

District Regular Board Meeting March 22, 2016
8 am
625 Jefferson Ave.
Wabasha, MN 55981

- I. Call the meeting to order: Meeting called to order at 8:02 am.

Members Present: Chuck Fick, Secretary; Roland Wood, Chairman; Terry Helbig, Member; Nate Arendt, Member
Others Present: Terri Peters, Jen Wahls, Matt Kruger, Drew Chirpich, SWCD; Brian Goihl, County Commissioner; Derek Husmoen, NRCS.
Absent: Tom Gosse, Treasurer; Mike Wobbe, County Commissioner
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Agenda Option for County Commissioners to move agenda items of interest up while they are present.
Change on amount of CWMA return funds, \$1,054.23 rather than \$2,000. *Fick moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Helbig. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- IV. Public Comments: None
- V. Consent Agenda Items: *Helbig moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Fick. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
 - A. FY2015 Conservation Delivery – FFR (final financial report)
 - B. FY2015 Easement Delivery – FFR
 - C. FY2015 Cost Share – FFR
 - D. Nitrogen BMP Outreach Contract (previously approved)
 - E. Dan Johnson-AgBMP Loan – Self-propelled sprayer to sidedress Nitrogen \$33,000 (already board approved and signed, communications re: manager, board and MDA)
- VI. Secretary's Report: *Helbig moved to approve the minutes with correction, seconded Arendt. Motioned, carried. Discussion: correction to February 2016 district minutes, Mike Wobbe comment regarding letter from BWSR. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
 - A. February 16, 2016 District Regular Minutes
- VII. Treasurer's Report for End of January 2016 – Overview of program record. Terri has submitted everything BWSR requested. *Helbig motioned to approve the treasurer's report, Fick seconded. Discussion: None. Nays: None.*
- VIII. Payment of Monthly Bills – *Helbig motioned to approve payment of monthly bills, seconded by Fick. Motioned Carried. Discussion: none Nays: None*
- IX. District Reports
 - A. Chair Report – Roland Wood – Gathering Partners Conference in Winona May 20th-22nd, 2016. Anyone from the County attending RC & D on March 28th? Commissioner Goihl was unsure if any Commissioner Hall is attending.
 - B. County Commissioners – None

- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters
 - 1. Finalizing financial reports with Jennifer Monsos, CPA.
 - 2. Meetings with City of Elgin and MDH about drinking water management area
 - 3. HFHW – visited with Dittrichs and public television producer for potential tv documentary
- D. **NRCS Report** – Derek Husmoen, Acting District Conservationist and Tim Wilson, Area Conservationist
 - 1. Phillis arrived, details unknown
 - 2. CRP – continuous CRP still coming in, need to finish one by April 1st. Have completed 10 since 1st of year. General sign up had about 45 offers, waiting to hear about approval. These would have October 1st start dates.
 - 3. EQIP – 7 applications in 1st round of funding should be hearing about funding in the next week or 2. Second round, funding dependent, may have 20 applications to get funded.
 - 4. CSP – deadline is March 31st, 2016. Have received about 6 applications.
 - 5. WRP/RIM – 1 easement that closed this month, completing contract for restoration work to be completed this summer. 75% cost-share with WRP and 25% cost-share with RIM on state side.
- E. **Engineering Tech Report** – Matt Kruger
 - 1. Feb 23, Drew and I attend 2nd Annual Nitrogen Conference at event center in Rochester, about 250 people attended. Notes, increased severity of thunderstorms due to warmer weather. Gaining 9-17 days of growing year. Wetter springs = more N leaving the soil. Challenges to conservation = increased drainage tiling and increased N application.
 - 2. March 8th, Engineering Training at Rochester for all techs
 - 3. March 15th, AgCertainty Training in Stearns County
 - 4. Worked a lot on feedlots. Kate and Pete have been here to look at potential feedlot fixes under 300 animal units. Coty surveyed 6 sites in Wabasha County, 4 are interested in 75% cost-share program for manure storage.
 - 5. Surveying for MRLP (Lake Pepin) grant
 - 6. AgCertainty – working with 2 dairy farmers on their nutrient management plan
- F. **District Tech Report**– Drew Chirpich
 - 1. Mapping Ching site fill removal – WCA
 - 2. Discussed new buffer legislation with Tom Gile and database compliance tool. We can't wait for DNR/BWSR, getting behind with timeline for initial letter mailing.
 - 3. Surveying and drafting projects for MRLP with Coty from Goodhue, 6 basins planned
 - 4. MDA grant meetings and supplies swap, covered tentative schedule
 - 5. Completing HFHW contracts
 - 6. Feedlot visits with Pete and Kate
 - 7. Nitrate reduction for Elgin wellhead protection
 - 8. Trainings : Feb 23rd Nitrogen conference, Feb 24th seeding training, March 18th grade stabilization training, March 15th Nitrogen Smart training
- G. **A.I.S. (Aquatic Invasive Species+) Report** – Jen Wahls
 - 1. Mailed 13 informational packets to teachers for Envirothon plus reimbursement proposal for cost of substitute teacher and transportation if participating in Envirothon
 - 2. Presentation on Local AIS Prevention Aid at BALMM meeting in Oronoco, 20-25 people in attendance

3. Phone conference with Eleanor Burkett for AIS 1st Detectors program from the UMN-Extension
 4. Attended 1st meeting for State AIS Advisory Committee (SAISAC) in St. Cloud. 6 out of 161 applicants were accepted onto the committee of 16 members + 4 ex-officio
 5. Mailed letter to 7 landowners near Trout/Mazeppa Creek for restoration project, will reach out to West Albany and/or Spring Creek landowners.
 6. Attending 2nd SAISAC meeting on March 24th in St. Cloud and on panel discussion re non-native *Phragmites* at the 79th Annual Wastewater Treatment Operators Conference in Brooklyn Park.
 7. Noxious weeds – emailed letter to city and township clerks introducing myself, general notice will go in local papers in April
 8. Trees – 13% of trees are still available.
 9. Buffers – updates to letter, working with Drew to move forward.
- H. **DNR** - Mark Miller – EAB update. Mark unable to attend, Jen Wahls gave report. Wabasha County under quarantine, unable to move ash and other hardwoods across county lines (Goodhue is not known to have EAB, Winona has EAB). Jen coordinated with MDA to schedule an open house. Open house hosted by MDA scheduled for March 31st, from 5:30-7:30 in county board room.
- I. **Other**
- X. OLD BUSINESS
- A. Budget update and progress report – Recap of Treasurer’s Report. IRS has given us an opportunity to give a written submission as to why fees and penalties were not paid.
- XI. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Protecting and restoring water quality in MRLP Contracts
 1. Dean Klein-15-MRLP-2: Grade Stabilization Structure #1 \$10,424.70. **Action** *Helbig motioned to approve Dean Klein-15-MRLP-2 contract, seconded by Arendt. Motioned, carried. Discussion: None. Nays: None*
 2. Dean Klein-15-MRLP-3: Grade Stabilization Structure #2 \$12,879.90. **Action** *Helbig motioned to approve Dean Klein-15-MRLP-3 contract, seconded by Fick. Motioned, carried. Discussion: None Nays: none.*
 3. Keith Bremer-15-MRLP-4: Grade Stabilization Structure #1 \$8,801.10. **Action** *Fick motioned to approve Keith Bremer-15-MRLP-4 contract, seconded by Arendt. Motioned carried. Discussion: None Nays: none.*
 4. Keith Bremer-15-MRLP-5: Grade Stabilization Structures B2 & B3 #5 \$26,690.40 **Action** *Helbig motioned to approve Keith Bremer-15-MRLP-4 contract, seconded by Arendt. Motioned carried. Discussion: None Nays: none*
 5. Jon Wallerich-15-MRLP-7: Grade Stabilization Structure #1 \$5,532.70 **Action** *Fick motioned to approve Jon Wallerich-15-MRLP-7, seconded by Arendt. Motioned carried. Discussion: None Nays: none*
 - B. Matthew Tentis-14-CWMA-3: Invasive Species Management \$775.00 **Action:** *Helbig motioned to approve Matthew Tentis-14-CWMA-3, seconded by Arendt. Motioned carried. Discussion: None Nays: none*
 - C. Gene Zarling- 15-HFHW-9: Invasive Species Management 1 acre and Reforestation 1 acre \$500.00 **Action:** *Helbig motioned to approve Gene Zarling-15-HFHW-9, seconded by Fick. Motioned carried. Discussion: discussion on*

overall program of HFHW, end date, money balance and additional programs.
Nays: None.

- D. Notice for Board: LCCMR Cover Crop Contract (JPB Soil Health Grant administered by Dean Thomas, Fillmore): Tony Tentis 2 years of cover crops. \$1,444.00/yr. Expect to request approval April board meeting. **Discussion**
- E. Sub-Contract with Brad Gatzlaff to write forestry plans for HFHW. Payment of \$10 per acre as required in HFHW contract with DNR. **Action** *Helbig motioned to approve contract with Brad Gatzlaff, seconded by Fick. Motioned Carried.*
Discussion: none. Nays: none.
- F. 2012 CWMA Technical Assistance Option Request – **Action:** *Fick motioned to approve using Technical Assistance Option Request, seconded by Arendt. Motioned Carried. Discussion: none. Nays: None.*
- G. 2012 CWMA Final Financial Report (FFR) with return of remaining funds **Action:** *Helbig motioned to approve the 2012 CWMA FFR with the return \$1054.23, seconded by Helbig. Motioned Carried. Discussion: none. Nays: None.*
- H. 5th Grade Conservation Day Planning **Discussion** May 17th worked best for the majority of schools. That is the planned day.
- I. Conservation Farmer and Woodland Manager of the Year Planning **Discussion** trying to set up tours. Should we do it every other year? Suggestions for recipients. *Helbig motioned to combine Woodland Manager and HFHW tours to the week of June 13th, seconded Fick. Motioned Carried. Discussion: none. Nays: None.*
- J. Supervisors up for election in 2016 - **Discussion**
Soil and Water Supervisor for **District Two:** Gilford Twp, Oakwood Twp, West Albany Twp and the cities therein. Chuck Fick
Soil and Water Supervisor for **District Three:** Chester Twp, Hyde Park Twp, Mazeppa Twp, Zumbro Twp and the cities therein. Nate Arendt
Soil and Water Supervisor for **District Five:** Lake Twp, Mount Pleasant Twp, Pepin Twp and the cities therein. Terry Helbig
- K. Year End Financial Reports-Submitted to BWSR. **Board Information** – Update for the board. Per BWSR it looked great and was submitted before the deadline.
- L. AgBMP Loan Process – **Discussion/Possible Action** – Refer to information from Dwight Wilcox. Most Districts have a policy that states staff can sign approval for listed categories. District staff have sign off authority. *Helbig motioned to allow staff to approve up to \$75,000 for AgBMP Loans, seconded Fick.*
- M. Upcoming Events **Board Information**
 - 1. Zumbro Watershed Buffer Summit – March 24, 2016
 - 2. SE MN Area 6 Employee Meeting – Employees only – March 31st, 2016
 - 3. Public Meeting for Emerald Ash Borer Emergency Quarantine – March 31st, 2016
 - 4. Land Stewardship Project Grazing Workshops – March 19, April 2 and 3rd, and April 22 and 23rd, 2016 (Information included)

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. JPB – None
- B. ZWP – None
- C. Whitewater – None

XIII. CLOSED SESSION:

XIV. ADJOURMENT

Arendt motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Fick. *Ayes: Arendt, Wood, Helbig and Fick. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*

Adjournment: Adjourned the meeting at 9:46 a.m. on March 22, 2016. The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for the FOURTH TUESDAY of the next month (April 26th, 2016).

Respectfully Submitted
Chuck Fick, Secretary