

Stevens Soil & Water Conservation District
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 14, 2023
9:30 a.m. SWCD Office

- I. Chair Fynboh called the regular meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Board members present: Anderson, Feuchtenberger, Fynboh, Goodnough, Lonergan. Staff present: Solemsaas, Staebler. Others present: Jeanne Ennen, county commissioner; Britta Haseman, NRCS; Pete Waller, BWSR.
- II. Supervisor Anderson moved to approve the agenda. Second by Supervisor Feuchtenberger. Passed unanimously.
- III. Reports
- A. Britta Haseman, NRCS, gave a program report. They will see more money coming in to be used on projects because of the Inflation Reduction Act. EQIP and CSP application periods have re-opened. As of now, very few applications are actually being approved and funded.
- B. Commissioner Ennen reported that she attended a legislative conference virtually at the end of February. They spent more time than usual with legislators and addressed 5 main concerns, including the proposed new drainage portal. Four of the six available day care pods are filled and they are scheduled for a June 1 opening. They have not heard anything back on the appeal that was filed in Grant County regarding the Silver/Shauer Lake project.
- C. Pete Waller, BWSR Board Conservationist, gave a report on legislative activity and handed out a document of Legislative Resources, highlighting some important efforts. The session ends at the end of May.
- D. Additions to written staff reports
- a. Solemsaas reported on the recent visit to the MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol. The annual review has been published and he handed some copies out at the capitol. There is a soil health team meeting this Thursday at Old #1 and Harmon Wilts will be the featured speaker. He has been discussing the landscaping around the day care pods with county personnel. Staff have been working on getting details arranged for a county tour for supervisors, commissioners, and potentially a couple agencies as well. We will also look at having a retreat sometime after the legislative session when we know what future funding entails.
- IV. Supervisor Lonergan moved to approve the minutes from the February 2023 Regular Meeting as corrected. Second by Supervisor Goodnough. Passed unanimously.
- V. Financial Matters
- A. Feuchtenberger moved to approve this month's Treasurer's Report. Second by Lonergan. Passed unanimously.
- B. Goodnough moved to approve payment of the following bills. Second by Anderson. Passed unanimously.
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|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| 1. Valves Rentals | March Rent | 2537.00 |
| 2. Debbie Anderson | Supervisor Pay | 273.17 |
| 3. Dennis Feuchtenberger | Supervisor Pay | 115.44 |
| 4. Greg Fynboh | Supervisor Pay | 510.88 |
| 5. Troy Goodnough | Supervisor Pay | 116.94 |
| 6. Dave Lonergan | Supervisor Pay | 387.08 |
| 7. Morris Cooperative | LP | 237.17 |
| 8. Willie's | Meeting expenses | 10.18 |
| 9. Morris Area Chamber | Annual dues | 350.00 |
| 10. ESRI | Annual maintenance fee | 1515.00 |
| 11. Bremer Card Services | | 801.20 |
| a. Office Maintenance | | 663.22 |
| b. Supervisor expenses | | 112.98 |
| c. Soil health dues | | 25.00 |
- VI. There was no Old Business

VII. New Business

- A. Goodnough moved to approve the 2023 PDTRA Contract for Services. Second by Anderson. Passed unanimously.
- B. The personnel committee conducted one interview yesterday and will complete another before the next board meeting, at which the decision will be made on who to hire for the Assistance Technician position. The committee has also been discussing the possibility of hiring two people and filling the Program Technician position which has been vacant for a few years.
- C. Solemsaas has been looking into the MDA Soil Health Grant application process to determine whether or not we should participate. This may fund equipment to be rented out or individual landowners as well. Greg and Matt will meet to discuss further.


VIII. Supervisor Reports

- A. Dave and Greg attended the MASWCD Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol with Matt.
- B. The Spring Expo will be held this weekend. Please let Judy know if you are not able to work the shift you signed up for.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The Local Work Group met after the regular meeting. Commissioner Ennen left the meeting and Olivia and Cole from NRCS joined the group. Britta Haseman presented information which reviewed 2022 project numbers and discussed what the group feels are the most important areas which will need funding in 2023. Stevens has the highest level of interest in projects within the 5-county area. Haseman answered questions related to review and ranking of projects at the state and local levels. The group discussed priorities in the area, and determined that projects not funded last year, trees for windbreaks, structural erosion control practices, and multiple-practice projects should be given priority. The group discussed the top five types of conservation within each land use pool (pastureland, cropland, farmstead) and suggested changes to this year's list/ranking.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Lonergan, Secretary

Date