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

**January 9th, 2020 9:00 a.m. at the District Office Pipestone, Minnesota**

**Board Members Present:**

Ken Christensen, Chairman

Bill Folger, Vice-Chairman

Ian Cunningham, Secretary/Treasurer

Larry Fenicle, Programs

**Board Members Absent:** Cal Spronk. PR & I

**Others Present:**

Luke Johnson, Kyle Krier, Melissa Rosendahl, Deb Fitzgerald

Chairman Christensen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. **Approve Agenda**

Motion made by Cunningham, 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 Cunningham to approve the minutes of the December board meeting. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

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

Krier presented the monthly financial reports and bills. The reports were reviewed by the board. Folger made a motion to accept and file the financial reports and approve the payment of bills. Fenicle seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

1. 2020 Committee Assignments and Election of Officers
   1. Cunningham moved to elect the slate of officers as previously been done with a normal board rotation. Folger seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
   2. Committee assignments were discussed and Cunningham made motion to accept the new committee assignments. Fenicle seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
2. State Cost Share Amendment
   1. Lance Wheeler proposed an amendment for Gary VanderTop for $1,580.00. Wheeler explained the extra cost was due to a waterway outlet that originally stopped at a fence line and was then moved to run down the fence line for better drainage. Folger made a motion to approve this amendment. Fenicle seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
3. 2020 Planning meeting cost share discussion.
   1. Discussion was had by SWCD employees and board members in regards to projects in the upcoming year.
4. Board members update statement of economic interest
   1. All board members received their statement of economic interest and will be getting those submitted by January 27th
5. Contract for Services with GBERBA
   1. Krier presented the two-year contract agreement with GBERBA. Cunningham made a motion we enter into the contract. Folger seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

1. Employee Reviews
   1. Laura DeBeer
      1. DeBeer agreed to keep the meeting open during her review. Krier presented Laura’s review to the board stating that her review was favorable and suggested to the board that she receive a step increase as of 1/4/2020. Fenicle made a motion to approve the favorable review as presented with a step increase retroactive to January 4th 2020. Cunningham seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
   2. Nicole Schwebach
      1. Schwebach agreed to keep the meeting open during her review. Krier presented Nicole’s review to the board stating that her review was favorable and suggested to the board that she receive a step increase as of 1/13/2020. Cunningham made a motion to approve the favorable review as presented with a step increase as of January 13th 2020. Fenicle seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
2. Policy Changes
   1. Krier presented a policy change to the board in regards to the AgBMP Program changing the maximum loan amount, with board approval, from $100,000.00 to $200,000.00. It was also proposed to remove the water testing and manure testing programs. Folger made a motion to approve these changes to the SWCD program policies for 2020. Fenicle seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

**County Commissioner Report:**

Johnson shared that he attended the RCRCA meeting and Area II meeting recently and will be attending the AMC meeting next week.

**Supervisor Reports:**

Cunningham- Shared that he was just in DC to meet with NRCS associates and will be attending the NACD convention February 8-12 in Las Vegas.

Christensen –Attended the conservation tillage conference in St. Cloud recently.

Fenicle – Attended the RCRCA meeting.

Folger – Nothing to report

**NRCS Report:** Randy is working on CSP payments for 2020. CRP joint training is happening on the 16th of January. NRCS is currently hiring.

**Adjournment:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ian Cunningham, Secretary