



# Brown Soil and Water Conservation District



300 2nd Ave. SW • Sleepy Eye, MN 56085 • Phone: 507-794-2553

[www.brownsxcdmn.org](http://www.brownsxcdmn.org)

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

## Minutes of the April 19, 2017 Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN

Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm by Chair Vogel.

### PRESENT

1. Jack Vogel – Chair
2. Gary Rathman – Vice Chair
3. Clem Windschitl – Secretary
4. Jeff Nielsen – Treasurer
5. Greg Roiger – PRI
6. Melanie Krueger – District Manager
7. Heather Hansen – District Technician
8. Jeremy Groskreutz – District Technician
9. Alan Gleisner – District Technician
10. Dustin Van Thuyne – PF/Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
11. Julie Salmon – Acting NRCS District Conservationist
12. Gary Watson – NRCS Assistant for State Field Operations
13. Dean Simonsen – Brown County Commissioner Liaison

### AGENDA

- ◆ Motion was made by Windschitl and seconded by Roiger to approve the agenda with additional items of State Amendment Dollars, Trout Stocking, WRP Land Violations, and Buffer Program Update under New Business and Flood Projects Update under Cost Share.

Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

### CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Consent Agenda items were reviewed. Staff clarified information on the SCTSA bill and the pond restoration meeting attended on April 5. A Motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Windschitl to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented which included the March 15, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes, the Bills Report dated March 10, 2017 to April 13 2017, the CCMR Contribution bill of \$25.00, the SCTSA Grant Match, 2<sup>nd</sup> Half bill of \$1,307.00 and the Monthly Staff Narrative report dated March 10, 2017 to April 13, 2017.

Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

## TREASURER'S REPORT – MARCH 2017

- ◆ The March 2017 Treasurer's Report was reviewed and the board requested staff to include the previous year's report again with this item going forward. Motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Rathman to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.  
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

## WATER PERMITS/WCA REPORTS

- ◆ Krueger advised there are no well reports or water permits to report on. Hansen advised of a WCA phone conference regarding road widening on CSAH 6 and 13 in the Hanska area. Hansen and Krueger also advised on the status of the Cunningham WCA Application for irrigation and what the TEP panel recommendations were and that the County Commissioners signed off on the application as the LGU.

## COST SHARE

- ◆ **Flood Projects Update:** Staff gave an update on the current status of the Flood Relief cost-share projects. Discussion was held on outsourcing technical services.
- ◆ **Krueger Presented Cost-Share Items for Approval:**
- ◆ A motion was made by Windschitl and seconded by Rathman to approve cost-share payment of \$9,450.00 for contract EM1-FY15-03 with James Losleben. Final cost of the project came in at \$12,600.00 (\$7,400 under estimate). SCTSA was technical representative. This is for a Streambank Protection project that has been completed in North Home 20. Payment will be made using FY15 Flood Relief Grant funds.  
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ A motion was made by Rathman and seconded by Nielsen to approve cost-share payment of \$2,304.83 for contract FY16-01 with Peter Windschitl. Final cost of the project came in at \$3,073.11 (\$4,021.89 under estimate). SCTSA was technical representative. This is for a Terrace project that has been completed in Mulligan 22. Payment will be made using FY16 State Cost-Share funds.  
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ A motion was made by Roiger and seconded by Rathman to approve Amendment #1 to cost-share contract EM2-FY16-01 with Fischer Farms to extend the install date. This is for a Terrace project in Linden 22. The amendment extends the install date from 4/30/2017 to 8/31/2017.  
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ A motion was made by Windschitl and seconded by Nielsen to approve cost share contract FY16-08 with Gary Veenstra for a WASCOB project in Stately 9. Bill Moldestad will be the technical representative. Cost estimate is \$8,500.00 with cost share funding approved at \$6,375.00. FY16 State Cost Share funds of \$3,848.41 and FY17 State Cost Share funds of \$2,526.59 will be encumbered for the project.  
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ A motion was made by Windschitl and seconded by Nielsen to approve cost share contract CAPSE-FY16-03 with Gary Veenstra for a WASCOB project in Stately 14. Bill Moldestad will be the technical representative. Cost estimate is \$7,942.50 with cost share funding approved at \$5,956.88. FY16 Capacity Grant Soil Erosion Cost Share funds will be encumbered for the project.  
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

- ◆ A motion was made by Roiger and seconded by Windschitl to approve cost-share contract FY16-09 with Mike Stadick for 1 Alternative Tile Intake (underground outlet – open intake replacement) to be installed in Cottonwood 7. Cost estimate is \$400.00 with cost share funding approved at \$300.00. Bill Moldestad will be the technical representative. FY16 State Cost Share funds will be encumbered for the project.  
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

### **NRCS REPORT**

- ◆ Gary Watson, NRCS Assistant for State Field Operations, gave a verbal report to update the group on current happenings of the NRCS office. Julie Salmon, Acting NRCS District Conservationist was also present. Watson advised they are working on CSP and EQIP contracts. The hiring freeze has been lifted but hiring will be slow as federal budgets are being evaluated and he does have several positions that need to be filled in his area. Julie is covering temporarily as Acting DC in Brown County for 120 days.

### **PF/FARM BILL TECH REPORT**

- ◆ Van Thuyne reviewed his written PF/Farm Bill Tech board report with the group and the report is on file.

Simonsen entered at 3:00pm

### **MEETING REPORTS**

- ◆ Gleisner, Groskreutz and Hansen attended an Ag Drainage Workshop in Willmar on March 27 and gave details to group about information learned and topics covered.
- ◆ Groskreutz and Gleisner gave a report about two Soil Health Workshop events on March 28 in Comfrey and at the SWCD building and advised it was good information on cover crops and both events were well attended.
- ◆ Rathman and Gleisner attended the Area VI MASWCD meeting in Le Center on March 29 and gave report. Much of the discussion held was on all of the in-progress work, there was an MPCA speaker who spoke about WRAPS and there will be a scholarship program offered with the Area VI funds.
- ◆ Groskreutz attended the GBERBA Technical meeting on March 29 and gave report. No new cost-share projects at this time. The 319 grant was discussed for cover crop criteria, a side inlet design is being standardized by ISG, and brochures are being put together for alternative intakes.
- ◆ Vogel attended the RCRCA board meeting on April 6 and shared report with the group. Cost-share projects were approved for the Redwood river area, there are no funds available for the Cottonwood river area at this time, canoe rental rates were discussed, and the Canoe trip day is planned for June 22 on the Cottonwood River.
- ◆ Gleisner attended Soil Mechanics Training in Marshall on April 6 and 7 that was hosted by NRCS geologist and advised that much valuable information was learned.
- ◆ Krueger attended the Cottonwood WRAPS Local Work Group meeting in Wabasso and gave report to the group. Another meeting is planned for next month.
- ◆ Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Simonsen gave an update to the group- 1) three ditch system redeterminations were approved and the process continues to go very well, 2) approval was given to consult an engineer for the Wellner Dam slide gate opening repair that is needed, 3) Commissioners signed off as the LGU approving the WCA Application for Cunningham Irrigation, and 4) discussions held regarding the tabled permit for the livestock facility application in Mulligan township.

Hansen, Watson, and Salmon exited at 4:25pm

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ None

## NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **Pheasants Forever – AgSolver Partnership:** Krueger, Gleisner and Van Thuyne attended a presentation on the AgSolver program in St. James on April 3 and explained information about the program and partnership request from Pheasants Forever and AgSolver. Discussion was held on the program and whether the district wanted to partner on it. Staff was instructed to advise Tanner at Pheasants Forever that Brown SWCD is willing to promote the program at this time but not enter into a partnership.

Van Thuyne exited at 4:50pm

- ◆ **Buffer Program Update:** Groskreutz and Gleisner advised of two new buffer program updates regarding PWI map corrections being made by the DNR and the alternative practices information that was recently released and sent out by BWSR.

Groskreutz exited at 5:05pm

- ◆ **MASWCD Call for Resolutions:** Discussion was held on the annual MASWCD call for resolutions request. Krueger advised that none of the resolutions that are due to sunset this year were sponsored by Brown SWCD and there are no notes on file about resolution ideas discussed previously by the district. Discussion was held as to any new ideas for resolutions to submit this year. Staff was instructed to discuss the possibility of a resolution with Sheila or LeAnn at MASWCD about the intent of the Legacy Amendment funds being followed as was passed by legislation. Krueger will contact MASWCD and report back to the Board.

Simonsen exited at 5:15pm

- ◆ **2017 Quarter 1 Budget Review:** Reviewed the Quarter 1 budget report presented. The budget is on target with an increase in tree sales this year.
- ◆ **CREP:** Staff advised about the CREP webinar attended on April 18 by BWSR. The sign-up is tentatively planned to begin mid-May. The RIM rates have been released.

Gleisner exited at 5:30pm

- ◆ **Minnesota Public Drainage Manual Workshop:** Discussion was held on the Minnesota Public Drainage Workshop being held on May 25 in New Ulm and who should attend from Brown SWCD. It was agreed that staff will attend and provide a report to the group at the subsequent meeting.
- ◆ **State Amendment Dollars:** Roiger advised of two recent articles he had read about the state amendment dollars and expressed concerns about the capacity funds coming from the Legacy amendment fund and about legislators not following the recommendations of the committee. This will be discussed with MASWCD when contacting them in regards to the resolution topic discussed earlier in the meeting.
- ◆ **Trout Stocking:** Roiger reviewed an article he had about the DNR stocking trout streams in our area. There were only 300 rainbow trout and 300 brown trout being added to Spring Creek versus 2500 to the Redwood River. He was curious as to why the difference of 2500 in Redwood River versus 300 each in Spring Creek considering we just completed a large trout stream restoration project in the Spring Creek area.

- ◆ **WRP Land Violations:** Roiger advised that an associate of his had received a violation letter on his WRP land due to some tree plantings and other activities that are not allowed which he wasn't aware of. He is concerned about people purchasing properties and not knowing the exact rules when there is an easement in place and would like to see a better way to obtain this information for any potential buyers of easement property.
- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Roiger and seconded by Rathman to attend and approve the following upcoming meetings/events:
  - ◇ Wednesday, April 26 – GBERBA Technical Meeting, Mankato (Groskreutz)
  - ◇ Thursday, May 4 – RCRCA Board Meeting, Marshall (Roiger)
  - ◇ Friday, May 12 – GBERBA Policy Meeting, Mankato (Windschitl)
  - ◇ Wednesday, May 17 – Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting, 2:00pm
  - ◇ Thursday, May 18 – MN River Congress, Redwood (Roiger)
  - ◇ Personnel Committee – District Manager 6-month review, date and time to be determined

Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

**Meeting Adjourned – 5:49pm**

Secretary:  Date: 5-17-17