

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 Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3rd 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
Darren Mayers, MN BWSR Board Conservationist

Additions to the agenda:

- Per Diem/Dan Gravley
- Cost-Share Payment
 - Christiansen, Round Lake/\$4836.28 Shoreline Restoration

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

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve the June 18, 2024 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Dan Gravley to accept the June financial statement. Approved unanimously.

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

AREA III RESOLUTION MEETING/JUNE 7, 2024

Janet went through survey questions re: Area III Resolution meeting with the SWCD Board.

AITKIN COUNTY FAIR/JULY 10-13, 2024

Discussion re: Aitkin County Fair. Janet thanked all those who helped at the SWCD Booth at the fair. Discussion re: hoping the Aitkin County Private Woodlands Committee will have trees to give away next year.

HEALTH INSURANCE DISCUSSION

Janet will talk with Anita at St. Louis SWCD re: an administrator for QSARA. Dan will also look into an administrator for QSARA.

RESOLUTION GOVERNING WRITE IN VOTE COUNTING

Discussion. A motion was made by Tom Fasteland to table until later in the meeting or next month until more information is given by Kirk Peysar/Aitkin County Auditor.

Kirk Peysar came up to the Aitkin County SWCD Board meeting and explained the Resolution Governing Write in Vote Counting. Roll count vote was taken (4) Yes. A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve the Resolution Governing Write-In Vote Counting. Approved unanimously.

Darren Mayers had to leave for a virtual meeting and will return when finished.

COST-SHARE PROJECTS TO PAY

WILKINS LAKE, PERTULLA/SHORELINE RESTORATION \$10,248.46

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share payment of \$10,248.46 for a shoreline restoration project on Wilkins Lake. Approved unanimously.

BIG SANDY LAKE, CLARK/SHORELINE RESTORATION \$3826.39

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve a cost-share payment of \$3826.39 for a shoreline restoration project on Big Sandy Lake. Approved unanimously.

WILKINS LAKE, LANGER/SHORELINE RESTORATION \$4616.44

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve a cost-share payment of \$4616.44 for a shoreline restoration project on Wilkins Lake. Approved unanimously.

LAKE MINNEWAWA/PIGNATELLO, BIG SANDY 319/\$1158.05

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Francis Dierickx to approve a cost-share payment of \$1158.05 for a shoreline restoration project on Lake Minnewawa. Approved unanimously.

LAKE MINNEWAWA/JOHNSON, BIG SANDY 319/\$1158.05

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve a cost-share payment of \$1158.05 for a shoreline restoration project on Lake Minnewawa. Approved unanimously.

ROUND LAKE/CHRISTIANSEN, SHORELINE RESTORATION/\$4836.28

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve a cost-share payment for \$4836.28 for a shoreline restoration project on Round Lake. Approved unanimously.

COST-SHARE PROJECTS TO APPROVE

OBERSTAR, LAKE MINNEWAWA/SHORELINE RESTORATION, BIG SANDY 319/TOTAL \$4495, 90% PROPOSED

This project was installed last year and was damaged due to natural causes. A new project proposal was approved up to 90% at the Big Sandy meeting as long as the project wasn't done the same as last time. A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share assistance contract for Oberstar, Shoreline Restoration, Lake Minnewawa, total project cost \$4495 up to 90% of the total project \$4045.50. Approved unanimously.

LAWSON, LONE LAKE/SHORELINE RESTORATION/MISS BRD
IMPLEMENTATION GRANT, \$11925.00

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve a cost-share assistance contract for a shoreline restoration project, \$11,925 or 75% of the total cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

ANDERSON, SPALDING TOWNSHIP/LIVESTOCK CROSSING, MISS BRD
IMPLEMENTATION GRANT/\$45,352.93

A motion was made by Francis Dierickx and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve a cost-share assistance contract for a livestock crossing project, cost-share not to exceed \$29,014 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

OBSERVATION WELL CONTRACT FY25, 2 NEW WELLS/\$2880

Two new wells were added in the DNR Contract (Hill City, Grayling Marsh). A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the Observation Well Contract FY25. Approved unanimously.

OTHER

FORESTRY STAFFING

Discussion re: forestry staffing. It was decided to go ahead and hire a forester/AIS position. Janet will put together a position description for a forester/AIS position and bring to the August SWCD Board meeting.

2025 SWCD BUDGET

THE 2025 SWCD Budget was given to Jessica Seibert, Aitkin County Administrator. The SWCD Board will discuss the 2025 SWCD budget at their meeting in August.

PER DIEM/DAN GRAVLEY

Discussion re: Dan Gravley per diem, mileage and meals for Leadership Training. SWCD Board agreed this is a part of being a supervisor so bill for those expenses.

BREAK

CALL MEETING BACK TO ORDER

SNAKE RIVER REPORT-Dan

The Snake River meeting was held on June 21, 2024.

There is still discussion dissolving the Old Snake River group. If and when it is dissolved \$226,000 to go back to four counties in various amounts.

Kanabec County newsletter was passed around. It was suggested that Aitkin County SWCD do something like Kanabec County newsletter. It cost \$2000 printing and \$2000 mailing)

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT-Janet

-Reporting/Recordkeeping

-SWCD was awarded the DNR Partnership Award. This is Kyle working with forestry, Private Woodlands, etc.

BUFFER SPECIALIST REPORT-Sam

-Riparian buffers

-Culvert Inventory

-Miss. Grand Rapids 1W1P

-Soil Health

-Culvert Projects

-Ag Inspector

-Noxious Weed discussion with landowner

-Drone Presentation, County Ag Inspectors, Grand Rapids

WATERSHED MGMT./WETLAND SPECIALIST/CHELSEY-No report, absent

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN/FORESTER REPORT/AIS UPDATE-Kyle

-AIS (inspector issues, survey data issues, Live Bait Pledge Program, towels, grabbers deliver, decontamination unit maintenance, porta potty issues, cleaning station signs, E-DNA sampling rather than veliger sampling)

-FORESTRY (Stewardship Plans)

-OUTREACH/EDUCATION (Aitkin County Fair, Master Woodland Steward Class, Plan Writer Workshop, Private Woodlands discussed fall tour)

-CCFFC Grant

-LCCMR Tree Plant

-1W1P Rum (working with consultants in writing plans)

-Meetings

-Other (helping folks with SFIA)

SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST/OUTREACH SPECIALIST REPORT-Veronica

-Watershed Management

-Shoreline site visits, wrapping up projects

-Soil Health

-Trainings

-Drone License still studying

-Drill Delivery

-Planning a few presentations with Sam about new drone and practices that can be done.

-Outreach

-Rivers & Lakes Fair

-Conservation Corp. member

-Other

-Facebook postings

-Writing AIS articles

-Rain Garden with Paige/Aitkin Library

-Realtor Workshop (1)

-Trainings & Workshops

-Fair Booth

-Website editing and familiarizing with website

MN BWSR CONSERVATION REPORT-Darren

-BWSR Grant FY25 information sheet

-Legislative Session-SWCDs allowed to take out loan if needed

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT-Candi

Candi Fuller, NRCS gave the District Conservationist Report.

- Program Updates
- EQIP deadline application is September 6, 2024
- No update on Aitkin Field Office Forester
- NE Forage & Grassland Council Field Day (Pine County) in August
- Local Work Group meeting results compiled and sent to Area Office
- FFA Farm Olympics
- Plant materials training in Bismarck

TSA 3 REPORT-Tom

- Meeting held June 26, 2024
- Discussion raising salary for engineers
- 2024-2025 budget, \$653,324 includes health and dental of \$71,000
- List of projects—where they are, status of project. Not a lot of projects in Aitkin County.

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST-Joe

- Program Updates/EQIP
- Easement Updates
- HELP Grant
- BWSR Easement Training in Brainerd
- Wetland Reserve Program/Easement monitoring
- Aitkin County Fair-helped staff the booth
- Miss. River/Brd. Mailing sent out-2 people have contacted me already.

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Dan Gravley to adjourn at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Fasteland
Secretary

