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

**May 14th, 2020 9:00 a.m. via Zoom**

**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, Kyle Kuphal, Danielle Evers, Levi Campion, Laura DeBeer

Chairman Christensen called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

1. **Approve Agenda**

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

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Cunningham, seconded by Spronk to approve the minutes of the March 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. Fenicle seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

1. Well Sealing Application
   1. Krier presented the well sealing applications for Robert VanHill. The first well was sealed for $600 while the second well was much deeper and required more fine concrete to fill in so the final bill for that well was $2,250.00. Discussion was had in regards to the maximum amount allowed per well sealing which is 50% up to $400 which is substantially less than the actual 50% cost of the well of $1,125. Cunningham made motion to pay 50% of the first well sealing of $300 and 50% of the second well sealing of $1,125.00 for a total payment to VanHill of $1,425.00. Spronk seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
2. BWSR PRAP review
   1. Krier shared with the board that Dale Krystosek could not conference into the meeting due to other obligations so Krier updated the board on the review. The review was favorable for the Pipestone SWCD.
3. Call for Resolutions
   1. Krier gave the board the opportunity to share any suggestions they may have for future resolutions.
4. Groundwater Quality Nitrate Reduction Contracts
   1. DeBeer presented 17 signed contracts for this program:

Perennial Acres: 49 - Todd Alderson

175 - Chris Schulze

29 - Keith Welgraven

40 - Scott Alderson

47 – Dave Schulze

40 – Cary Alderson

45 - Troy Bouman

54 – Dave Scotting

219 – Matt Brinkmeyer

40 – Mike Moeller

36 – Jeremy Smidt

Cover crop Acres: 171 – Chad Borman

112 – Tom Griebel

The grant agreement originally was intended to enroll 620 acres of perennial vegetation and 1456 cover crop acres but was amended to 875 perennial vegetation acres and 1037 cover crop acres due to higher interest in perennial vegetation. DeBeer noted we did have a good response with this program and that most of the perennial vegetation acres would be alfalfa that must be kept that way for 3 years per the contract. Spronk make a motion to approve all 17 contracts. Cunningham seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

1. Danielle’s MARL trip recap
   1. Evers shared a power point presentation on her MARL (Minnesota Agriculture & Rural Leadership) trip she took to Cambodia and Taiwan in February.
2. 2020 Election of SWCD Supervisors
   1. Krier made note that Spronk (district 1), Cunningham (district 2) and Christiansen (district 3) terms will be expiring this year. There has been an ad put in the paper and it has been posted on our website that these positions will be open for filing. Enrollment is from May 19th to June 2nd.
3. SSTS Low Income Grant Limits
   1. Krier proposed to the board that the limits for the SSTS low income grant be raised due to the increasing cost of septic systems. The average cost of a septic system is now about $15,000. The current limits are Low Income covers 50% up to $5,0000.00 and Very Low Income covers 75% up to $7,500.00. Krier suggested we increase the limit for Low Income to be 50% up to $7,500 and Very Low Income be 75% up to $10,000.00. Spronk made motion to increase the limits. Folger seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
4. Adopt Resolution 1-20 of the Pipestone County Comprehensive Local Water Plan
   1. Krier presented the adoption of the resolution 1-20 of the Pipestone County Comprehensive Local Water Plan as the Comprehensive Plan of the Pipestone SWCD for the calendar years January 2021-December 31, 2025. Spronk made motion to approve. Fenicle seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
5. Walk-in Access sign-up
   1. Krier informed the board that the authorizing time to enter into the grant agreement for the Minnesota DNR Walk-in Access program is happening currently. Folger made motion to enter into agreement. Cunningham seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
6. Lance 6-month probation review
   1. Krier presented to the board Wheeler’s 6-month probation review. Spronk made motion to accept probation has ended and Wheeler continue as a full-time employee. Folger seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.
7. Melissa 6-month probation review
   1. Krier presented to the board Rosendahl’s 6-month probation review along with a step in pay. Cunningham made motion to accept the probation has ended, a step in pay and Rosendahl continue as a full-time employee. Fenicle seconded the motion. Affirmative: all. Oppose: none. Motion carried.

**County Commissioner Report:**

Nath reported things have been slower with the COVID-19 situation. Zoom meetings have become very popular.

Johnson attended the RCRCA and AMC meetings via zoom. The property has been purchased for the Redwood, Lake Redwood dredging project.

**Supervisor Reports:**

Ian – NACD has canceled the Envirothon. Discussed the need to reopen our state due to the COVID-19 issues.

Spronk- nothing to report

Christensen – nothing to report

Fenicle – attended the RCRCA meeting via Zoom this month

Folger – Updated the board that the SWCD is due for new computers this year.

**Manager’s Report:** Reported that the 319 plan has been approved and will possibly be up to $280,000.00 coming in from this grant in December. Thanked Folger for getting all the employees set up to work remotely from home and the phone system working.

**NRCS Report:** Campion reported they are still doing animal mortality sign up until June 12th. Pipestone county has had 8 applications for this program so far and 5 of them were considered high priority. There have been 36 EQIP applications, 8 CSP applications and CRP is still available as well.

**Adjournment:**

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

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Ian Cunningham, Secretary