to harvest. This fall we see the potential to have embankments not complete on many WASCBS. This could be detrimental to the integrity of the tile that was installed this summer. Assisted Adam with staking out the boundaries of buffer that is needed for compliance.

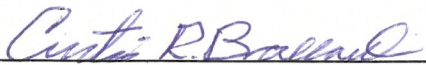
Education – Attended an event sponsored by the Friends of Tamarack NWR to enhance outdoor education events and how they are coordinated with local schools. Individual Employee Development Plans were completed in October. The Area Technical Training Team will meet in November to discuss training priorities for 2024. The Becker County Groundwater Atlas is complete. We are coordinating with MnDNR to present a workshop giving us details of what the report tells us about ground water movement in the County.

Meetings and Other – Budget meeting with County Administrator. Prepared vouchers for AIS, NRBG and 2nd half allocation from the County. Planning Committee meeting for the Area MASWCD meeting. Attended the County Department Head meeting. MDA Education and Promotion Team meeting. Irrigation RCPP grant is fully encumbered and may apply for more funding. Will attend the BRRWD Upper Buffalo Restoration RIM Easement Landowner meeting on the 13th. Reviewed the grant log with Deana after the 3rd quarter entries were complete.

TSA – This may be the first monthly report that doesn't include activity with the RRVCSA since I started employment here, other than reviewing the financials for the last month!

Adjourn

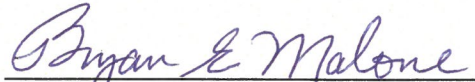
Seeing no further business, Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 11:17 am.



Board Secretary

12-19-23

Date



District Administrator

12/19/2023

Date

