

Stevens Soil & Water Conservation District
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 21, 2018

- I. Chair Fynboh called the regular meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. Board members present: Anderson, Feuchtenberger, Fynboh, Goodnough, Lonergan. Staff present: Johnston, Solemsaas, Staebler, Weichmann. Others present: Britta Haseman & Patrick Rhodes, NRCS; Steph Adams, PDTRA.
- II. Supervisor Feuchtenberger moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Supervisor Goodnough. Passed unanimously.
- III. Personnel Reports
 - A. Britta Haseman gave an NRCS report on behalf of Cory Walker, who is working in Benson. She introduced intern Patrick Rhodes and read Cory's written report. She explained the new NRCS staffing plan and noted that it might involve one more staff person in Stevens, but that all employees will now work in multi-county areas. She noted that the CRP sign-up is now open and proposals should be brought in as soon as possible. FSA is losing a technician so she asked that billing information for landowners with cost shared projects be brought to FSA as soon as possible so they can process them in a timely manner. They are working on certifying EQIP projects with tree plantings and working on contract maintenance. There won't be any more amendments to the operational agreement between NRCS & SWCD at this time.
 - B. Steph Adams gave a report on activity of the Pomme de Terre River Association. She described the three phases of the One Watershed One Plan process and noted that is their main focus at this time. The PTMApp development has been completed and the model will be available soon for counties to use in identifying the benefits of certain projects on a field scale. The TAC is working to learn about the app and its functions and abilities. The group is also getting ready to close out one federal 319 grant in August of this year. They are also working on a proposal for FY19 federal 319 funding which will be finalized soon. There is currently approximately \$200,000 in project funding available through the 2016 federal 319 grant. Finally, there is a kayak run scheduled for June 28 going from the Dolven Wildlife Management Area to the Pomme de Terre Park. Another run will be made July 20 along a section of the river further north, starting at Tipsinah Mounds in Grant County.
 - C. Additions to written staff reports:
 - a. Solemsaas reported that he has submitted a training grant request through the TSA for grant funds totaling \$1 million throughout the TSA. This will involve three years of projects within the TSA and approximately \$75,000 in funding for Stevens SWCD. He reported that HEI will be giving a report to the TAC at their July 2 meeting on the findings of their golf course feasibility study. The TAC will then work to determine how to apply for funds and from where to get the best chance for project approval. Project cost estimates are currently about \$600,000. Summer technician help started working May 31.
 - b. Weichmann reported that she's doing field checks for some MAWQCP projects over the next few days and that Steve Howe was recently approved for certification.
 - c. Johnston completed the area poster contest judging at the Area 2 meeting earlier today.

- d. Staebler will be attending the SWCD Admin session next week and has been working on preparations for that as Area 2 is hosting this year. She and Steph also recently completed a grant reconciliation.

IV. Supervisor Anderson moved to approve the minutes from the May 2018 regular meeting. Second by Feuchtenberger. Passed unanimously.

V. Financial Matters

A. Supervisor Lonergan moved to approve this month's Treasurer's Report. Second by Feuchtenberger. Passed unanimously.

B. Feuchtenberger moved to approved payment of the following bills. Second by Goodnough. Passed unanimously.

1. Debra Anderson	Supervisor Pay	86.51
2. Dennis Feuchtenberger	Supervisor Pay	158.15
3. Greg Fynboh	Supervisor Pay	165.77
4. Troy Goodnough	Supervisor Pay	70.16
5. Dave Lonergan	Supervisor Pay	141.56
6. Valnes Rentals	June Building Rent	2187.00
7. Judy Johnston	Area, State & Natl Envirothon expenses	499.87
8. West Central Glass	Tree planted parts (lexan)	28.50
9. Federated Telephone	Internet connection	109.95
10. Mobiz Computers	Tech assistance Judy & Chris computers	35.00
11. D's Needles	T-shirts	430.00
12. Stevens County Fair	Booth rental	144.00
13. Seales & Munsterman Accounting	Financial assistance	120.00
14. Grant County Herald	AIS & newsletter printing & mailing	1305.19
15. Town & Country	Supplies	343.31
16. Stevens County Highway	Gas	940.45
17. Farnams Auto Parts	Parts	103.17
18. Morris Cooperative	Gas & Tire	607.49
19. DJN Electric	Parts	110.00
20. Hannaher's	Additional desk hardware	424.42
21. Otter Tail Power	Electric bill	104.48
22. Pope & Stevens County Water Fest	Annual allocation	700.00
23. Houston Engineering	consulting for golf course study	3613.50
24. Riley Brothers Construction	Paving parking lot	5200.00
25. Metro Sales	Copier rental	236.05
26. Bremer Card Services		1318.62
a. Office Maintenance	907.47	
b. Employee expenses	113.42	
c. TSA expenses	333.45	
d. Credit tree tube expense	-123.89	
e. Education/Envirothon expenses	18.17	
27. Millborn Seeds	Food plot mix	267.00
28. Big Sioux Nursery	Tree inventory	366.71
29. Schumacher's	Tree inventory	11352.25
30. Agassiz Seed	Seed inventory	56074.56

VI. Old Business

- A. Goodnough moved to send a Job Approval Authority request to NRCS to obtain ecological JAA for the technicians. Second by Anderson. Passed unanimously.
- B. The board discussed the Kisgen RIM non-compliance letter. The landowner is requesting a discussion with the board at their next regular meeting.

VII. New Business

- A. The board discussed transport fees for projects with special considerations but took no action to revise policy at this time.
- B. The board discussed changes to the construction plans for the shed addition and Solemsaas will come back next month with additional information about cost and contractors available.
- C. Goodnough moved to approve the Contract for Technical and Engineering Services with the WCTSA2 and the Joint Powers Agreements for the completion of and reimbursement for work on the MAWQCP. Second by Feuchtenberger. Passed unanimously.
- D. Feuchtenberger moved to approve the contract with the MN DNR for the monitoring of observation wells in the county. Second by Goodnough. Passed unanimously.
- E. Cost Share Approvals
 - 1. Goodnough moved to approve \$425 in well sealing cost share through the FY18 CLWP funding available. Second by Feuchtenberger. Passed unanimously.
 - 2. Loneragan moved to allocate 75% cost share of \$73,186 to PDTRA contract 75-1-16-319 for a WASCOB project. Second by Feuchtenberger. Passed unanimously.
 - 3. Goodnough moved to cancel contract 1-DC18 at the landowner's request. Second by Feuchtenberger. Passed unanimously.

VIII. Supervisor Reports

- 1. Feuchtenberger invited SWCD staff and supervisors and families to a barbecue at his home next Wednesday June 27.
- 2. Lonergan and Anderson attended the Area 2 meeting along with staff members earlier today.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Lonergan, Secretary

7-10-18

Date

