

District Regular Board Meeting

June 28, 2016

8 a.m.

625 Jefferson Ave.

Wabasha, MN 55981

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER - Meeting called to order at 8:00 am.
Members: Tom Gosse, Treasurer; Roland Wood, Chair; Terry Helbig, Member; Nate Arendt, Member
Others Present: Brian Goihl, Commissioner; Mike Wobbe, Commissioner; Vic Ching, citizen; Drew Chirpich, SWCD; Phillis Brey, NRCS; Jen Wahls, SWCD; Matt Kruger, SWCD; John Rice, County; Sharleen Klennert, citizen; Terri Peters, SWCD; Matt Schmit, Senator (arrive about 8:45 am).
Absent: Chuck Fick, Secretary
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. AGENDA – Addition to new business is an amendment to Kevin Gunhus' contract. *Helbig motioned to approve minutes with 1 addition, seconded by Gosse. Motioned carried. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
 - a. Option for County Commissioners to move agenda items of interest up while they are present.
 - b. Senator Matt Schmit has requested time to address the Board and will be heard when he arrives.
 - c. Addition of amendment to Kevin Gunhus contract
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS
 - A. Vic Ching as requested – Requested time in front of the SWCD Board to hear his perspective and look over information he provided them regarding the wetland violation on his property.
- V. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: none
- VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT
 - A. May 24, 2016 District Regular Minutes – *Gosse moved to approve the May 24, 2016 minutes, seconded by Arendt. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- VII. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR END OF MAY 2016 – Profit/loss and reconciliation statements included. Paying penalties and interest on IRS. *Helbig moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for end of May and payment of bills, seconded by Gosse. Nays: None. Motioned carried.*
- VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS: Addition of payment to Schads and Dittrichs. *Helbig moved to approve the payment of monthly bills, seconded by Gosse. Nays: None. Motioned carried.*
- IX. DISTRICT REPORTS
 - A. Chair Report – Roland Wood: Nothing to report at this time
 - B. County Commissioners – Brian Goihl: nothing at this time; Mike Wobbe – discussion on wetland violation at Mr. Ching's property. John Rice, Assistant County Attorney – Mr. Ching was issued a misdemeanor citation and had over a year of extensions. Pretrial is scheduled for July 18th. At this point it is an enforcement issue as there has been noncompliance.
 - C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters: WCA things, reporting things, HFHW tour preparation – good content, low attendance (Wood inquired about a thank you, Gosse

- inquired about overall acreage reforested and he enjoyed the tour); attended MASWCD training; leadership training
- D. NRCS Report – Phillis Brey: **EQIP** – 19 applications have been contracted with funds obligated, 2 AgCertainty applications are preapproved, 20 potential applications for 2017. **Compliance Food Security Act** – 16 compliance spot check's completed, 10 Conservation plans written. **CRP** - 5 plans written, 8 eligibility field checks need to be completed, 6 plans need to be written. **CSP** – 12 2012 applications re-enrolling for another 5 years. **Engineering** – 2 waterways projects are paid, 1 Water & Sediment control project paid. **Wetlands** - Received 0 1026 this month, 1 569 completed. **Training & Meetings** – 06/22/2016 Forage Plant Identification and Characteristics Training.
- E. Engineering Tech Report – Matt Kruger: working on 2 grassed waterways, Jerry Holst night on the farm had an excellent turnout, about 15 people watched the rainfall simulator. Attended Forage Plant Id training. Finished up grade stabilization at Dale Wobbles. Lots of time to AgCertainty. Mazeppa: EQIP stream stabilization project, JPB engineers and TU contributing funds.
- F. District Tech – Drew Chirpich: **Buffer Law** - Continuing imagery checks. About 500 of 781 checked. No field checks this month.
Healthy Forests for Healthy Waters - Designed pamphlets and story boards for field day.
MRLP - Surveyed, flagged and drafted grade stabs for MRLP recipients.
Nitrogen Outreach with MDA - The majority of this month was spent flagging, mapping and soil sampling test plots for MDA nitrogen research grant. Also conducted field visits and stand counts.
EQIP - Accompanied Matt on EQIP project sites and compiled maps and cost estimates for upcoming projects.
RIM - Prepared files and site maps for annual checks.
SWCD Capacity - Surveyed Waterways.
Trainings - Forage plant Identification on June 22nd.
- G. A.I.S. (Aquatic Invasive Species) Report – Jen Wahls
AIS - Lake City 5th grade science teacher would like assistance to work on a curriculum or projects for her classes. (Terry Helbig has educational resources available in Lake City)
 2 days at the National Eagle Center - >125 people
 Japanese Knotweed in Mazeppa – working with the City
 Attended 1 fishing tournament rules meeting, scheduled for July tournament in Lake City
 Met with Jim Warren discuss civil enforcement opportunities
 Stream monitoring
 Water garden plants – contacted retailers, coordinated with SE counties
Noxious Weeds - 33.5 hours (including 10 hours training with travel) to date spent on program with approximately 2/3 of the time spent on Durow case. Met with land occupiers and they have addressed the weeds, drafted a weed management agreement and sent to them to sign.
Buffer - Few walk-ins. 1 site visit at landowner's request.
CWMA - 2 more brush management contracts. Worked with City of Wabasha. Visited a 3rd possible site to do a contract using 2016 funds.
Other - Attended/planned CPR/AED training in Zumbrota for Area 7 employees. Met with Jim Fritz, NRCS, to review standards and practices for ECS TAA
- H. DNR – None
- I. Other – Matt Schmit – budget: running on a surplus. Transportation – hoping to release some of the financial burden of road/bridge maintenance off of counties. Buffer Law – discussion that there aren't established alternative practices, they may be developed on

a case by case basis. No decision on the penalty for noncompliance that will be determined by enforcement at the counties. Open to discussion on how to approach this for Southeast MN. Would like to set up a tour of Southeast MN in August.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Conservation Farmer and Woodland Manager – Conservation Farmer is Bernie Schumacher. Woodland Manager is between Jim Krulish and Gene Zarling. Mark Miller is putting together a report.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion on future vision for Wabasha SWCD – Terri Peters: attended MASWCD Leadership Training. How are SWCDs going to have unified systems (ways of operating, equipment, autonomy)? How will SWCD's relationship with NRCS continue or change? What are the Boards' perspectives? Consider partnerships, funding...things to be thinking about.
- B. Chad & Wendy Dittrich – 15-HFHW-4 Voucher for Final Payment for reforestation: \$2,400.00 – Board Decision. *Gosse moved to approve 15-HFHW-4 Voucher for Final Payment for reforestation: \$2,400.00, seconded by Arendt. Naves: None. Motioned carried.*
- C. Ralph Ratz – 15-HFHW-11 Voucher for Final Payment for reforestation: \$7,200 - Board Decision. *Helbig moved to approve 15-HFHW-11 Voucher for Final Payment for reforestation: \$7,200, seconded by Gosse. Naves: None. Motioned carried.*
- D. Beth Johnson: 15-HFHW-12 Voucher for Final Payment for tree planting portion of contract - Board Decision. *Gosse moved to approve 15-HFHW-12 Voucher for Final Payment for tree planting portion of contract, seconded by Helbig. Naves: None. Motioned carried.*
- E. Michael & Constance Schad – 15-HFHW-10 Voucher for final payment of invasive species management: \$8,600.00 – Board Decision. *Helbig moved to approve 15-HFHW-10 Voucher for final payment of invasive species management: \$8,600.00, seconded by Gosse. Naves: None. Motioned carried.*
- F. Elizabeth Edwards: 14-CWMA-5, Contract Approval for \$1,085.00 (75% of \$1446.67) 7 acres of (314) Brush Management - Board Decision: *Arendt moved to approve Elizabeth Edwards: 14-CWMA-5, Contract Approval for \$1,085.00 7 acres of (314) Brush Management, seconded by Helbig. Naves: None. Motioned carried.*
- G. Donald Harlow 14-CWMA-6, Contract Approval for \$1,317.50 (75% of \$1446.67) 8.5 acres of (314) Brush Management - Board Decision: *Arendt moved to approve Donald Harlow 14-CWMA-6, Contract Approval for \$1,317.50 8.5 acres of (314) Brush Management, seconded by Helbig. Motioned carried. Naves: None.*
- H. Wayne Evers 16-Capacity-1, Contract Approval for \$5,000 on (412) grassed waterway, total cost estimate \$10,307.00 – Board Decision: *Helbig moved to approve Wayne Evers 16-Capacity-1, Contract Approval for \$5,000 on (412) grassed waterway, seconded by Gosse. Motioned carried. Naves: None.*
- I. Phil Evers 16-Capacity-2, Contract Approval for \$5,000 on (412) grassed waterway, total cost estimate \$8,602.00 – Board Decision: *Arendt moved to approve Phil Evers 16-Capacity-2, Contract Approval for \$5,000 on (412) grassed waterway, seconded by Gosse. Motioned carried. Naves: None.*
- J. Tom Miller 16-Capacity, Contract Approval for payment of \$1,875.00 on (412) grassed waterway, total cost estimate \$2,500.00 – Board Decision: *Helbig moved to approve Tom Miller 16-Capacity, Contract Approval for payment of \$1,875.00 on (412) grassed waterway, seconded by Arendt. Naves: None. Motioned carried*
- K. Board approval and signature for Jennifer Wahls TAA. *Helbig moved to approve Board signature for Jennifer Wahls TAA, seconded by Gosse. Naves: None. Motioned carried.*
- L. Nitrogen Outreach BMP sub-agreement with SE SWCD Technical Support JPB Amendment #1 (extension to December 31, 2016): Board Decision – *Arendt moved to*

approve Nitrogen Outreach BMP sub-agreement with SE SWCD Technical Support JPB Amendment #1 (extension to December 31, 2016), seconded by Helbig. Naves: None. Motioned carried.

M. MAWQCP sub-agreement with SE SWCD Technical Support JPB Amendment #1 (extension to December 31, 2016): Board Decision. *Arendt moved to approved MAWQCP sub-agreement with SE SWCD Technical Support JPB Amendment #1 (extension to December 31, 2016), seconded by Helbig. Naves: None. Motioned carried.*

N. Sub-Agreement with SE SWCD Technical Support JPB for SE MN Cover Crop and Soil Health Initiatives Project (for Tony Tentis cover crop project), \$2,888.00. *Helbig Sub-Agreement with SE SWCD Technical Support JPB for SE MN Cover Crop and Soil Health Initiatives Project (for Tony Tentis cover crop project), \$2,888.00, seconded by Gosse. Naves: None. Motioned carried.*

a. Tony Tentis: W-LCCMR16-01 Contract for (340) Cover Crops (one species, 1 field, 40.1 acres) Total for 2 years \$2,888.00: Board Decision. *Helbig motioned to approve Tony Tentis: W-LCCMR16-01 Contract for (340) Cover Crops (one species, 1 field, 40.1 acres) Total for 2 years \$2,888.00, seconded by Nate. Naves: None. Motioned carried.*

O. Kevin Gunhus – amendment to contract to add an additional \$25,000 to his contract. *Helbig moved to approve an amendment to the Gunhus Contract, Arendt seconded. Naves: None. Motioned carried.*

P. IRS payment – penalties and interest payment. Discussion/Decision. *Helbig motioned to approve payment of IRS penalties, seconded by Gosse. Naves: None. Motioned carried.*

Q. Upcoming Events: Board Information

a. Area Resolution Meeting: June 29, 2016 – at Stewartville American Legion: Wood, Gosse and Fick will be attending along with SWCD DM.

b. Budget request/presentation to County Commissioners: July 19, 2016 – submitted to Deb Koenig with a 5% increase. Meeting will not be at the fair this year. Terry Helbig would like to attend the presentation.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. ZWP – discharge at Rochester waste treatment plant is in excess of allowable discharge and will be costly to repair.
- B. WW – Nothing to report

XIII. CLOSED SESSION:

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 10:13 am. *Arendt moved to adjourn, seconded by Helbig. Naves: None. Motioned Carried.*

Adjournment: Adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m. on June 28th, 2016. The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for the FOURTH TUESDAY of the next month (July 26th, 2016).

 7/26/16

Respectfully Submitted
Chuck Fick, Secretary