* **Minutes of the Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting**

**April 14th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. EMS Building Pipestone, Minnesota**

**Board Members Present:**

Ian Cunningham, Chairman

Cal Spronk, Vice-Chair

Ken Christensen, Secretary / Treasurer

Bill Folger, Programs

Brad Kruisselbrink, PR & I

**Board Members Absent:**

None

**Others Present:**

Luke Johnson, Les Nath, Kyle Krier, Melissa Rosendahl, Laura DeBeer, Levi Campion and Lance Wheeler

Chairman Cunningham called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Spronk officiated the meeting for Cunningham due to a recent throat surgery.

1. **Approve Agenda**

Motion made by Christensen, seconded by Folger to approve the agenda as presented. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Folger, seconded by Christensen to approve the minutes of the February board meeting. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

1. **Approval of Financial Report & Bills**

Cunningham made a motion to file the financial reports and approve the payment of bills. Christensen seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

1. **Clean Water Soil Health Grant**
   1. DeBeer discussed applying for this grant and what practices to incentivize. The grant has $3.5 million available with a 10% match. Focus will be in the wellhead areas. Grant deadline is May 9th.

1. **USDA District Civil Rights Review – NRCS**
   1. Campion went over the annual civil rights review in regards to the boards responsibility. Campion also asked for a board member and producer to assist with an NRCS audit survey. Spronk and Cunningham will help with the audit. Spronk made a motion to sign the USDA District Civil Rights Document. Cunningham seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
2. **Local Work Group Discussion – NRCS**
   1. Campion discussed having the local work group meeting in the next few months. It was decided the Local Work Group Meeting will be held June 16th at 10:00 a.m. following the regular board meeting at the EMS building.
3. **Legislative Day Review**
   1. Krier and Rosendahl attended Legislative Days March 9-10. Discussion was focused on SWCD’s receiving 22 million from the general fund instead of the 11 million coming from the Clean Water Fund to give SWCD’s more flexibility and more secure funding.
4. **Surface Water Assessment Grant**
   1. Krier presented this grant which funds will be reimbursed by MPCA for doing water samples at set testing locations from May – September. Folger made a motion to sign this grant. Kruisselbrink seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
5. **Cost Share Contract**
   1. Wheeler presented a cost share contract for Wes DeKam, contract # DeKam4-22, to install 2 non-farmable basins, 2 farmable basins and 2 tile lines in the amount of $44,628.00. Seeding incentive acres of $100/acre at 10 acres was also $1,000.00. 75% cost of this project was $33,471.00 plus the $1,000 seeding incentive gives a total of $34,471.00. The funds break down will be $4,977.56 from 2020 Cost Share, $7,235.82 from 2021 Capacity, $4,574.77 from 2021 Cost Share, $4,984.45 from 2022 Capacity and $12,698.40 from 2022 Cost Share. Cunningham made a motion to approve this cost share contract. Kruisselbrink seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
6. **Lance’s Resignation**
   1. Wheeler presented his letter of resignation. Folger made a motion to approve the resignation. Kruisselbrink seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

**County Commissioner Report:**

Nath – Sportman’s club is looking into putting a shooting range on some county owned

land on county road 6.

Johnson – Dredge ditch kick off is next Friday. County is working on getting Hwy 23 to be redone all in concrete from Russell to Pipestone.

**Supervisor Reports:**

Cunningham – Attended the NACD conference in Orlando. MN was well represented

there.

Christensen – Attended the RCRCA meeting where they discussed future retention projects. Also attended the 1W1P meeting and although most of the first round of funds have been spent there will be another 1.3 million coming in for projects.

Kruisselbrink – Attended the RCRCA and Area V meetings.

Folger – Commented on the large amount of field erosion he witnessed in northern MN compared to around here.

Spronk: Attended the TSA and Area V meeting.

**NRCS Report:** Doing CSP ranking. Had 3 EQIP applications approved for funding.

**Manager’s Report:**  Attended the TSA managers meeting. Discussed an NACD grant for approximately $100,000-$125,000 to hire a conservation agronomist position to promote cover crop conservation practices and how to obtain carbon credits. Will partner with New Vision. Trees are coming in this week. A few producers have inquired about the SRAM program. Septic grant money is almost all gone at this time.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business; Chairman Cunningham declared the meeting adjourned.

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Ken Christensen, Secretary