

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, June 18, 2019 at the Ag Service Center. Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Those present were:

Those absent were:

Frank Turnock, Chair
Roger Vogt, Vice Chair
Bob Roseberg, Treasurer
Tom Fasteland, Secretary
Bob Janzen, Reporter
Steve Hughes, District Manager
Lori Nelson, District Secretary
Chris Pence, MN BWSR Board Conservationist

Additions to the agenda:

- Fleming Lake, Cost Share Project Approval, Renee Griego
- Lake Superior One Watershed One Plan
- 2020 Draft Budget
- SWCD Forestry Association Meeting/Tour at Peat facility

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

A motion was made by Roger Vogt and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the May 21, 2019 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

AIS UPDATE

There are about 21 AIS inspectors working this summer. We are committed to 17 lakes. Bonuses are being given this year. If an inspector works fishing opener through Memorial Day \$100, Memorial Day through the 4th of July \$100, and an additional \$300 at the end of the season if a total of 300 hours or more is worked for a total of \$500 in bonuses that are available. 19 inspectors qualified for the first bonus. This was done in place of increasing the hourly rate. An individual can work approximately 25 hours a week. One of the decontamination units is in Motley with a rather serious issue. AIS work schedule for the 4th of July weekend will be Wednesday afternoon through the weekend. There will be an AIS meeting Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the SWCD office.

WRAPS UPDATE

WRAPS/GRAND RAPIDS

There will be a Public meeting to review the WRAPS documentation Wednesday, July 10, at 3 p.m. at the Tamarack Sno-Flyers Clubhouse.

WRAPS/BRAINERD

TMDL's prepared and sent to the EPA for the following lakes in Aitkin County (Elm Island, Fleming, Gun, Ripple).

PERSONNEL POLICY

Steve Hughes reviewed the changes that have been put in the Personnel Policy with the SWCD Board that have already been approved in previous SWCD meetings (Definition of termination, Sick leave accrue up to 192 hours, Personal leave approved a month ago (read through with the SWCD Board), and MIS Dept. A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Tom Fastland to approve as the new policy. Approved unanimously.

FORESTRY TECHNICIAN POSITION

The Forestry Technician position has been advertised and will be open until June 28, 2019.

Discussion of interviews. At this time looking to interview the week of July 8-12, 2019. Interview committee will be Tom Fasteland, Bob Janzen, and Roger Vogt will be an alternate. Also it was suggested to ask Troy Holcomb, DNR to be on the Interview Committee.

AREA III RESOLUTIONS MEETING/JUNE 14, 2019

Steve Hughes and all SWCD supervisors attend the Area III Resolutions meeting.

BILLS OVER \$3,000

EMMONS & OLIVIER RESOURCES, INC./\$12,735.41

A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Tom Fasteland to approve payment of \$12,735.41 to Emmons Olivier Resources, Inc. Approved unanimously.

RESPEC/\$\$11,821.55

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve payment of \$11,821.55 to RESPEC. Approved unanimously.

NORTH REGION FORESTER

Discussion. A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Tom Fasteland to send a letter out challenging other districts in Area III to dedicate \$4,000 for a North Region Forester. Approved unanimously.

RUM RIVER ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN

Discussion. There will be a Policy Committee meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2019.

LAKE SUPERIOR ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN

Steve read information from Kate Kubiak asking what Aitkin County's involvement would be with Lake Superior One Watershed One Plan. A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Roger Vogt to be kept up-to-date with meeting agendas, minutes and draft plan language but we do not plan to appoint a representative to serve on the Planning Committee.

2019/2020 OUTLOOK

Steve went over the information that was received from LeAnn Buck, MASWCD with the SWCD Board on the 2019/2020 financial outlook.

COST-SHARE PROJECT APPLICATION/MIKE RUZAK

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share application (reduced cost-share) for Mike Ruzak not to exceed \$1043.35 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

COST-SHARE PROJECT/RENEE GRIEGO

Discussion re: cost-share project Renee Griego. There is no cost-share application to sign at this time but asked the SWCD Board to approve the cost-share project. A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Roger Vogt to approve a cost-share project for Renee Griego, cost-sharing not to exceed \$8589 or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

BETTY SKOGLUND/COST-SHARE PAYMENT

A motion was made by Roger Vogt and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve a cost-share payment of \$1019.33 to Betty Skoglund. Approved unanimously.

MARY ROY/COST-SHARE PAYMENT

A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share payment of \$485.65 to Mary Roy. Approved unanimously.

OBSERVATION WELL CONTRACT/FY 2020

A motion was made by Roger Vogt and seconded by Bob Roseberg to authorize Steve Hughes to sign the Observation Well Contract FY 2020. Approved unanimously.

OTHER

DRAFT BUDGET/2020

Draft budget was discussed with the SWCD Board. At some point Steve Hughes will meet with the Budget Committee. A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve the SWCD 2020 draft budget as explained to the SWCD Board. Approved unanimously.

Discussion re: move to the courthouse. It was suggested to check with the STS crew on moving the SWCD office to the courthouse.

SWCD FORESTRY ASSOCIATION/TOUR AT THE PEAT FACILITY

The next SWCD Forestry Association will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2019. Tour at the Peat facility to be planned. Steve Hughes will contact Peggy Jones at APT.

SNAKE RIVER WATERSHED/BOB ROSEBERG

No meeting since our last SWCD Board meeting. The Snake River is scheduled for a meeting next week. The grant is coming to an end—projects and bills have to be finished by the end of June, have already had a 6 month extension.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Steve Hughes worked with Steve Spigarelli and the First Lutheran Youth Group on rain garden at Paulbeck's County Market pulling cattails and reed canary and picking up garbage.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

Janet did not attend the meeting but a District Technician's report was handed out.

Paige Van Pelt read a letter to the board re: need for fishing piers in Aitkin County. County doesn't have a lot of landings on lakes. Frank Turnock thanked Paige for bringing it to our attention. A suggestion was made to do a map of the ones we know of.

NRCS REPORT/CANDI FULLER

Update on CSP, EQIP and Cover Crop News Release. See attached report.

Thank you was given to Frank Turnock and Bob Roseberg for allowing NRCS Soil Scientists to do soil inventory on their farms.

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST (Jake Granfors)

Update given on easements, etc. See attached report.

MN BWSR BOARD CONSERVATIONIST REPORT

Chris handed out information re: Drinking Water Grants and 2019 Legislative Update.

Update was given on the Pine River One Watershed One Plan. Public Hearing will be held on June 26, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Ideal Town Hall.

BUFFER SPECIALIST REPORT (Sam Seybold)

Update given on buffers. See attached report.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ag Service Center.

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Bob Roseberg to adjourn at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Fasteland
Secretary