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

**March 12th, 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

Cal Spronk, PR&I

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:**

Luke Johnson, Les Nath, Kyle Krier, Melissa Rosendahl, Randy Sheik, Doug Goodrich, John Hansel, Dale Krystosek, Cheryl Heard, Eva Kramer, Tyler Bauer, Jason Overby

Chairman Christensen called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

1. **Approve Agenda**

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

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Fenicle, seconded by Cunningham to approve the minutes of the February 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. Spronk made a motion to accept and file the financial reports and approve the payment of bills. Folger seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

1. BWSR PRAP discussion
   * 1. Krystosek explained the PRAP (Performance Review and Assistance Program) has been put in place to review plan implementation for the conservation of water and related land resources. This level II review is done once every 10 years. Surveys will be sent out in a few weeks to all SWCD staff and board members. The report will be delivered back to the Pipestone SWCD after survey responses are received and report is then generated.
2. NRCS Local Work Group Meeting
   * 1. Sheik expressed to the board the purpose of the local work group meeting is to address local concerns that could use federal funding. Discussion was had in regards to the wind and water erosion SW MN has experienced the last few years. It was noted that some structural practices to prevent erosion may qualify for federal and state funding. A few of the main conservation practices that the board believed should be priority were cover crop & soil health, ground water basins and grazing systems.
3. Survey Equipment Purchase
   * 1. Krier presented the quote to the board to purchase a new tablet and battery packs for our survey equipment. The quote for this equipment upgrade was $2,888.00. Folger made a motion to approve the upgraded equipment purchase. Cunningham seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
4. Non-Structural Incentive
   * 1. DeBeer presented the board with the Non-Structural Incentive Policy. This is an incentive program consisting of grant funds for high and very highly vulnerable areas within the DWSMA’s. Discussion was had in regards to the policy. Noted changes were:
        1. The maximum amount of incentive dollars an individual land occupier is eligible to receive for these incentive practices for this program will be $50,000.00.
        2. A minimum amount of acres a land occupier may enroll in incentive payment practices for this program is 10 acres.
        3. Removed the cost share wording from the contract.
     2. Cunningham made a motion to approve the policy with the noted changes. Spronk seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
5. Conservation Use Acres Incentive Program
   * 1. Krier presented a small grain incentive practice being done by Cal Brouwer for $1,300.80. Spronk made a motion to approve the incentive payment. Fenicle seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

**County Commissioner Report:**

Johnson shared that there has been land purchased for the Lake Area dredging project in Redwood. He also attended the AMC legislative conference.

**Supervisor Reports:**

Ian - Attended the NACD annual meeting in Las Vegas with over 1,000 attendees. He also attended the workshop at Harlan Spronk’s shop where there was good discussion on modifying existing farm equipment for strip till, no till and cover crop practices.

Spronk- Attended the Area V meeting in Slayton last month. Complimented Laura on her soil health presentation she gave at the meeting and also Danielle’s hard work with the soil health. He also attended the workshop at his brother Harlan’s shop where he learned how to make some adjustments to existing farm equipment without a lot of cost.

Christensen - Attended the 1W1P meeting this week to discuss the management plan for the Missouri River. This currently affects 85% of Pipestone county. 70% of the $1,320,000.00 will go to ag practices for 1W1P.

Fenicle – Attended the recent RCRCA and Area V meetings. Complemented DeBeer on the presentations she gave at the Area V meeting in Slayton.

Folger – Warned of the current rise in spearfishing scams via email. Pay attention to who sent the email and the context of it. Also noted with the COVID-19 Pandemic the county currently has the ability for 20 people to remote into system if need be to work from home.

**Supervisors Report:** Krier announced he will be attending a manager’s meeting in Baxter next week. He also attended a 1W1P recently with Nicole Schwebach.

**NRCS Report:** Sheik shared there was an all employee meeting last month in Baxter. The first period of EQIP ends tomorrow. CSP sign up is ongoing. CRP general sign up has ended.

**Adjournment:**

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

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Ian Cunningham, Secretary