

Carlton County Soil and Water Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting

August 12, 2024 – 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
Tim Michaelson
Bruce Heikes

Board Members absent:

Kim Samuelson

Staff present:

Brad Matlack, District Manager
Cameron Gustafson, Water Resources Technician
Kate Reitzel, Administrative Assistant

Guests present:

Susan Zmyslony, Carlton County
Allison Praet, NRCS

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

Meeting Minutes: Secretary of the Board Kim Samuelson was not present to provide July Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for June 2024 was presented by Dahl and was received for filing.

The Treasurer's Report for July 2024 was presented by Dahl and was received for filing.

Financial Report: No report.

SWCD Committee Reports:

The Personnel Committee (Dahl/Fox and Matlack) met on August 8th to review Manager applications and discuss interview questions.

One Watershed One Plan Reports:

Nemadji River: No report

St Louis River: No report

Kettle River: A motion was made to approve the Master Project Agreement between Pine County and the Carlton SWCD. M/S Dahl/Michaelson. Motion carried.

Upper Mississippi – Grand Rapids: Cameron Gustafson informed the board that the Notice of 60-day public comment period for the draft Upper Mississippi - Grand Rapids Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan is currently open with a closing date of September 24, 2024.

Bruce Heikes entered the meeting.

Old Business:

Matlack informed the board that the SWCD day-long team building/Coastal Grants program training went well in July and good ideas from all staff were discussed at the August Staff meeting.

Attendance at the Area 3 fall meeting in Grand Marais was discussed.

New Business:

Resolution of annual guidelines for using payments received under SWCD Aid was presented for approval M/S to approve, Dahl/Heikes Motion carried.

Matlack and Fox reported on the tour of the courthouse and current Law Enforcement Center as potential SWCD operations space.

M/S Heikes/Dahl to submit a letter of interest and form a Facilities Committee made up of one board member and one staff member with one alternate. Motion Carried.

Chair Fox asked for board member volunteers, and hearing non, accepted the Facilities Committee Assignment himself. Matlack will work with staff to fill other two appointments.

M/S Michealson/Heikes to approve Manager Succession Plan as presented. Motion Carried.

M/S Michealson/Dahl to approve holiday policy change for Friday after Thanksgiving off. Motion Carried.

M/S Dahl/Heikes to approve staff nominations of 2024 Conservation Partner – Big Sandy Lakes Watershed Management Project and 2024 Outstanding Conservationist - City of Cloquet Public Works and Ross Biebl. Motion Carried.

Discussed preference in next vehicle purchase for a more energy efficient model. Finance Committee will work to budget in 2025.

M/S Heikes/Dahl to approve REVISION of Soil Health Program Policy as presented. Motion Carried.

Community Engagement Opportunities were discussed and upcoming event flyers distributed.

Upcoming Events:

August 23rd, 2-6pm- Cromwell Pavilion Grand Opening

August 24th, 1-3pm- Biochar Demonstration

August 29th, 3-7:30pm- Soil Health with Biochar Field Day 2024

Board Engagement Task: hang up provided event flyers around your areas.

Correspondence:

Chair and Manager reviewed the Audit Representation Letter from Peterson Company.

Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Cost-Share Projects: None**SWCD Cost Share Projects:****Josh Lassila Knotweed Application**

- Contract: 2022 BWSR CWMA-9
- Practice: Brush Management (319)
- Funding: 2022 BWSR CMWA
- Amount: \$195.00

M/S Dahl/Heikes to approve. Motion Carried.

Ann Bishop Knotweed Application

- Contract: 2022 BWSR CWMA-10
- Practice: Brush Management (319)
- Funding: 2022 BWSR CMWA
- Amount: \$220.00

M/S Heikes/Michealson to approve. Motion Carried.

Lisa Sanders Knotweed Application

- Contract: 2022 BWSR CWMA-11
- Practice: Brush Management (319)
- Funding: 2022 BWSR CMWA
- Amount: \$260

M/S Dahl/Michealson to approve. Motion Carried.

Lindsey Van Straten Knotweed Application

- Contract: 2022 BWSR CWMA-12
- Practice: Brush Management (319)
- Funding: 2022 BWSR CMWA
- Amount: \$150.00

M/S Michealson/Dahl to approve. Motion Carried.

Triebwasser Pasture and Hayland Planting Application

- Contract: FY23 BWSR Soil Health-6
- Practice: Pasture and Hayland Planting
- Funding: FY23 BWSR Soil Health
- Amount: \$1,822.50

M/S Dahl/Heikes to approve. Motion Carried.

Gunderson Pasture and Hayland Planting Application

- Contract: Nemadji 2nd Bi Non Struct-4
- Practice: Pasture and Hayland Planting
- Funding: FY23 BWSR Soil Health
- Amount: \$2,910

M/S Michealson/Dahl to approve. Motion Carried.

Isaac Bertram Cover Crop Application

- o Contract: FY23 BWSR Soil Health-7
- o Practice: Cover Crop – 340
- o Funding: FY23 BWSR Soil Health
- o Amount: \$2,324.49

M/S Heikes/Michealson to approve. Motion Carried

Staff Reports: As presented in packet.

NRCS Staff Report: As presented in packet.

County Board Report: Presented by Zmyslony.

BWSR Report: None

Ten Minute Topic - Terrestrial Invasive Species Funding Needed to protect Biodiversity in Minnesota- Alyssa Bloss Conservation Specialist II

Outside Organizations:

BSALWMP – update by Dahl

Laurentian RC&D – update by Zmyslony

MN SWCD Forestry Assoc – None

Technical Services Area 3 – None

NE Area 3 Association of SWCDs – Upcoming Fall Meeting

Other Business:

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 10:25 am. M/S Michaelson/Heikes. Motion Carried.

Next meeting – Monday, September 16, 2024 at 9:00 am in the Carlton SWCD meeting room (808 3rd Street, Carlton MN).

Date _____

SWCD Board Secretary

SWCD Board Chair