

Stevens Soil & Water Conservation District
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 11, 2025
9:30 a.m. SWCD Office

I. Chair Feuchtenberger 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: Jeanne Ennen, County Commissioner; Britta Haseman, NRCS (report only).

II. Supervisor Anderson moved to approve the agenda. Second by Supervisor Fynboh. Passed unanimously.

III. Reports

- A. Britta Haseman, NRCS, reported that they are working on ranking CSP applications before the March 21 deadline. Stevens had 2 EQIP projects approved and the Area Conservationist is asking for additional funding. They are waiting to hear. Some federal funding is frozen. A Soil Conservationist was hired before the hiring freeze and is scheduled to start in late February. The annual LGU meeting will be held within the next couple months.
- B. Jeanne Ennen, County Commissioner, gave a summary of the information presented about the Crissy Dam project during a recent commissioners meeting. Three public citizens expressed concerns with the project. There will be a public information meeting held March 6, with an open house, presentation, and question and answer period. She also mentioned a planning and zoning committee meeting held recently regarding a conditional use permit for the construction of an industrial shop in an ag zone.
- C. Additions to staff reports
 - a. Solemsaas mentioned Sophia has been working on send out invitations to adjacent landowners about the dam modification project. He summarized the details of the two plans most likely to be chosen. The current Climate Smart contracts are not being paid by Virginia Tech because they have not received the funding from the USDA. He met with the personnel committee to complete annual staff reviews.

IV. Anderson moved to approve the minutes from the January meeting as amended. Second by Supervisor Lonergan. Passed unanimously.

V. Financial Matters

A. Fynboh moved to approve this month's Treasurer's Report. Second by Supervisor Goodnough. Passed unanimously.

B. The board reviewed the draft of the 2024 Financial Statements.

C. Goodnough moved to approve payment of the following bills. Second by Fynboh. Passed unanimously.

1. Valves Rentals	February Rent	2537.00
2. Supervisor Pay		
3. John Lembcke	Employee expenses	18.74
4. Chokio Review	Annual Subscription	35.00
5. Willie's	Meeting supplies	50.98
6. KMRS/KKOK	Spring Expo	225.00
7. Morris Cooperative	LP	109.61
8. Grant County Herald	Fall 2024 Newsletter	804.03
9. Stevens County Highway	Fuel	37.47
10. Morris Area Chamber	Annual Dues	367.50
11. Otter Tail Power	Electric Service	39.49
12. Elan Financial Services		516.97
a. Office Maintenance	138.51	
b. Office Supplies	38.46	
c. AIS promo materials	255.00	

d. Fees & Dues	25.00
e. Employee expenses	60.00

VI. There was no Old Business.

VII. New Business


- A. Goodnough moved to approve the 2025 Charges for Services, unchanged from 2024. Second by Fynboh. Passed unanimously.
- B. Fynboh moved to approve the engagement letter contracting Peterson Company Ltd for the completion of the 2024 audited financial statements at a cost of \$5000. Second by Anderson. Passed unanimously.
- C. Cost Share
 - a. Goodnough moved to amend contract 75-1-23WBIF to add \$1329.10 in funding. Second by Anderson. Passed unanimously.
 - b. Fynboh moved to approve the payment of 75% cost share totaling \$62,324.45. Second by Lonergan. Passed unanimously.
- D. Fynboh and Anderson met with Solemsaas to complete the annual staff reviews. They thanked the staff for their hard work over the past year and noted that they are pleased with everyone's performance. They recommended the board approve increasing the stipend in lieu of health care to \$1000 per month for permanent full time employees, with part time and probationary increases scaled at the same percentage as they are currently. Fynboh moved to increase the stipend as recommended by the personnel committee, retroactive to January 1, 2025. Second by Goodnough. Passed unanimously. Anderson moved to approve an increase following the county scale for all employees, retroactive to January 1, 2025. Second by Goodnough. Passed unanimously.

VIII. Supervisor Reports

- A. No staff or supervisors are able to attend the MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol, so Matt will schedule meetings with the legislators at a different time, inviting them here instead.
- B. Fynboh noted that LSP will be hosting Keith Ellison for a field day at his farm, tentatively March 4.
- C. Anderson met with a committee working on a Women in Ag event in Stevens County. They are talking about speakers, a meal, vendors, etc. and looking for sponsors.

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

Respectfully submitted,



 Greg Fynboh, Secretary

3/11/25
 Date