

AITKIN COUNTY SWCD
130 SOUTHGATE DRIVE
AITKIN, MN 56431

Minutes of the Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting held on Tuesday, July 18, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the Ag Service Center. Meeting was called to order by Roger Vogt, Chair.

Those present were:

Roger Vogt, Chair
Tom Fasteland, Vice Chair
Bob Roseberg, Treasurer
Bob Janzen, Secretary
Steve Hughes, District Manager
Lori Nelson, District Secretary
Scott Kittleson, District Conservationist

Those absent were:

Frank Turnock, Reporter
Maggie Leach, MN BWSR

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions to the agenda.

Steve asked to move Mitch Lundeen's report up in the meeting as he is headed out to another meeting.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the June 21, 2017 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT (JUNE)

As of yet, no June report has been received from Heinecke's. The staff was on vacation. Steve gave the end of May balance from Heinecke's and gave total of

checks written in June. A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Bob Roseberg approving Steve's verbal report. Approved unanimously.

CHECKS WRITTEN

A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve checks written. Approved unanimously.

NRCS AGREEMENTS

NRCS Agreements were discussed at the last SWCD Board meeting (Operational & Cooperative Agreements). They were needed by July 15, 2017, before the next SWCD Board meeting. Steve sent an e-mail to the supervisors before the July meeting, 3 out of 5 ok'd to sign the agreements and send in. The Cooperative Agreement takes the place of the 1996 Agreement. The Agreement states NRCS will provide 150 sq. feet of Lori's space in return for clerical services. NRCS will provide a computer and computer assistance for Dennis in return for 3 CAP Forest Stewardship Plans. A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve and sign the NRCS agreements (Cooperative & Operational). Approved unanimously.

AITKIN COUNTY FAIR (JULY 5-8, 2017)

The Aitkin County Fair was held on Wednesday-Saturday, July 5-8, 2017. The Farm Olympics was held on Wednesday, July 5, 2017. The Aitkin County SWCD had a booth, also Private Woodlands Committee had a booth. Topics in the SWCD booth were Water Planning, AIS, WRAPS, NRCS, EQIP etc. AIS inspectors were in the booth part of the time along with staff.

SHANNON WESTERLUND/BUFFER SPECIALIST

Shannon Westerlund was introduced.

Buffer Specialist will administer the new buffer law as written meeting with landowners. The Ordinance hearing will be held on the 21st of August.

Friday, July 21st, Tom Giles, MN BWSR will be at the Mille Lacs Energy at 10:00 a.m. This will be a time for questions and answers re: buffer law. This is one of about four or five regional meetings to be held in the state.

BILLS OVER \$3000

UNIVERSITY OF MN \$3519.34

UNIVERSITY OF MN \$3772.97

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve both bills for the University of MN (\$3519.34 & \$3772.97). Approved unanimously.

COST-SHARE PROJECT/RODGER NARLOCH, FARM ISLAND

This is an erosion control project. No project cost yet, no regular cost-share available at this time--possibly some Community Partners \$ available. Steve will work with Janet on \$ available and work with Jim Hausauer, Farm Island to possibly sponsor the project, capacity \$ is another option—other districts are using capacity \$ for cost-share. No cost-share application at this time and no motion needed at this time.

BUFFERS

Steve Hughes, Terry Neff and Shannon Westerlund attended the County Board meeting where the ordinance hearing for buffers was set for August 21, 2017.

Steve Hughes asked Shannon to complete the inventory to see what the workload really is for buffers. Once the hearing is over can contact landowners and work with them. There is some cost-share \$ to assist with that and some options for landowners.

MITCH LUNDEEN, NORTH REGION FORESTER (see attached report)

2017 AIS NEW GRANT APPLICATION/MN INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

The grant application (clean bait watering bag with an AIS message) was submitted. There is a pretty good chance of getting the grant. Steve will follow-up as to when the \$ will be released and implement for next year.

COUNTY BUILDING UPDATE

Update on the building. Supervisors asked about timeline for the building. At this time don't know, it will be awhile.

OTHER

Frank Turnock asked Steve to mention these two items.

Merrill Loy resigned from the Carlton County SWCD Board of Supervisors.

A Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Group Tour was held last week. Janet set up the tour and did a great job. Projects look great.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Jake Granfors received a promotion to a Farm Bill Biologist II.

One of the decontamination units had a problem again not pumping hot water. Steve Hughes contacted Diamond Industrial and Steve was able to get the decontamination unit up and running again. Steve delivers decontamination units on Friday to lake accesses and picks them up on Sunday.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT (Bob Roseberg)

There is a project to hopefully get done this fall.

Next week the Snake River Board will meet at the Kimberly Glen Town Hall and then they will be having a tour at the Peat Plant.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN'S REPORT (Janet Smude)

-Cleaning up from the Rivers & Lakes Fair that was held in June.

- Mille Lacs Watershed Workshop held on Monday, July 17, 2017
- Water Quality monitoring continues
- Cost-Share projects designing and layout etc.
- Reporting is being done for grants—July is the month for semi-annual reporting

-The annual Healthy Lakes Conference will be held on Monday, August 7, 2017, at McQuoid's.

-There will be a Plant Maintenance Workshop on Friday, August 11, 2017 at Sue Russell's on Farm Island.

MPCA WRAP/BRD CONTRACT

Phase I is wrapping up, working on a Phase II contract. Aitkin County SWCD was asked to be fiscal agent again so would be about \$23,000 for the Aitkin County SWCD. Details are still being worked out for the contract. Start date for the new contract is August 1, 2017

DISTRICT FORESTER'S REPORT (see attached report)

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT (see attached report)

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT (Jake Granfors)

Landowner is putting approximately 56 acres into a Conservation Easement. Discussion re: landowner looking into options when they are gone, asked if Aitkin County SWCD would be interested. Jake is looking for input from the Aitkin County SWCD Board if they would be interested in this and what their thoughts were re: SWCD owning land. Questions from the SWCD Board how many districts own land. Steve will check into. Would SWCD have to pay property taxes? Steve Hughes says no according to the assessor's office. Legal costs? The SWCD Board would like to see the landowner explore other options, Aitkin County SWCD Board last resort, maybe.

There are 16 applications to be ranked for conservation easements. Meeting will be held August 15, 2017.

Conservation easements re: floodway. There are quite a few easements from Aitkin waiting for an answer re: floodway. Answer has been received conservation easements can be taken.

A four acre pollinator planting was completed.

Promotion to a Farm Bill Biologist II.

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Roseberg to adjourn at 11:25 a.m.

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at the Ag Service Center at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Janzen
Secretary