

**Minutes of the Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting  
January 11, 2018, 9:00 a.m. at the District Office Pipestone, Minnesota**

**Board Members Present:**

Bill Folger, Chairman  
Ian Cunningham, Vice-Chairman  
Ken Christensen, PR & I  
Arvin Pater, Programs

**Board Members Absent:**

Cal Spronk, Secretary/Treasurer

**Others Present:**

Kyle Krier, Stephanie LaBrune, Jerry Purdin, Nicole Schwebach, Adam Ossefoort, Laura DeBeer, Danielle Evers, Les Nath, Ashton Smith

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

**Approve Agenda**

Motion made by Pater to approve the agenda as presented, motion seconded by Cunningham. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

**Election of Officers**

Folger made a motion to approve the board positions and committee assignments as presented and according to the normal rotation. Pater seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

Cunningham then took over as new board chairman.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Pater, seconded by Folger to approve the minutes of the December, 2017 Board Meeting. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report & Bills:**

LaBrune presented the December 2017 financial reports. The reports were reviewed by the board. Folger made a motion to accept the financial reports and to approve the payment of bills. Pater seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

The board also discussed Meulebrock, Taubert & Co., PLLP changing roles with Kinner & Company Ltd. Christensen made a motion to have Kinner's begin to do the district's annual report and Meulebroeck's do the audits. Folger seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

- A. Cost of Living / Mileage
  - a) The COLA was set at 2% at shown in the 2018 budget and the mileage rate was set at 54.5 cents per mile according to the federal mileage rate.

- B. Pay Equity Report
  - a) Folger made a motion to approve the pay equity report. Christensen seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
  
- C. Staff Reviews
  - a) Stephanie
    - i. Review was left open, Pater made a motion to approve the favorable review as presented with a step increase retroactive to January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018. Folger seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
  - b) Nicole
    - i. Review was left open, Folger made a motion to approve the favorable review as presented with a step increase retroactive to January 13<sup>th</sup> 2018. Folger seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
  - c) Laura
    - i. Review was left open, Christensen made a motion to approve the favorable review as presented with a step increase retroactive to January 4<sup>th</sup> 2018. Pater seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
  
- D. Flood PH2 Cost-Share Payments
  - a) Pater made a motion to approve a payment of \$23,524.00 to Bob Ford for cost-share on a Basin / Waterway project. The total cost of the project was \$30,673.65. Folger seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
  - b) Christensen made a motion to approve a payment of \$3,926.27 to Gary Gorter for cost-share on a Waterway project. The total cost of the project was \$5,235.03. Pater seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
  
- E. Water and Manure Testing Programs
  - a) After discussion, Folger made a motion to have the district carry and offer both manure and water testing kits, but only cover the lab costs for the Coliform and Nitrate water test. Pater seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
  
- F. Ecological Services Request
  - a) Krier stated that he wants to get NRCS' approval for staff to obtain JAA in ecological services. Pater made a motion to make a request to NRCS for the Ecological services JAA. Folger seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
  
- G. Township Testing
  - a) DeBeer explained the grant and program to the board. Folger made a motion to sign the grant / working agreement. Pater seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

H. District's Policies

- a) The board reviewed the district's policies and approved as presented with the addition of the Clothing allowance policy that was adopted in 2017.

**Supervisor Reports:**

Cunningham- Recently visited Grand Rapids Michigan for a North Central NACD meeting. Said he spoke with Collin Petersen about CRP rates and policies. He also talked about the joint Rock SWCD and Pipestone SWCD meeting.

Christensen – Nothing to report.

Pater- Nothing to report.

Folger – Nothing to report.

**Office Reports:**

Each staff person gave an update to the board on past present and future projects and workload.

**NRCS Report:**

Purdin – Gave an update on new EQIP contracts and CSP payments.

**County Commissioner Report:**

Nath – Told the board that Dan Wildermuth will be the new Chairman of the County Board, and that they will be receiving bids for the Recycling RFP soon.

**Adjournment:**

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

---

Arvin Pater, Secretary