

AITKIN COUNTY SWCD  
307 SECOND STREET NW, ROOM #216  
AITKIN, MN 56431

Minutes of the Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting held on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room. Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Frank Turnock, Chair. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Those attending were:

Those absent were:

Frank Turnock, Chair  
Dan Gravley, Vice Chair  
Bob Janzen, Treasurer  
Tom Fasteland, Secretary/Reporter  
Francis Dierickx, Supervisor  
Janet Smude, District Manager  
Lori Nelson, District Secretary

Additions to the agenda:

-Carlton SWCD/Bill over \$3000  
-Signs

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

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the July 16, 2024 minutes. Approved unanimously.

#### TREASURERS REPORT

Discussion. A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to accept the July financial statement. Approved unanimously.

#### CHECKS WRITTEN

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve the checks written. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Tom Fasteland to remove Wayne Anderson from the Bremer Bank Savings and Checking accounts and Security State Bank Savings and Checking Accounts and Safe Deposit Box. Approved unanimously.

## HEALTH INSURANCE DISCUSSION

Janet handed out a sheet of four different options health care options to discuss (benefits & drawbacks). A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to explore option #3 FSA, if it doesn't work #2 PEIP insurance, \$1,000 per month, also contact Innova Benefits Administration. Approved unanimously. If information is found out before the next SWCD Board meeting it was suggested to e-mail supervisors and could be approved and then reaffirm at the next SWCD Board meeting.

## 2025 BUDGET

A copy of the SWCD 2025 budget was handed out to the supervisors. Note: this is not a final budget. A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve the 2025 budget. Approved unanimously.

## STAFF POSITIONS

Kyle Fredrickson resigned position at the Aitkin County SWCD. His last day is September 20, 2024.

Janet handed out two job descriptions.

## DISTRICT TECHNICIAN-FORESTER

Discussion. Check hourly rates in other counties. A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Dan Gravley to post the District Technician Forester position. Approved unanimously.

Discussion re: Interview Committee. Tom Fasteland agreed to be on the Interview Committee. Also, suggested Troy Holcomb, DNR.

## DISTRICT TECHNICIAN-PROJECT COORDINATOR

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve to hire a District Technician-Project Coordinator. Approved unanimously.

## BILLS OVER \$3000

### PHEASANTS FOREVER/\$6500

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve payment to Pheasants Forever for \$6500. Approved unanimously.

### CROW WING SWCD/\$3896.09

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment to Crow Wing SWCD for \$3896.09. Approved unanimously.

### CARLTON COUNTY SWCD/\$6352.50

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment to Carlton County SWCD for \$6352.50 when we get approval from MPCA. Approved unanimously.

## RESOLUTION-SWCD AID

SWCD Aid is from the Dept. of Revenue. The resolution needs to be posted on our website and also need to say how we are going to use the money.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the Resolution-SWCD Aid. Approved unanimously.

## COST-SHARE PROJECTS TO APPROVE

### MALMO TWP. SOIL HEALTH FORAGE PLANTING/\$3620.25

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share assistance contract for a Soil Health Forage Planting, Malmo Twp., \$3620.25 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

## COST-SHARE PROJECT TO PAY

### LAKE MINNEWAWA, BIG SANDY 319 GRANT/\$4045.40

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve payment of \$4045.50 for a shoreline restoration project on Lake Minnewawa. Approved unanimously.

#### AIS CONTRACT WITH AITKIN COUNTY

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Bob Janzen to sign an AIS Contract with Aitkin County (Aitkin County not taking the \$ before we receive it, Aitkin SWCD will receive the \$ and pay the Sheriff's Dept.) Approved unanimously.

BREAK

CALL MEETING BACK TO ORDER

OTHER

#### SIGN/AITKIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Tom Fasteland to pay Dan Gravley \$125 to clean around the Aitkin County SWCD border sign in the south end of Aitkin County. Approved unanimously.

#### SNAKE RIVER REPORT-DAN

- Public Hearing will be held to dissolve or not dissolve the previous Snake River Board.
- Project Update
- Deanna resigned as the Snake River Coordinator

#### DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-JANET

Report was sent in your packet.

- DNR/CPL Grant, Big Pine Lake/Garrison
- Reminder Area III meeting, Cook County SWCD

#### BUFFER SPECIALIST REPORT-SAM

- Riparian buffers
- Culvert Inventory

- Miss. GR 1W1P
- Soil Health
- Well Inventory
- Ag Inspector
- Mille Lacs Prioritizing Lake Study
- Rum River Partnership

## SOIL HEALTH GRANT POLICY TO SIGN

A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Janzen approve the Soil Health Grant Policy. Approved unanimously.

?’s re: Drone Seeder

Discussion rates, use outside county, how far out and if that is something we are going to do.

## RENVILLE COUNTY/DRONE SEEDER

Veronica had a request for her to use the drone seeder in Renville County at a demonstration project. A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve Veronica Lundquist to use the drone seeder in Renville County, \$57/hr plus \$10/acre, establish a base rate and bring back to the SWCD Board with rates we can agree to and also meals to be paid for Veronica and Emile on that day. Emile Sow, Conservation Corp. will also be going to Renville County.

Discussion re: using the drone for fertilizer

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Tom Fastland that the drone is not to be used for fertilizer. Approved unanimously.

## DISTRICT TECHNICIAN/FORESTRY/AIS UPDATE

- AIS
- Veliger sampling
- (10) Cleaning stations
- Purple Loosestrife Long Lake
- Decontamination unit trade-in

## FORESTRY

- Stewardship Plans
- Outreach/Education
- Grants
- Meetings
- DNR Forestry Partnership Award
- SFIA ?'s

## WATERSHED MANAGEMENT & WETLAND SPECIALIST REPORT- CHELSEY

- Site visits
- Water samples
- Mille Lacs Watershed, Big Sandy Watershed, staff meetings
- Designing rain gardens
- Site inspections
- Spirit Lake, Shoreline presentation 8/31/24
- WCA
- FAA Part 107 Drone Certification

## SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST-VERONICA

- Shoreline visits
- ACLARA presentation
- Trainings
- Forage & Grassland Tour
- Seeding
- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Groundwater Grant
- Website
- AIS article
- Newsletter
- Cromwell Open House
- Apparel

## APPAREL

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Tom Fastland to approve whatever was done in the past for apparel for new employee Chelsey Koebernick and new supervisor Francis Diedrickx. Approved unanimously.

## DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-JESSE

Tom Gervais is not able to attend today.

Jesse gave the District Conservationist Report

- Program update
- Aitkin Field Office Forester position-no update
- NE Forage and Grassland Field Day

## TSA 3 REPORT-TOM

No TSA 3 report, will meet in September.

Mary TSA 3 is retiring in September. Mary thanked the staff and SWCD Board for hosting her. It was a pleasant experience.

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center.

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Francis Dierickx to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Fasteland  
Secretary/Reporter