

**Stevens Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

- I. Chair Feuchtenberger called the regular meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Board members present: Anderson, Feuchtenberger, Fynboh, Goodnough, Lonergan. Staff present: Erickson, Johnston, Lembcke, Staebler, Solemsaas. Others present: Jeanne Ennen, County Commissioner, Craig Swanson, Stevens County Assessor.
  
- II. Supervisor Goodnough moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Supervisor Fynboh. Passed unanimously.

Stevens County Assessor Craig Swanson was present to discuss county land values and tax determinations. He answered questions for the board about how land values are assigned and how participation in USDA programs or enrollment in permanent easements affects that valuation. They also discussed some of the difficulties in communicating that land has changed hands and/or changed classification and he asked staff members to inform landowners when possible that they should stop in his office to report changes.

- III. Personnel Reports
  - A. Adam Erickson reported for NRCS that they are working on EQIP and CSP contracts at this time.
  - B. Commissioner Ennen reported that SWCDs are being asked to work with Horizon PublicHealth to administer a grant for arsenic remediation. The state approached counties in our area to apply because our arsenic rates are very high. Nitrate testing is also being done in this area, but will not be funded through a grant.
  - C. Additions to staff reports
    - a. Solemsaas reported that he's been working with the MDH and surrounding counties to apply for and administer a grant for arsenic mitigation. SWCDs will be in charge of education and outreach about arsenic and what the grant involves, and Horizon Public Health will handle fiscal matters. The PDTRA is holding the second of 2 public hearings regarding the Comprehensive Local Watershed Plan. The TAC committee has started going through comments received and will continue to work through those until all have been addressed. He noted the Chippewa is making a change to their proposed JPA, but it will only affect other counties, not Stevens. There will be a rain garden workshop on March 31. Work continues on getting things set up to work on the Bois de Sioux One Watershed One Plan.
    - b. Erickson reported that general CRP proposals have been submitted. The payment rates are relatively low for these, especially since most will be required to re-seed. He has been working with BWSR and they have approved a proposal by the landowner in the Kisgen RIM violation proceedings. There is one new RIM almost ready to be recorded and issued payment. He has interest in a couple other applications as well.
    - c. Lembcke reported that there will be rain barrels ready to sell at the spring expo and they are taking orders for more as well.
    - d. Johnston reminded board and staff of the times they are scheduled to work at the Spring Expo. She would like to work with the Center for Small Towns and have an

intern help her develop and update our web site. Chair Feuchtenberger complimented the staff on the Annual Review.

- e. Staebler had no additions to her written report.

IV. Goodnough moved to approve the minutes from the February regular meeting. Second by Supervisor Lonergan. Passed unanimously.

V. Financial Matters

A. Supervisor Lonergan moved to approve this month's Treasurer's Report with the correction of the beginning balance. Second by Supervisor Anderson. Passed unanimously.

B. Fynboh moved to approve payment of the following bills. Second by Lonergan. Passed unanimously.

1. Debbie Anderson	Supervisor Pay	
2. Dennis Feuchtenberger	Supervisor Pay	
3. Troy Goodnough	Supervisor Pay	
4. Dave Lonergan	Supervisor Pay	
5. Valnes Rentals	March Building Rent	2187.00
6. John Lembcke	DOT Physical	125.00
7. Matt Solemsaas	Meeting expenses	120.79
8. Steve Linow	Mileage expenses	103.50
9. Stevens County Times	Annual review & legal meeting notice	407.00
10. Otter Tail Power	Electric bill	27.78
11. Mobiz Computers	Computer Updates	3787.48
12. Stevens County Highway	Gas	60.12
13. Nycklemoe & Ellig	RIM Easement work Brown	1646.50
14. NAPA	Parts	15.17
15. Bremer Card Services		1393.58
a. Adobe software purchases		384.50
b. AIS promotion		414.39
c. Employee expenses		341.71
d. Office Maintenance (postage, subscriptions)		198.94
e. TSA Expenses		54.04

VI. Old Business

A. Lonergan moved to approve the following changes to employee policy. Second by Goodnough. Passed unanimously. Permanent part time employees working 36 hours per week or more will receive 0.75 of full time vacation and sick time accruals. Credit leave acquired will be treated similarly to full time employee comp time: it must be liquidated by the end of the first full pay period in the next calendar year.

B. Goodnough moved to formally approve the 2020 budget which was presented to the Board of Commissioners in 2019. Second by Anderson. Passed unanimously.

C. Updates to the SWCD Policy Handbook will be tabled until the April meeting. Staebler will begin drafting changes and send those to the policy committee (Fynboh, Feuchtenberger) for review and comments prior to sending to the rest of the board.

VII. New Business

A. Cost share payments were tabled until the April meeting.

VIII. Supervisor Reports

- a. Dennis will attend the 1W1P meeting in Wheaton on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Goodnough, Fynboh, Lonergan and Solemsaas will attend MASWCD Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol March 24-25
- c. Lonergan, Feuchtenberger, Solemsaas, Johnston and Staebler will attend the Area 2 meeting tomorrow, March 11.
- d. Solemsaas will attend the association of township meetings Thursday.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Greg Fynboh, Secretary

7/14/20  
Date

