

AITKIN COUNTY SWCD
130 SOUTHGATE DRIVE
AITKIN, MN 56431

Minutes of the Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ag Service Center.

Those attending were:

Those absent were:

Roger Vogt, Chair
Tom Fasteland, Vice Chair
Bob Roseberg, Treasurer
Bob Janzen, Secretary
Frank Turnock, Reporter
Steve Hughes, District Manager
Lori Nelson, District Secretary
Scott Kittleson, District Conservationist
Maggie Leach, MN BWSR

Additions to the agenda:

- Policy statement for cost-share projects 10 yr. due to death of landowners
- Gordon Vetsch/Cost-Share Project Payment \$1875
- Rainforest Alliance/Thank you note
- Mark Guettler/Cost-Share Assistance Contract, \$6955.50

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve the agenda with additions. Approved unanimously.

Maya Schneider, Conservation Corp. was introduced.

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve the May 16, 2017 minutes. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fasteland to accept the May financial statement. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve checks written. Approved unanimously.

2018 BUDGET DISCUSSION

2018 Budget discussion. A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Roseberg to tentatively approve the 2018 budget. Approved unanimously.

AREA III RESOLUTIONS MEETING/JUNE 2, 2017

The Area III Resolutions meeting was held on Friday, June 2, 2017. Tom Fastland, Bob Roseberg, Bob Janzen, Frank Turnock attended along with Mitch Lundeen and Scott Kittleson. It was poorly attended. Three resolutions onto MASWCD. The fall meeting will be held in Mille Lacs County.

NRCS AGREEMENT

Scott Kittleson and Steve Hughes attended a webinar in Baxter re: MOU's with NRCS and SWCD. NRCS Agreement is being worked on—not ready for signatures yet—will be ready for the next SWCD Board meeting.

TREE SALES REPORT

Steve Hughes gave the tree sales report for 2016/2017.

BILLS OVER \$3000

CROW WING SWCD/MISSISSIPPI BRD WRAPS/\$4885

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve a payment of \$4885 to Crow Wing SWCD. Approved unanimously.

AITKIN COUNTY FAIR/JULY 5-8, 2017

The Aitkin County Fair will be held July 5-8, 2017. Aitkin SWCD will have a booth and Farm Olympics will be held on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

BARBARA BASHAW/COST-SHARE PAYMENT, \$1450/BIG SANDY 319 GRANT

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fastland to approve a cost-share payment to Barbara Bashaw in the amount of \$1450 pending receiving a signed voucher. Approved unanimously.

CLAUDIA JOHNSTON, SANDY RIVER/COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE
CONTRACT, \$2575 BIG SANDY 319 GRANT

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve a cost-share assistance contract for Claudia Johnston not to exceed \$2575 or 50% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

MARK GUETTLER/COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE CONTRACT/TULLIBEE

A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share assistance contract for Mark Guettler, \$6955.50 not to exceed 75% of the total cost to establish the conservation practice. Approved unanimously.

GORDY VETSCH/COST-SHARE PAYMENT/\$1875

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve a cost-share payment for Gordy Vetsch in the amount of \$1875 pending receiving signed voucher. Approved unanimously.

RAINFOREST ALLIANCE/THANK YOU

Steve read the thank you from Rainforest Alliance to the SWCD Board.

BUFFERS

Discussion. Steve & Zach went to the County Board meeting. A resolution to approve the buffer law was passed.

2017 AIS NEW GRANT APPLICATION

Steve and Maya have been working on an idea for an AIS grant application re: bags for bait. This would be a 2 year pilot project. They have been looking into bag costs, etc. and talking to bait dealers. If the AIS Committee and the SWCD Board are okay with this they will apply for it. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Tom Fastland to support this new idea for an AIS grant application. Approved unanimously.

COUNTY BUILDING UPDATE

Steve Hughes gave a County building update (3 levels, 2nd level Env. Services, Land Dept., SWCD etc. NRCS and FSA hopefully). They have met with an architect.

COST-SHARE PROJECTS/10 YEAR POLICY STATEMENT DUE TO DEATH OF LANDOWNERS

Discussion. Maggie suggested looking at the Grants Administration Manual on the BWSR website for information on this. Some discussion as to whether they should be recorded and felt that it should be a certain \$ amount before recorded. Suggested communicating with realtors, lakeshore associations, etc. through a letter.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT (Bob)

-Project update

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Discussion. There are 8 lots on Long Lake that a landowner wants to donate to the Aitkin County SWCD. Steve will keep in contact with the landowner, look into the best option and will work with Land Dept. etc. and talk to the County.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN'S REPORT (absent, no report handed out)

DISTRICT FORESTER'S REPORT (absent, report was handed out)

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT (see attached report)

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT

-Attended the National Pheasant's Forever Team meeting the last week of May

-Wild Rice Lakes, 14 applications waiting to be ranked-meeting to be held in July or August to rank the applications.

-Mississippi mailing outreach for RIM program

-News release sent in for EQIP deadline is coming up

-Rivers & Lakes Fair booth-blind was set up along with a video going on sharptails

NORTH REGION FORESTER (see attached report)

MAGGIE LEACH/MN BWSR BOARD CONSERVATIONIST

- Update on Legacy bill
- District Capacity \$ for 2018 and 2019
- Governor's 25x25 meetings around the state
- John Jaschke listening sessions

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ag Service Center.

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Bob Roseberg to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Janzen
Secretary