



MINNESOTA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



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The Board of Supervisors of the Kandiyohi Soil and Water Conservation District held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Chairperson Youngkrantz called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Present were Ron Dilley, Brandon Smith, Donnel Williamson, and Jane Youngkrantz. Also present were Ellie Dittes, Conservation Technician, Sandy Laumer, Office Manager, Rick Reimer, District Administrator, Melanie Dickman, NRCS District Conservationist, and Aaron Wilson, Pheasants Forever, Farm Bill Biologist. Absent Doug Hanson.

Chairperson Youngkrantz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vouchers were prepared.

Secretary's Report was presented. Motion by Smith, second by Dilley to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 11, 2020. Voting in the affirmative were Dilley, Smith, and Youngkrantz. Motion carried.

Smith read through the bills for reviewal and payments and presented the Treasurer's Report and Outstanding Bills as listed in the Agenda. Motion by Williamson, second by Dilley to approve the Treasurer's Report. Discussion was held. Voting in the affirmative were Dilley, Smith, Williamson, and Youngkrantz. Motion carried.

Motion by Smith, second by Williamson to approve cost share contract 1FY19 Kandiyohi County for shoreline stabilization in the amount of \$4,905. Discussion was held. Voting in the affirmative were Dilley, Smith, Williamson, and Youngkrantz. Motion carried.

Discussion about the Soil Health Day included:

- summary of evaluations from the day
- our cost for the event was under \$1,000
- attendance was good had about 200 people with students, landowners, and different agencies
- and staff discussed the speakers and different sessions.

Dittes is continuing to find more information on Cover Crop Policies and will work on putting together policy. Discussion was held on looking into different grants for Cover Crops.

Dickman and Wilson entered the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Dickman's NRCS report included:

- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) renewal deadline is March 20

- General Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) deadline hasn't been set but could be end of May
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) deadline was March 13th and were 20 applications
- discussed Local Work Group Meeting dates and would like to make it a Partnership Breakfast
- and had teleconference on Coronavirus policy and it will be business as usual but should take laptop home each night if it changes and need to telework.

Wilson's Pheasants Forever Report included: general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) had 13 applications for 400 acres and currently working on continuous CRP offers and plans and has about 150 contracts.

Dickman and Wilson left the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Laumer led discussion on board training which included:

- spoke with Weirnerman and he has dates available in April for training
- BWSR has Budget training set for this summer and this board training would be good to have before that training
- April 9th or 14 were dates suggested by the board
- and Laumer will talk to Weirnerman and try to set up training and email board members.

Laumer led discussion she spoke with Dusty at BWSR about extension for CREP Grant and the LCCMR grant expires June 30, 2020. BWSR has asked for extension on grant and should know more this Spring.

Discussion was held on the Gustafson/Croonquist Project which included:

- Hanson met with Gustafson/Croonquist on finishing the project
- talked about changing the design of the project to one straight barrier instead of a "L" shape
- can use state cost share for 75% of the project and district funds for 25%
- need to have document in project folder on why district is paying the 25%
- and board would like to move forward with the project.

Youngkrantz discussed the MASWCD Communication Survey and the deadline has passed so no group response will be submitted.

Discussion was held on the SWCD Newsletter and we need to add current resident to the mailing labels to make sure they are getting delivered.

Staff was working on having Tree Open House on March 24th but will be cancelling it at this time.

Pollinator workshop will be cancelled at this time. Discussion was held on writing pollinator article for Lake Lillian Newsletter and local newspapers. Youngkrantz will write article for Lake Lillian Newsletter and Dittes will write article for Newspaper.

Reimer's District Administrator report included:

- attended Hawk Creek Steering and Advisory Committee Meeting
- attended Irrigation Meeting and Clinic
- attended Area 2 Managers Meeting

- 3 windbreak and 2 shoreline visits
- met with Sara Siestma from City of Willmar and might get more rain barrels
- attended Soil Health Day and Willmar Lakes Meeting
- submitted DNR CPL Grant
- had WCA TEP Panel meeting and worked with Gary Geer on WCA
- attended Chippewa LWG Meeting
- attended Career Day at Willmar High School
- and attended Area 2 meeting

Motion by Smith, second by Williamson to sign revised Joint Powers Agreement for Chippewa River Watershed. Discussion was held. Voting in the affirmative were Dilley, Smith, Williamson, and Youngkrantz. Motion carried.

Motion by Smith, second by Dilley to approve contribution of \$100 for Hawk Creek Steering Committee to purchase meal for Advisory Committee. Discussion was held. Voting in the affirmative were Dilley, Smith, Williamson, and Youngkrantz. Motion carried.

Dittes Staff Report included:

- attended Cover Crop workshop in Renville
- interviewed student from SCSU about working for the SWCD
- attended Soil Health Day, Irrigation Clinic, and Area 2 Meeting
- assisted with cleaning out shed and painting
- currently have 9 MAWQCP Applications
- conducted MAWQCP field visits
- Walk in Access has been funded and waiting to hear when the launch day will be
- will be conducting buffer checks and well monitoring in the next couple of weeks
- and asked for clarity on what watershed meetings she should be attending, and she will attend Hawk Creek 1W1P steering and policy meetings.

Laumer's Staff Report included:

- attended Area 2 Envirothon meeting and now Area 2 and State Envirothon's have been cancelled
- got new Linc Pass in Morris
- helped with Soil Health Day
- will be meeting with Gary Geer on eLINK for Water Plan Funds
- completed MCIT Risk Assessment
- discussed setting date for Finance Committee Meeting
- and updated reports on website by March 15th deadline.

Peterson was not at the meeting so Laumer handed out his written report. The report included:

- top 5 conservation practices are wetland restorations, grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, grade stabilization structures, and native pollinator plantings
- pictures of updating shed
- RIM/CREP training webinars
- attended CREP Contractor meeting
- attended Waterway training

- CREP signup is currently going on
- attended Pollinator seed mix training
- Best of the Best 2020 award
- Tree open house has been cancelled
- SWCD Service program upgrade
- attended Soil Health Day
- questions on whether to move forward with seed program this year
- and request to telework for the next month.

Discussion was held on whether to move forward with the seed program this year. After discussion the board decided we will move forward this year with the seed program.

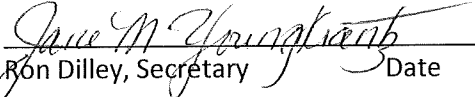
Motion by Williamson, second by Smith to adopt current USDA Policy Guideline for COVID-19 and future updates. Discussion was held. Voting in the affirmative were Dilley, Smith, Williamson, and Youngkrantz. Motion carried.

Discussion was held and Peterson's request to telework till April 14th has been denied. Reimer will contact Peterson and let him know the board will allow him to telework 2-3 days a week through April 3rd and will also allow flexible schedule so he can care for his children.

Chairperson Youngkrantz report included:

- would like staff to follow up on the insurance for the tractor
- discussed information from the MASWCD Update
- and will write pollinator article for Lake Lillian Newsletter.

Motion by Smith, second by Dilley to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.



Ron Dilley, Secretary Date