

District Regular Board Meeting  
January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
8 a.m.  
County Annex Conference Room  
625 Jefferson Ave.  
Wabasha, MN 55981

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER - Meeting called to order at 8:02 a.m.  
**Members Present:** Nate Arendt, Member; Chuck Fick, Secretary; Roland Wood, Chair; Tom Gosse, Treasurer; Terry Helbig, Vice Chair  
**Others:** Matt Kruger, SWCD; Terri Peters, SWCD; Derek Husmoen, NRCS; John Rice, Assistant County Attorney; Drew Chirpich, SWCD; Don Springer, Commissioner; Mike Wobbe, Commissioner; Michael Plante, County Administrator; Jen Wahls, SWCD; Angela LaCroix, GreenCorps; Mark Miller, DNR; Vic Ching, Citizen; Sheila Harmes, Whitewater Joint Powers Board; Adam Bielke, BWSR  
**Absent** – Phillis Brey, NRCS
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. AGENDA
  - A. Option for County Commissioners to move agenda items of interest up while they are present. Fick request to move Item A under Old Business before Public Comment. Add Item L under New Business. Forestry Day correction to February 10<sup>th</sup>. Move Item E under New Business up to Item A. *Helbig moved to approve the agenda with changes seconded by Gosse. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS
  - A. (moved up from Old Business) Vic Ching request – **Board Discussion** Fick shared a copy of memo (from meeting with Terry, Terri, Travis Germanson, BWSR on conference call and John Rice, Assistant County Attorney; no DNR present), Helbig read aloud, with Board members. 3 points: 1. Rescind restoration order – Board does not have the legal authority to rescind restoration order, must be joint determination between SWCD and DNR. 2. No grounds upon which to rescind restoration order. A jury verdict of not guilty does not equate to a judicial determination of compliance with a restoration order. 3. Opportunity for purchasing replacement credits to satisfy order, yes, replacement credits could be reduced from 4:1 to 2:1 but the Board cannot act unilaterally on this.  
Mr. Ching - Request is for Deed Restriction be removed, concerned that it may have been improperly placed. How was Deed Restriction put in place without SWCD (LGU) Board approval? Response: Deed Restriction will remain in place until the restoration order has been met or rescinded. I am representing myself at this point in time.  
Request: Was authority of SWCD Board usurped and was Deed Restriction improperly placed on my property? Would like action from the SWCD Board and getting back to Helbig brought up Deed Restriction was assessed because the restoration order was not fulfilled. Mr. Ching referenced court proceedings regarding the violation and that he complied to the best of his ability on the restoration with direction by SWCD. Perspective of Mr. Ching is that the SWCD (LGU) was surpassed by others that acted independently. Helbig said the Board is not involved in the day-to-day operations.
- V. CONSENT AGENDA
  - A. No items for consent agenda
- VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- A. December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 District Regular Minutes *Gosse moved to approve the minutes as written seconded by Fick Nayas: None. Motioned Carried.*

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT:

- A. Program Record – Reconciling items. District Manager met with State Auditor after last month's meeting. No findings that warranted concern. *Helbig moved to approve the Treasurer's Report seconded by Gosse. Nayas: None. Motioned Carried.*

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS *Helbig moved to approve payment of monthly bills seconded by Gosse*

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Chair Report – Roland Wood: Attended a meeting in Plainview put together by Land Stewardship Project. Over 100 people attended. Presenter, Rick Bieber, from South Dakota (north central) – keeps cover on the ground year round, receives about 17" of rain/yr and yields about 150 bushels of corn/acre.
- B. County Commissioners – Don Springer; Mike Wobbe – request to discuss Item F under New Business. Looking for part-time administrative person, this would alleviate administrative duties from District Manager. Payroll needs to continue to be outsourced and cannot have the person doing payroll doing administrative duties
- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters: End-of-year reporting, invoicing and financials. A few WCA details. Met with area managers at Water Resources Board meeting.
- D. NRCS Report – Phillis Brey (absent – Derek Husmoen filling in) February 3<sup>rd</sup>, application deadline for CSP. March 6<sup>th</sup> is deadline for RCPP. Reviewing EQIP applications. CRP has some acres available, SAFE (pheasant habitat) program.
- E. Engineering Tech Report – Matt Kruger: **AgCertainty** – Work in Goodhue, Carver, Dakota and Washington County.
- F. District Tech – Drew Chirpich: **HFHW**- Mailing lists and meeting materials compiled. Meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 11 am to establish more permanent vegetation in East Indian Watershed. **Cooks Valley**- Mailing Lists compiled. Meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Kellogg Fire Hall 6pm to discuss Manure and nutrient management with the residents of Cooks Valley. **EQIP/RCPP**- Working with Pete Fryer and following up with landowner on potential manure pit. Took GPS points for landowner CRP enrollment. **MRLP**- Surveyed and Designed basin for Dale Wobbe. Have done preliminary work on some basin projects for Keith Bremer. **Buffer Law**- Updated parcel compliance info in BuffCAT application. Worked with 3 Landowners on questions and possible programs.
- G. **A.I.S. (Aquatic Invasive Species) Report** – Jen Wahls: **AIS** – Work plan submitted, approved. Program development with local 4-H extension. Attending watercraft delegation agreement information session with interest of hiring 1-2 seasonal watercraft inspectors to cover smaller accesses and go through the waterfowl season. Working with Mower County on AIS education program development. **Forestry/LWM** – Planning forestry day. Worked with Angela on presentation/theme ideas. Working with Mark Miller on planning. Reserved building, lined up presenters and table displays, organized catering; lots of help from Angela. **MN Land Trust (MLT)** – Spoke with 6 landowners, several requested and received application and information. Speak and or email Nick Bancks weekly with updates. Working in targeted areas. **CWMA 2016** – Working with 1 landowner for an upcoming project – oriental bittersweet and a goat prairie restoration. **GreenCorps** – Trying to help Angela get information needed to complete WK Foundation grant application. Trees for gravel beds. Angela is doing a ton of work on this and has been very helpful with Forestry Day planning plus her other projects. **Conservation Delivery** – Board minutes, board report.

- H. **GreenCorps – Angela LaCroix: GreenCorps-** Finishing up an application and board presentation for WKACF grant (gravel bed project). Assisting with Forestry Day planning. Planning volunteer outreach for spring inventory. Working on other projects to start in the spring.
- I. **DNR – Moved to Item A**
- J. **Other – Sheila Harmes (WWJPB).** Rescheduled Pollinator Workshop (see events below). Writing a 319 grant.

**Adam Bielke (BWSR)** – Tentative deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup> for counties and watershed districts to notify BWSR who will be enforcing. July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for producing added waters that would benefit from a buffer to submit to water planning entity (County). 1W1P application goes through April 19<sup>th</sup>.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Vic Ching request – **Board Discussion – Moved to Public Comments**
- B. Board Policy Manual – **Review/Action** District Manager met with committee of Chuck Fick and Terry Helbig to go over the policy. Borrowed policy info from other counties (Dakota and Fillmore) that fit well and discussed reviewing it annually. *Arendt moved to approve the 2017 Policy, Operating Rules, Guidelines and By-Laws Board Policy Manual seconded by Fick. Naves: None. Motioned Carried.*
- C. RMB Scope of Work Agreement for Targeted Township Well Testing – **Board Action/Signature** *Helbig moved to approve RMB Environmental Laboratories to do the lab work for well testing seconded by Fick. Naves: None. Motioned Carried.*
- D. Amendment #2 Sub-Agreement for AgCertainty – **Board Action/Signature** *Helbig moved to approve Amendment #2 Sub-Agreement for AgCertainty seconded by Fick Naves: None. Motioned Carried.*
- E. Sub-Agreement for Nitrogen Outreach BMP with Joint Powers Board – **Board Action/Signature** *Fick moved to approve Sub-Agreement for Nitrogen Outreach BMP with Joint Powers Board seconded by Helbig. Naves: None. Motioned Carried.*

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **DNR- Mark Miller** Donut Resolution and tree donation for 2017 Forestry Day – **Board Action** Mark Miller, MN DNR, there is still state cost-share available through June 2017. EAB update – WW, Kellogg and 1 mile south of Wabasha. A forest health specialist will be tracking. MDA is interested in tracking the movement. Call or email: Arrest the Pest phone hotline. Forestry Day – February 10<sup>th</sup>. *Gosse moved to approve the Donut Resolution to supply 100 trees and not exceed \$50 for donuts and coffee for Forestry Day seconded by Helbig. Naves: None. Motioned Carried.*
- B. Oath of Office Review – **Discussion**
- C. Election of Officers – **Board Action** Discussion on positions. *Helbig motioned to keep same officers as past year seconded by Gosse. Naves: None. Motioned Carried.*
- D. Committee Members and Area Meeting Participation – **Board Action** *Fick motioned to have committee members stay the same as 2016 seconded by Gosse. Naves: None. Motioned Carried*
  - 1. Personnel – Fick & Arendt
  - 2. Finance – Gosse & Helbig
  - 3. JPB - Gosse
  - 4. ZWP - Gosse
  - 5. Whitewater - Wood
  - 6. Other?
- E. SWCD Billing Rate – **Board Discussion (moved up for commissioner’s timeframe)** Michael Plante following up with question of how billing rate is calculated. County requested more information on how the billing rate is utilized to insure that the majority of funds going to programming. Information was provided from District

Manager and AIS Coordinator. Would like to work together to reduce any overhead expenses.

F. **Moved to Item A under Reports**

G. Approve Hire of Part-Time Admin – **Board Action** Discussion, it is in the budget. *Helbig motioned to approve the District Manager post position and work with the Personnel Committee to select the best qualified person seconded by Gosse. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*

H. Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – **Board Discussion** BWSR put in a request for feedlot program – animal units if over 500 go for EQIP under 300 go with BWSR. Each project is 5 years.

I. Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – **Board Discussion** More information to come, recently signed in to agreement at the State.

J. Joint Powers Board, SE MN Water Resources Board, RC&D – **Board Discussion** Advisory Committee meeting discussed combining organizations (JPB with SEMNWRB). Looking at shared TSA position.

K. Laptop for AgCertainty – **Board Action** estimated cost is \$1,300 to be reimbursed by MDA *Helbig moved to approve the purchase of a laptop for AgCertainty to be reimbursed by MDA seconded by Arendt. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*

XII. Upcoming Events: Board Information


1. January 25, 2017 11:00 a.m. – Pasture and Forage Meeting (invited East Indian Creek Landowners) meeting in Plainview
2. Joint Powers Board Meeting - January 31, 2017 9:30 a.m. – Noon – MPCA Conference Room
3. January 28, 2017 – ZWP WRAPS presentation by Paul Wotzka at People's Coop in Oronoco.
4. Pollinator Workshop – January 31, 2017 9:30-3pm – Tri-County Electric (MiEnergy Cooperative) Cooperative Rushford, MN
5. February 8<sup>th</sup>, Gabe Brown Soil Health in Blue Earth
6. February 10, 2017 9:30 a.m. – 2017 Forestry Day – Millville Legion
7. February 15, 2017 – Meeting for Cook's Valley Landowners re: Nutrient Management / Groundwater concerns. Kellogg Fire Dept.
8. February 22, 2017 – New Supervisor Orientation session 9:00 a.m. to noon MPCA Conference Room
9. LSP Workshops – Attached

XIII. Board Report

- a. ZWP – presentation by Laurie Svien, valley cross-sections and stream profiles. Looking for financial partners. 2 education sites are done. Applying for state water trail designation.

ADJOURNMENT: *Helbig moved to adjourn meeting at 9:56 am seconded by Fick. Nays: None. Motioned Carried.*

**Adjournment: Adjourned the meeting at 9:56 am on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for the FOURTH TUESDAY of the next month (February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017).**

  
Respectfully Submitted  
Chuck Fick, Secretary