

Carlton County Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting
August 14, 2023 – Carlton SWCD Office, Carlton MN

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Board Chair Bob Fox.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Roll call was taken:

Board Members present:

Barb Dahl
Bob Fox
Bruce Heikes
Tim Michaelson
Kim Samuelson

Staff present:

Brad Matlack, District Manager
Julie Radovich, District Administrator
Cameron Gustafson, Community Conservationist

Guests present:

Susan Zymlony, Carlton County Board
Todd Whitesell, NRCS
Marie Toras, NRCS
Jeff Jasperson, MPCA
Jenny Jasperson, MPCA

Meeting Agenda: A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda as presented. M/S Michaelson/Heikes. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023 regular SWCD Board meeting. M/S Michaelson/Heikes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The report was presented by Dahl. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. M/S Heikes/Michaelson. Motion carried.

Financial Report: No Financial Report.

SWCD Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee – Fox presented discussion and vote for the Board regarding Alyssa Bloss's request for an additional five days of leave to be deducted from her vacation time. A motion was made to grant Bloss the additional leave. M/S Michaelson/Heikes. Motion carried.

Fox informed the Board that evaluations were completed on two employees - John Soltz and Cameron Gustafson.

One Watershed One Plan Reports:

- Nemadji River: No report
- St. Louis River: No report
- Kettle River: Samuelson reported that the Kettle River Watershed plan will be ready to go out for public comments in November/December.
- Upper Mississippi, Grand Rapids: Dahl reported on recent meetings and activities.

Old Business:

- Bloss Leave Update – *(Discussion and vote held under Committee Reports.)*

New Business:

- Pheasants Forever Partnership Agreement – presented by Matlack. He pointed out the close tie to NRCS and that the position is a re-hire to continue habitat work. We will have part of the match to pay, but this will bring us great results for the price we pay. A motion was made to accept and sign the agreement. M/S Heikes/Dahl. Motion carried.
- NRCS Carlton County Conservation Plans – Although the plans are more for information than approval, a motion was made to accept and sign on to all of the presented plans. M/S Dah/Samuelsen. (A reminder that these plans have protected information.)

Correspondence:

- MCIT Dividend Notice - presented by Radovich for information only.

SWCD Cost Share Projects:

Erickson Shoreline Restoration Project

Contract: Big Sandy 319 Grant

Practice: Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)

Funding: 319 Big Sandy Lakes

Amount: \$3,476.25

Motion to approve funding. M/S Heikes/Michaelson. Motion carried.

Reports:

- SWCD Staff Reports – in packet.
- NRCS Staff Report – presented by Todd Whitesell.

Outside Organizations:

- BSALWMP – report presented by Dahl on upcoming meeting.
- Laurentian RC&D – report presented by Samuelson on MARCD meeting and carbon credit project.
- MN SWCD Forestry Assoc – report by Michaelson on recent meeting and public funds available for forestry projects.
- Technical Services Area 3 – no report.

County Commissioner Comments: presented by Zymslony.

Ten Minute Topic:

Jenny and Jeff Jaspersen, both from MPCA, gave an informative and interesting presentation on MPCA-Duluth's present stream sampling results, brook trout findings, and upcoming projects. They showed the data we have and can share with landowners.

Other Business:

- Area III Registration. Gustafson requested Board members to let him know if they will be attending the Area III meeting on September 21-22 at the Cloquet Forestry Center. He is also available to help any Board members who want to give a short introductory talk about a project in their area.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 10:38 am. M/S Michaelson/Heikes. Motion approved.

Next meeting – Monday, September 11, 2023 in the Carlton SWCD meeting room.

Date _____

SWCD Board Secretary

SWCD Board Chair