

District Regular Board Meeting

October 18th, 2016

8 a.m.

625 Jefferson Ave.

Wabasha, MN 55981

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER Meeting called to order at an estimated time of 8:00 am  
**Members Present:** Terry Helbig, Vice Chair; Roland Wood, Chair; Chuck Fick, Secretary; Tom Gosse, Treasurer; Nate Arendt, Member  
**Others Present:** Derek Husmoen, NRCS; Terri Peters, SWCD; Mike Wobbe, Commissioner  
**Absent:** Jen Wahls, SWCD; Drew Chirpich, SWCD; Matt Kruger, SWCD; Brian Goihl, Commissioner; Phillis Brey, NRCS
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. AGENDA  

A. Option for County Commissioners to move agenda items of interest up while they are present. Add item F: Healthcare reenrollment. *Arendt moved to approve the Agenda with addition of item F: Health care reenrollment under New Business seconded by Gosse. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT  

A. September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 District Regular Minutes. *Helbig moved to approve the Secretary's Report as written seconded by Fick. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- V. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR END OF AUGUST 2016: Program Record. *Helbig moved to approve Treasurer's Report seconded by Fick. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- VI. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS *Helbig moved to pay the monthly bills seconded by Gosse. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- VII. DISTRICT REPORTS  

A. Chair Report – Roland Wood: nothing to report at this time. Whitewater board is meeting Thursday.

B. County Commissioners – Brian Goihl; Mike Wobbe – suggested moving joint meeting up to 10 am, all agreed.

C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters  
**Administrative**  
Program record  
**WCA**  
Some time on potential court case – may be November 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>

D. NRCS Report – Phillis Brey (absent, Derek Husmoen reporting)  
**EQIP**  
New applications for this year, November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. 8 cover crop contracts being verified and paid out. Some construction occurring.  
**CSP**  
Changes coming for 2017. Annual payments will begin in the next few weeks.  
**CRP**  
There will be a sign-up 50 for continuous. Acreage has not been determined. Approval will occur in batches. More info to come. Cap this year is \$24 million.

E. Engineering Tech Report – Matt Kruger  
**MRLP**  
Getting plans reviewed by Coty for construction starting this fall after beans come off.  
**WCA**  
Reviewing details for upcoming case

### **Cover Crops**

Two more landowners signed contracts

### **NRCS**

Surveying sites now that the Crops are starting to be removed

4 Grade stabs

2 waterways

### **Ag Certainty**

Worked with 2 different landowners, in process of getting them certified.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Goodhue field day 9/28

## F. District Tech – Drew Chirpich

### **Buffer Law**

Have contacted about 35 landowners to schedule site visits once crops are off. Taken phone calls.

### **MDA Nitrate Research Grant**

Most of my time has been spent sampling this month. Have been taking basal stalk nitrate tests on test plots using variable rate and timing of fertilizer. 24 fields with 6-15 sample points per plot.

### **MRLP**

Drafting Keith Bremer Basins

### **WCA**

Preparing maps and paperwork for upcoming case, meetings

## G. A.I.S. (Aquatic Invasive Species) Report – Jen Wahls

**(Sept & Oct)**

### **AIS**

Japanese Knotweed Field day on September 29<sup>th</sup> in Hammond; **13 landowners attended, 1 DNR representative – sent thank you to Jaime Edwards, MNDNR for her efforts on this project.**

Formed the SE MN AIS Network – met for inaugural meeting, 5 counties had representation.

Utilize this as a local/regional platform for: sharing ideas, sharing costs, creating streamlined advertising and signage, potentially share 1-2 Conservation Corps members, etc

Stream monitoring; Curly-leaf pondweed present in a few streams as it was last year. This plant is an invasive but does not warrant a water as infested...think like the Common Carp (also invasive) naturalized and been here so long that it is in many water bodies.

Reviewed and commented on content of LSP training modules for MN DNR

More lakes and rivers found infested with zebra mussels, several more lakes with Starry Stonewort, 1 lake in northern MN (Tilde) had 2 Red Swamp Crayfish (crayfish boil type, native to southern US); **DNR designated Pools 4, 5, 5A and 6 infested with faucet snails. Snails were found on the WI side of Pool 5 and the connected pools warrant it infested. These snails can be an intermediate host for a parasite that has caused mass die offs of diving ducks particularly Scaup.**

Staying up-to-date with DNR postings, SAISAC messages and information

Planning for upcoming conferences and presentations – Aquatic Invaders Summit II Oct. 5-6 in St. Cloud (presenting once and facilitating 1 session) **had 50 people attend presentation on stream monitoring, about 40 people in session I facilitated** Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) Oct. 17, 18, 19 in La Crosse (presenting once and attending, volunteering hours to off-set cost of conference)

Helping Root River SWCD with 6<sup>th</sup> grade conservation day on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> – AIS portion; **283 kids and about 20 adults attended – Article in Houston County News.**

### **Noxious Weeds**

Palmer Amaranth found in Iowa counties bordering MN, potentially brought in through seed mix. Winona County has had many reports of Common Tansy. Things to be aware of.

### **Buffer**

Responded to about 3-4 inquiries regarding the second letter and verified compliance or not on 4 LOs on spreadsheet.

## **CWMA**

Field Day at Ed & Pam Bauman's on Monday Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>; 4 attendees. **Bauman's were fantastic to work with, they had a very nice set up for attendees. Sent a thank you to Ed and Pam.**

## **GreenCorps**

Attended 1 day training for host site orientation on Friday Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. Angela started with us on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Angela is employed through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency under the GreenCorps program. **Set up desk space, first day orientation/training stuff at SWCD and general supervision. Angela has been very active and engaging with the communities (Wabasha, Kellogg and Plainview). She hit the ground running, facilitating trainings, coordinating volunteers, organizing meetings with community members and city staff. She has been a great addition to the community and is getting a lot done with Urban Forestry.**

### H. GreenCorps – Angela LaCroix

#### **Urban Forestry and Community Tree Program**

Working with Kellogg and Wabasha on doing tree inventory, been out 6 or 7 times working on public trees. Scheduled and met with Plainview public works director. Researching: gravel bed construction, recommended trees for urban plantings and for gravel beds. Community outreach through flyers and articles in paper. Contacting community members to plan inventory days. Received inventory tools on loan from Sherburne County SWCD.

### I. DNR – none present

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Follow up from committee meeting with Terry, Chuck and Terri re: a board policy manual. Shared examples from Fillmore and Dakota counties. Will revise and incorporate some of these items and items from current Wabasha employee manual to create a board policy manual. Goal is to have revisions/compilation complete by January meeting.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Contract approval: Vincent & Sheri Sexton 16-CapacityCC-7 for \$1440 (\$480/YR. 2016, 2017 & 2018) for cover crops (340) from 2016 Local Capacity Services Funding: **Board Action.** *Helbig moved to approve Vincent & Sheri Sexton 16-CapacityCC-7 for \$1440 (\$480/YR. 2016, 2017 & 2018) for cover crops (340) from 2016 Local Capacity Services Funding seconded by Gosse. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- B. Contract approval: Lars Polson 16-CapacityCC-6 for \$1800 (\$600/YR. 2016, 2017 & 2018) for cover crops (340) from 2016 Local Capacity Services Funding: **Board Action.** *Fick moved to approve Lars Polson 16-CapacityCC-6 for \$1800 (\$600/YR. 2016, 2017 & 2018) for cover crops (340) from 2016 Local Capacity Services Funding seconded by Arendt. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- C. Program Record: Discussion
- D. Recessed for joint meeting with County Board of Commissioners following their regularly scheduled meeting. *Gosse motioned to recess seconded by Fick at 9:52. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- E. Upcoming Events: Board Information
- a. Election Day: November 8th – Terri is putting articles in the paper
- F. Healthcare reenrollment **Board action.** Need approval to reenroll. We are at in the middle of the high option with lesser deductible. Going up about \$20/mo for single and \$50/mo for family. Suggested to move employee contribution up from 7.5% to 10% of the total premium cost due to increased rates. *Fick motioned that the board approve increasing to the recommended percentage what the district is paying for employees seconded by Gosse. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- G. ZWP – Tour of education sites will be happening. The last lobe meeting at Theilman is on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Lots of sediment and debris from high waters and heavy rains.

Board recessed at 10 and joined the County Board meeting for a joint meeting between the County Commissioners and SWCD Board of Supervisors. This included a discussion intended to open communications between the 2 boards, answer lingering questions and attempt to move improved relations forward. A follow-up meeting will be planned for the SWCD to present on work done in the County over the past year.

Arendt motioned to reconvene the SWCD board meeting at 11:28 and Helbig seconded the motion.  
*Nayes: None. Motioned Carried.*

- X. ADJOURNMENT Fick motioned to adjourn at 11:30 and Helbig seconded the motion.  
*Nayes: None. Motioned Carried.*

**Adjournment: Recessed the meeting estimated at 10:30 a.m. on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for the FOURTH TUESDAY of the next month (November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016).**



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Respectfully Submitted  
Chuck Fick, Secretary