

Stevens Soil & Water Conservation District
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 11, 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: Johnston (report only) Solemsaas, Staebler. Others present: Britta Haseman, NRCS (report only).
- II. Supervisor Lonergan moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Supervisor Fynboh. Passed unanimously.
- III. Reports
 - A. Britta Haseman, NRCS, reported that the planting deadline has been extended to June 15 because of the wet conditions on many sites. We were awarded 3 CSP contracts and were awarded funding for 3 more EQIP contracts. There is a CRP grassland sign-up open until June 27. Stevens County pays \$17 per acre and these areas can be hayed and grazed.
 - B. Jeanne Ennen, County Commissioner, was unable to attend the meeting.
 - C. Additions to staff reports
 - a. Solemsaas noted that the next round of funding for WBIF funding will be open next month for both the Pomme de Terre and Bois de Sioux watersheds. He is looking at a competitive grant application to fund some of the bigger (more costly) projects we won't be able to fund through WBIF. He purchased a computer for the Soil Health Specialist. The personnel committee is currently looking at applications and Matt will be setting up interviews in the near future. Producer sign-ups for projects funded through the Climate Smart grant start July 15. Projects are being scored and funding awarded through Virginia Tech. Once hired, the new specialist will have to attend some trainings and will also be planning an outreach event, partnering with other agencies and individuals to promote. Sophia Maruska has been hired as the Watershed Coordinator and will start on July 8. Aaron Larsen from West Otter Tail SWCD will continue coordinating the group until the new hire is up and running. We purchased a UTV (side by side) for \$15,000.
 - b. Johnston reported that the MASWCD is reorganizing the coordination of the State Envirothon and they opened up an application period for 2 positions: Coordinator and Fundraising. When she last talked to MASWCD, they had not received any applications. She and Brady taught in-school sessions about the poster contest topic and she showed the board the county poster contest winners. The Area 2 contest is June 12.
- IV. Supervisor Anderson moved to approve the minutes from the past meeting. Second by Fynboh. Passed unanimously.
- V. Financial Matters
 - A. Anderson moved to approve this month's Treasurer's Report. Second by Fynboh. Passed unanimously.
 - B. Fynboh moved to approve payment of the following bills. Second by Supervisor Lonergan. Passed unanimously.

1. Valnes Rentals	June Rent	2537.00
2. Debbie Anderson	Supervisor Pay	274.07
3. Greg Fynboh	Supervisor Pay	264.37
4. Dennis Feuchtenberger	Supervisor Pay	230.88
5. Troy Goodnough	Supervisor Pay	703.95
6. Dave Lonergan	Supervisor Pay	129.00
7. NAPA	Parts	173.02
8. Morris Cooperative	Diesel & shop labor	269.87
9. Willie's	Meeting expenses	12.08

10. Mobiz Computers	Soil Health Specialist monitor	437.98
11. Millborn Seeds	Native grass seed	7622.50
12. Town & Country	Supplies	159.96
13. Stevens County Highway	Fuel	371.06
14. Otter Tail Power	Electric service shed	83.19
15. Elan Financial		1725.70
a. Education supplies & State Envirothon expenses	486.89	
b. Office Maintenance	1193.82	
c. Office Supplies	44.99	

VI. There was no Old Business.

VII. New Business

- A. Fynboh moved to hire Sophia Maruska as Pomme de Terre River Watershed Coordinator, a position reimbursable by the PDTRA. Second by Feuchtenberger. Passed unanimously.
- B. Anderson moved to contribute \$1000 in partnership with Traverse SWCD for a series of field days featuring Ray Archuletta.
- C. The Area 2 meeting will be held at the Minnewaska House on June 12. We will leave the office at 8:00 a.m.
- D. Anderson moved to approve the allocation of 23WBIF funding to the following 3 contracts:
 - a. \$2373 up to 75% cost share on S Estenson rain garden
 - b. \$1911 up to 75% cost share on C Eberlie rain garden
 - c. \$1638 up to 75% cost share on G Rodne rain garden

VIII. Supervisor Reports

- A. The July board meeting will be rescheduled to Wednesday, July 10.
- B. The filing period for SWCD supervisor elections has closed. All three supervisors who are up for election this year filed to run again. There were no other nominations.
- C. There are two MASWCD trainings coming up in July and August. Supervisors should have received notice.
- D. There will be a workshop on cover crops at CVEC on July 9. Troy mentioned several community or climate workshops coming soon from the U of M. Lonergan would like a supervisor tour of the Fynboh farm that was featured during the ARS annual meeting/field day. Fynboh noted there were about 70 in attendance at that field day and more were there for the in-office portion. Feuchtenberger received a call from a new media channel asking about the SWCD's involvement in water usage issues. None of the other board members received such a call.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Anderson, Secretary



Date