

Stevens Soil & Water Conservation District
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2023
9:30 a.m. SWCD Office

- I. Supervisor Fynboh called the regular meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Board members present: Anderson, Feuchtenberger, Fynboh, Goodnough, Lonergan. Staff present: Johnston, Solemsaas, Staebler. Others present: Britta Haseman, NRCS (report only).
- II. Supervisor Anderson moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Supervisor Feuchtenberger. Passed unanimously.
- III. Reports
 - A. Britta Haseman, NRCS, reported on the work being completed by the NRCS office. They have been working on CSP payments and new application deadline is 1-12-24. There is a different screening process in place for the new applications and this may affect how many applications are approved and funding awarded. She went over various funding sources and opportunities. They are looking for more applications for certain projects eligible for EQIP funding. The new Farm Bill likely won't be approved until Fall 2024, which makes CSP renewals difficult.
 - B. Additions to written staff reports
 - a. Solemsaas noted that the Pomme de Terre & Chippewa Watershed TACs met to discuss a joint watershed coordinator position. They are going to recommend the JPBs hire separate coordinators at this time. The PDTRA TAC is going to recommend contracting with Stevens SWCD for the hiring of a staff person dedicated to watershed coordination. He is also working with surrounding SWCDs to determine if we want to submit a joint application for phase 1 of the soil health grant available from BWSR, which can be used to hire staff. He sent letters to landowners regarding the dam removal at Perkins Lake. He has not received much feedback at this time, but those who have commented responded favorably.
 - b. Johnston did not submit a written report this month. She noted that the Envirothon resolution which was brought forward at the MASWCD annual meeting passed. \$2310 was raised in the raffle for education this year. She is working on 2024 state Envirothon preparations. She talked to the board about options for getting together over the holidays. SWELL now has 501(c)(3) status and is working towards getting tax exempt status as well. Their board will be discussing how to handle the finances once that's in place. Randee Hokanson, long-time educator, is nearing retirement.
- IV. Supervisor Goodnough moved to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2023 Regular Meeting. Second by Anderson. Passed unanimously.
- V. Financial Matters
 - A. Supervisor Lonergan moved to approve this month's Treasurer's Report. Second by Feuchtenberger. Passed unanimously.
 - B. Goodnough moved to approve payment of the following bills. Second by Feuchtenberger. Passed unanimously.

1. Valnes Rentals	December Rent	2537.00
2. Debbie Anderson	Supervisor Pay	1004.42
3. Dennis Feuchtenberger	Supervisor Pay	115.44
4. Greg Fynboh	Supervisor Pay	633.81
5. Troy Goodnough	Supervisor Pay	649.84
6. Dave Lonergan	Supervisor Pay	257.46
7. Matt Solemsaas	Mileage	210.91
8. Brady Cardwell	MASWCD Convention expense	271.12
9. Judy Johnston	Education expenses	93.22
10. DMV	Vehicle registration renewals	148.75

11. MN Department of Ag	Pesticide applicator renewal	75.00
12. Willie's	Meeting expenses	11.48
13. Otter Tail Power	Electric bill, shed	38.76
14. Stevens County Highway	Fuel	619.59
15. MCIT	WC Audit amount due	126.00
16. Schmidt Law (SWELL pmt)	SWELL incorporation fees	400.00
17. Morris Cooperative	Shop	31.20
18. Town & Country	Supplies	40.98
19. Midwest Machinery	Tractor Lease, tires	7532.07
20. Nycklemoe & Ellig	RIM reimbursable expenses	2757.00
21. Metro Sales	Copier Lease	124.89
22. Federated Telephone	Internet	69.95
23. CenterPoint Energy	Natural gas	67.26
24. Mobiz	Computer purchase	499.99
25. Elan Financial Services		3419.85
a. Office Maintenance		128.11
b. Employee expense, Solemsaas		22.88
c. Office supplies		503.86
d. Convention registrations		2765.00

VI. There was no Old Business.

VII. New Business

- A. Goodnough moved to follow the new state law/policy regarding earned sick and safe time. Second by Lonergan. The motion passed with 2 abstaining and 1 opposed.
- B. The MN DNR is requesting comments on the 2025 JPA for monitoring of observation wells in the county. The board reviewed the draft contract and had no comments.
- C. Cost Share Contracts
 - a. Goodnough moved to amend the following PDTRA 2021 WBIF contracts to allow 75% of cost share. Second by Feuchtenberger. Passed unanimously.
 - i. Add \$406.48 to contract 75-7-21-WBIF M Lonergan WASCOPS
 - ii. Add \$2339.11 to contract 75-9-21-WBIF T Smith WASCOPS
 - iii. Add \$1400.25 to contract 75-10-21-WBIF E Boettcher shoreline restoration
 - iv. Add \$1211.25 to contract 75-11-21-WBIF T Kill shoreline restoration
 - b. Goodnough moved to approve payment of the following CLWP Well sealing cost share applications. Second by Lonergan. Passed unanimously.
 - i. Lazy Q Farms \$300
 - ii. James Savre \$600 (2 wells)
 - iii. Ron Anderson \$300
 - c. Feuchtenberger moved to approve final payments to the following PDTRA WBIF Cost Share contracts (75% of total cost for each). Second by Anderson. Passed unanimously.
 - i. \$18179.48 for contract 75-7-21-WBIF M Lonergan WASCOPS
 - ii. \$15600.00 for contract 75-8-21-WBIF J Hallman Alternative Tile Intakes
 - iii. \$20534.43 for contract 75-9-21-WBIF T Smith WASCOPS
 - iv. \$6680.25 for contract 75-10-21-WBIF E Boettcher shoreline restoration
 - v. \$10998.75 for contract 75-11-21-WBIF T Kill shoreline restoration


- d. Loneragan moved to approve final payments to the following 2023 Soil Health Cost Share contracts (50% of total cost for each). Second by Anderson. Passed unanimously.
 - i. \$1519.00 for contract 3-23-SH R Schmidgall tree planting
 - ii. \$939.63 for contract 4-23-SH P Daly tree planting
 - iii. \$1346.75 for contract 5-23-SH M Schneider tree planting
- e. Goodnough moved to approve final payments to the following Local Capacity Cost Share contracts (75% of total cost of each). Second by Anderson. Passed unanimously.
 - i. \$1523.81 for contract 1-21DC N Skulan rain garden
 - ii. \$2034.32 for contract 2-21DC A Williams rain garden

VIII. Supervisor Reports

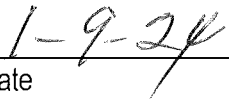
- A. Reminder to file your campaign finance reports during the month of January.
- B. There will be a BWSR SWCD Supervisor Orientation/Refresher February 15 & 16, 2024. Goodnough noted that the past session he attended was valuable and he'll probably consider going again.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Lonergan, Secretary



Date

