

**Stevens Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 2024**  
**9:30 a.m. SWCD Office**

- I. Chair Goodnough called the regular meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Board members present: Anderson, Feuchtenberger, Fynboh, Goodnough, Lonergan. Staff present: Solemsaas, Staebler. Others present: Britta Haseman, NRCS.
  
- II. Supervisor Anderson moved to approve the agenda. Second by Supervisor Feuchtenberger. Passed unanimously.
  
- III. Reports
  - A. Britta Haseman, NRCS, discussed current projects funded through EQIP and talked about what things influence the funding. This year, fewer contracts were funded for larger dollar amounts. Some of these have a 5-year cap instead of 3. Funding is divided evenly among areas. More funding for our area has been requested from the pool of funding left unused by other areas. The annual LGU meeting will be held after the next regular meeting on April 8. This is our opportunity to comment on the funding structure and ranking criteria. She also mentioned that she will be attending the Soil Health Day in Morris on March 21. NRCS is switching to ArcPro and they have been offering trainings to help ease the transition. She's also received 19 CSP applications to be ranked by April 11.
  - B. Jeanne Ennen, County Commissioner, was unable to attend.
  - C. Additions to staff reports
    - a. Solemsaas mentioned a new wetland bank going through. He is working on a Working Lands grant for \$20,000 to be spent on time working on easements. This is the former Pheasants Forever or CREP grant. He is also applying for a Climate Smart grant to be used in funding staff over three years and providing a \$100/ac incentive from Virginia Tech. The county attorney reviewed and approved the Contract for Services with PDTRA for the hiring of a watershed coordinator and he will post the position opening soon. He has been working with the DNR and PDTRA on Perkins and Crissy Dam removal/renovation. Work on the Perkins project should begin this fall or early next spring. Crissy Dam is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> and should start in 2026 or 2027. There will be a soil health event featuring Ray Archuletta on July 11. Traverse SWCD is organizing with the help of other SWCDs. He and Lonergan attended the MASWCD legislative events at the capitol and met with Westrom and Anderson.
    - b. Lembcke and Cardwell are attending a soil health training.
    - c. The Annual Review was published in early March.
  
- IV. Supervisor Fynboh moved to approve the minutes from the February 2024 Regular Meeting. Second by Supervisor Lonergan. Passed unanimously.
  
- V. Financial Matters
  - A. Feuchtenberger moved to approve this month's Treasurer's Report. Second by Fynboh. Passed unanimously.
  - B. Feuchtenberger moved to approve payment of the following bills. Second by Anderson. Passed unanimously.

1. Valnes Rentals	March Rent	2537.00
2. Debbie Anderson	Supervisor Pay	274.08
3. Dennis Feuchtenberger	Supervisor Pay	542.15
4. Greg Fynboh	Supervisor Pay	538.80
5. Troy Goodnough	Supervisor Pay	116.94
6. Dave Lonergan	Supervisor Pay	643.41
7. Otter Tail Power	Electric service	33.03
8. Farm & Home Publishers	Plat book advertising	650.00
9. Morris Cooperative	LP tank rent	5.34
10. Area 2 Envirothon	Annual allocation	150.00

11. Nycklemoe & Ellig	Easement work, Schmiesing trust	1532.00
12. Metro Sales	Copier Lease	139.30
13. CenterPoint Energy	Natural gas	80.32
14. Bremer Card Services		809.47
a. Office Maintenance	wifi, postage, web host, Adobe	678.96
b. Education expense	poster contest materials	78.52
c. Office Supplies	Matt mouse	51.99

VI. There was no Old Business. Policy Handbook revisions will be approved at the April meeting.

VII. New Business

- A. Loneragan moved to approve the following cost share contracts. Second by Anderson. Passed unanimously. Both projects are in the corridor along Highway 59 where multiple other projects have already been completed.
- \$60955.35 to contract 75-1-23WBIF for a maximum total 75% cost share in conjunction with EQIP for 12 WASCObS (Searle).
  - \$67315 to contract 75-2-23-WBIF for a maximum total 75% cost share in conjunction with EQIP for 13 WASCObS (Disselkamp).
- B. Please RSVP to Jared House if you are planning to attend the Soil Health Meeting on March 21 in Morris.

VIII. Supervisor Reports

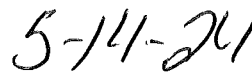
- The April meeting will be moved to Monday, April 8 at 9:30 a.m.
- The Barnes Aastad meeting will be held Thursday, April 4.
- Goodnough noted an upcoming Rural Conversation March 21 at the WCROC. He also noted another speaker/event to be held on Earth Day in April.
- Feuchtenberger was approached by a landowner regarding a recent project and asked for clarification on the process for designing projects and quality/engineering assurance in the case of failures. It was discussed that weather-related failures differ greatly from engineering mistakes. He also asked for clarification on the SWCD role in selecting a contractor (this is the responsibility of the landowner).

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

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Anderson, Secretary



Date