

Carlton County Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting
July 8, 2024 – Carlton SWCD Office, Carlton MN

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Board Vice-Chair Tim Michaelson. 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: Julie Radovich, Asst. Manager, Office Operations
Cameron Gustafson, Water Resources Technician
Jenny Sherren, Community Conservationist
Kate Reitzel, Administrative Assistant

Guests present: Allison Praet, NRCS
Melanie Bomier, BWSR
Susan Zmyslony, Carlton County

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

Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2024 regular SWCD Board meeting. M/S Fox/Heikes. Motion carried.

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

Financial Report: No report.

SWCD Committee Reports:

- **Personnel Committee** - Fox and Radovich reported on the new Hiring Procedures Guideline created. A motion was made to adopt the Hiring Procedures Guideline. M/S Heikes/Samuelson. Motion carried.
- **Personnel Committee** – The six month personnel performance review and recommendation for Tim Byrnes was presented. A motion was made to remove Byrnes from probationary status and assign him to regular full-time SWCD Forestry Specialist. M/S Heikes/Dahl. Motion carried.
- **Policy Committee** – A new Job Posting Policy was presented. A motion was made to adopt the Job Posting Policy. M/S Dahl/Samuelson. Motion carried.

One Watershed One Plan Reports:

- ❖ **Nemadji River:** Gustafson reported that the Nemadji 1W1P committees will be working on submitting a funding request to BWSR for the WBIF 3rd Biennium.
- ❖ **St Louis River:** Michaelson and Bomier gave a status update.
- ❖ **Kettle River:** Samuelson and Gustafson reported that the BWSR Board has formally approved the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Kettle River/Upper St. Croix 1W1P. The 1W1P process now moves to implementation.
- ❖ **Upper Mississippi – Grand Rapids:** Dahl gave an update on meetings and activities.

Old Business:

- ❖ **Coloring Contest Voting:** Sherren displayed the coloring contest entries for children. The Board was asked to judge the entries. The top winners in each age category were chosen. Those winners will be notified and their winning pictures displayed online.

New Business:

- ❖ The MN DNR Groundwater Level/Well Monitoring Contract for FY25 was discussed. The SWCD will monitor the groundwater level for the state in four wells in the district.
- ❖ Gustafson reported that the grant agreement has been signed for Carlton SWCD to work with the MPCA for a pilot Effectiveness Monitoring Program in the Skunk Creek Watershed.

Correspondence:

- ❖ Information about the Area 3 Fall Meeting which will be held in Grand Marais on September 9-10 was discussed. A motion was made to change the regular September Board Meeting to Monday, September 16. M/S Fox/Dahl. Motion carried.
- ❖ Radovich presented a request from Area 3 Director Jake Janske to provide Area 3 participation feedback. The Board provided comments and feedback which Radovich will forward to Janske.

Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Cost-Share Projects:**Rob Swanstrom Diversion Voucher**

Contract: SLR1W1P Riparian and Raingarden BMP-1
Practice: Diversion (362), Critical Area Planting (342)
Funding Source: SLR1W1P Riparian and Raingarden BMP
Amount: \$3,294.98
Motion to approve funding. M/S Heikes/Fox. Motion carried.

John Cunico WSP Landowner Agreement TB

Contract: C24-8755-FSP-007
Practice: Forest Management Plan (508M)
Funding Source: Nemadji WBIF 2nd Biennium Non-Structural
Amount: \$1,500.00
Motion to approve funding. M/S Fox/Dahl. Motion carried.

SWCD Cost Share Projects:

Russ Peterson Pasture and Hayland Interseeding Voucher

Contract: FY23 BWSR Soil Health - 5
Practice: Pasture and Hayland Interseeding (512)
Funding Source: FY23 BWSR Soil Health
Amount: \$892.13
Motion to approve funding. M/S Heikes/Dahl. Motion carried.

Staff Reports: As presented in packet.

NRCS Staff Report: As presented by Praet.

County Board Report: As presented by Zmyslony.

BWSR Report: As presented by Bomier.

Ten Minute Topic Presentation: Information was given regarding the upcoming Soil Health Field Day at Heike's farm. The emphasis will be on the making and using of biochar to improve soil health.

Outside Organizations:

- ❖ BSALWMP – update by Dahl
- ❖ Laurentian RC&D – update by Samuelson and Zymslony
- ❖ MN SWCD Forestry Assoc – update by Michaelson.
- ❖ Technical Services Area 3 – update by Fox
- ❖ NE Area 3 Association of SWCDs – no report

Other Business:

- ❖ The MARC&D Summer Meeting will be held at the Carlton County Transportation building on August 1.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 10:20 am. M/S Fox/Heikes. Motion approved.

Next meeting – Monday, August 12, 2024 at 9:00 am in the Carlton SWCD meeting room (808 3rd Street, Carlton MN).

Date _____

SWCD Board Secretary

SWCD Board Chair