

District Regular Board Meeting
December 27th, 2016
8 a.m.
County Annex Conference Room
625 Jefferson Ave.
Wabasha, MN 55981

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER - Board will first meet at the District office break room for "Closed Session." 8am
- II. CLOSED SESSION
 - A. Board will meet with Matt Kruger at the District office break room for a personnel discussion. *Fick moved to adjourn meeting at 8:32 am seconded by Arendt. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.* Session opened at 8:32 am
- III. RECESS
- IV. RECONVENE at 9:00 a.m. at County Annex Conference Room – Meeting called to order at 9am
Members Present: Nate Arendt, Member; Chuck Fick, Secretary; Roland Wood, Chair; Tom Gosse, Treasurer; Terry Helbig, Vice Chair
Others Present: Drew Chirpich, SWCD; Derek Husmoen, NRCS; Terri Peters, SWCD; Matt Kruger, SWCD; Jen Wahls, SWCD; Angela LaCroix, GreenCorps; Vic Ching, Citizen; Sharleen Klennert, Citizen
Absent: Brian Goihl, Commissioner; Mike Wobbe, Commissioner (note, District Board meeting occurred at same time as County Board meeting)
- V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- VI. AGENDA
 - A. Option for County Commissioners to move agenda items of interest up while they are present. Mr. Ching would like to speak, add Public Comment. Review of audit draft (Item D in New Business), NRCS will go over Civil Rights Annual Review (Item E in New Business). *Helbig moved to approve the agenda with suggested changes seconded by Fick. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. No items for consent agenda
- VIII. SECRETARY'S REPORT
 - A. November 22nd, 2016 District Regular Minutes *Helbig motioned to approve the November 22nd, 2016 District Regular Minutes seconded by Gosse. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
 - B. December 15th, 2016 Work Planning Meeting Minutes – Clarification of adjournment, correct bottom statement to reflect correct date *Helbig motioned to approve the December 15th, 2016 Work Planning Meeting Minutes with date correction seconded by Fick. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- IX. TREASURER'S REPORT: *Helbig motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report seconded by Fick. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- X. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS *Helbig motioned to approve the Payment of Monthly Bills seconded by Arendt. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Presentation by Mr. Vic Ching

XII. DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Chair Report – Roland Wood: Whitewater Board will have a new member coming on. 3 AgCertainty contracts approved. Pollinator presentation coming up. Discussion of DNR leased land in WWMA, meeting on January 17th with landowners.
- B. County Commissioners – Brian Goihl; Mike Wobbe (absent)
- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters: Mostly working on Work Plan, a few things for State Audit and Year-end reporting and some with the court case.
- D. NRCS Report – Phillis Brey (Derek Husmoen filling in): EQIP apps for this year, deadline pushed back to January 20th. CSP payments. CSP deadline for next year is February 3rd. March 6th is deadline for Initiative Funding (RCPP – AgCertainty is an example, there may be money for Driftless area: Stream bank restoration and goat prairie work). SEMN Feedlot fix money may be available, March 6th is deadline, targeted at feedlot fixes for animal units under 300 animal units. Annual review of partners Civil Rights, coming up later on agenda.
- E. Engineering Tech Report – Matt Kruger: surveyed 2 sinkholes with geologist coming up from La Crescent. AgCertainty. East Indian Creek Watershed project – Larry Gates, Mark Dittrich, Terri Peters and I met; goal to get more land in vegetative cover. Meeting on January 25th, 11am at Plainview American Legion; approximately 22 landowners invited. Informational meeting on Evers nutrient management. Dumpsters for silage bag recycling, may invite people to
- F. District Tech – Drew Chirpich: Fine for non-compliance of Buffer Law has been set at \$500/month for first 6 months then \$500/day after that. Enforcement will begin on December 1st, 2017. Approved alternative practices is still being worked out. Will be main contact for well testing network. Doing some engineering work with Coty from Goodhue.
- G. A.I.S. (Aquatic Invasive Species) Report – Jen Wahls: County AIS Plan updates, board presentation and approval. Submitted final plant to DNR per statute requirement. Minor supervisory duties for GreenCorps member. Working with LSP (LC marina). MN Land Trust inquired about contracting with Jen/SWCD for outreach for conservation easements. Forestry Day topic/presenter discussion. Noxious Weed CDE resolution approved. Helping Terri with office stuff: board minutes, CWMA final numbers. Access Editor Tool open until mid-January. Signs available from DNR to update signs.
- H. GreenCorps – Angela LaCroix: Working with Wabasha & Kellogg. Getting maps together for inventory in the spring. Gravel bed plans in the works.
- I. DNR – None
- J. Other

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. 2017 MAWQCP & Matt Kruger time allocation– **Board Action** *Fick motioned that the Wabasha SWCD enters into agreement with MDA to allocate 85% of Matt Kruger's time to the 2017 MAWQCP seconded by Helbig. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- B. Moving forward with Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) shared service position planning with Winona and Fillmore Counties and the Joint Powers Board (JPB) – **Board Decision** *Helbig motioned to move forward with Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) shared service position seconded by Fick. Nays: None. Motioned Carried*
- C. 2017 Budget – **Board Action** *Helbig motioned to approve the 2017 Budget as presented seconded by Fick. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- D. 2017 Cost of Living and Step Increases according to Employee Handbook Policy – **Board Action** *Gosse motioned to approve the 2017 Cost of Living and Step Increases according to Employee Handbook Policy seconded by Fick. Nays: None. Motioned Carried*

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Grant Agreement Contract – sub-recipient to SE MN WRB (\$2,000 available to be used for SWCD work through June 30, 2018) – **Board Action** *Fick motioned to enter into the Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Grant Agreement Contract with SE MN WRB for \$2,000 seconded by Helbig. Naves: None. Motioned Carried*

B. FY 2017 Buffer Law Implementation Grant Agreement (P17-9792) \$20,000 – **Board Action** *Helbig motioned to accept the FY 2017 Buffer Law Implementation Grant Agreement (P17-9792) for \$20,000 seconded by Fick. Naves: None. Motioned Carried.*

C. Minnesota Land Trust Grant Agreement; Potential billing of \$4,999.00 through the end of February for outreach services – **Board Action** *Helbig motioned to accept grant agreement with the Minnesota Land Trust seconded by Fick. Naves: None. Motioned Carried*

D. State Audit – **Discussion** Draft audit presented to board from State Auditors. Discussion on how some items are entered and adjustments determined by the State. Due to budget we are required to do annual audits, the State audit is required every 3 years and part of our corrective actions. Comments can be submitted to the auditors.

E. NRCS Civil Rights/Equal Opportunity Annual Review – **Discussion** Done in 1st quarter of year in case of new board members. Zero tolerance discrimination policy. Zero tolerance harassment policy, most recent statement effective July 1st, 2015. Limited English Proficiency statement reviewed. All required postings are in the office. USDA is an Equal Opportunity provider, employer and lender. October 26, 2015 Non-discrimination statement last updated. Forms included for civil rights compliance. Affirmation of review form passed around for signing and dating.

F. Upcoming Events: Board Information

1. Pollinator Workshop – January 17th, Rushford
2. Forestry Days – February 10th, Millville American Legion
3. January 25th Plainview American Legion – Invitational meeting with East Indian Creek Watershed Landowners
4. February 16th, evening informational meeting on nutrient management and knifing in manure

XV. ADJOURNMENT: *Arendt moved to adjourn meeting at 10:34 seconded by Fick. Naves: None. Motioned Carried.*

Adjournment: Adjourned the meeting at 10:34 am on December 27th, 2016. The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for the FOURTH TUESDAY of the next month (January 24th, 2017).



Respectfully Submitted
Chuck Fick, Secretary