



# Brown Soil and Water Conservation District



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

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

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

## Minutes of the May 18, 2016 Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting, Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN

Meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chair Vogel.

### PRESENT

1. Jack Vogel – Chair
2. Gary Rathman – Vice Chair
3. Clem Windschitl – Secretary
4. Ralph Stadick – Treasurer
5. Greg Roiger – PRI
6. Doug Goodrich – District Manager
7. Melanie Krueger – Administrative Assistant
8. Jennifer Hahn – NRCS District Conservationist
9. Dustin Van Thuyne – PF/Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
10. Dean Simonsen – Brown County Commissioner Liaison

### ABSENT

None

### AGENDA

- ◆ Motion was made by Stadick and seconded by Windschitl to approve the agenda with the addition of Roiger – 3 items for discussion under New Business.  
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Stadick, Roiger  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

### CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Motion was made by Windschitl and seconded by Rathman to approve the Consent Agenda items presented which included the April 20, 2016 Board Meeting minutes, the April 2016 Treasurer's Report, the Bills Report dated April 14, 2016 to May 11, 2016, and the Monthly Staff Narrative report dated April 14, 2016 to May 11, 2016.  
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Stadick, Roiger  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

## WATER PERMITS/WCA REPORTS

- ◆ Goodrich reported that since the last meeting he has not received any new well reports from the MDH. He has received DNR water notices regarding two dams in the county that were checked and found to be compliant, a water use permit for the Sleepy Eye lake trail construction project, and a livestock watering permit.

## COST SHARE

- ◆ There were no Cost Share items to present at the meeting

## NRCS REPORT

- ◆ Hahn reviewed her NRCS board report with the group and the report is on file.

## PF/FARM BILL TECH REPORT

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

## MEETING REPORTS

- ◆ Roiger reported on the RCRCA board meeting he attended in Marshall on May 5. Cost share payment for Portner was approved, canoe trips are in June and a new RCRCA brochure was passed around, discussion was held on buffers and the bonding money requested by Area II.
- ◆ Windschitl reported on the GBERBA Policy Meeting attended in Mankato on May 13. MAWQCP program summary was given, reminder that the linking water storage grant is available but projects must be complete by August 1, an update on the CWF grants was given and bids are being requested, and decision was made to submit a letter of support for CREP.
- ◆ Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Simonsen gave an update to the group on current happenings at Brown County. Ditch redeterminations are ongoing, approval to hire an assistant county attorney was given at the May 17 Commissioner meeting and during the budget process in the next couple of months they will consider another legal assistant for the department in 2017, new tractor for the highway department so ditch mowing should go better this year, and he toured the Spring Creek project with John Knisley.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ None

## NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **MAWQCP Certification:** Brown SWCD received notice of the first landowner to reach MAWQCP certification status and has signed the paperwork necessary to finalize that certification with Craig Fischer. The paperwork has been sent on to Area 6 Certification Specialist for final signatures by the MDA. Goodrich explained that board approval is now needed for the \$300 incentive payment. Motion was made by Rathman and seconded by Windschitl to sign and approve the MAWQCP \$300.00 incentive voucher for Craig Fischer.

Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Stadick, Roiger

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

- ◆ **Seat on MN River Congress Action Board:** Supervisor Roiger explained he was recently asked to fill a seat on the MN River Congress Action Board to represent the interests of the Cottonwood River. He is interested and asked the board's approval to fill the seat and attend meetings for the usual per diem and expenses and advised an estimate of 4 meetings per year. Discussion was held. Motion was made by Rathman and seconded by Stadick to approve Roiger to take the seat on the MN River Congress Action Board.  
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Stadick, Roiger  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Archaeological Survey & Cultural Resources:** Goodrich advised of the difficulties some Districts are having on implementing cost share contracts before deadlines due to the cultural resource reviews process required through the NRCS. Some projects Brown SWCD has may be held up due to this issue. He advised that MASWCD is looking into the issue as well.
- ◆ **2016 Easement Implementation Grant Agreement:** Goodrich advised that a \$2,000.00 grant agreement has been received for easement implementation of Huiras RIM Wetlands easement and it needs board approval. Motion was made by Roiger and seconded by Windschitl to sign the 2016 Easement Implementation Grant Agreement for \$2,000.00.  
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Stadick, Roiger  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **FY16 2014 MN Flood Relief Grant – Phase 3A Agreement:** Goodrich advised that a grant agreement for the Phase 3A flood relief funds has been received in the amount of \$192,380 for 5 projects. There was 1 project unfunded from our original request. Approval of this agreement is needed to move forward with the grant. Motion was made by Stadick and seconded by Windschitl to authorize and sign the Phase 3A Flood Relief grant agreement for \$192,380.00.  
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Stadick, Roiger  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **FY17 Farm Bill Assistance Grant:** The FY17 farm bill assistance grant which funds the PF/Farm Bill Tech position for Brown/Watonwan is due by this Friday, May 20. Van Thuyne explained the options of submitting an application jointly again between Brown/Watonwan SWCDs or submitting separate grants for each SWCD and what the breakdown of costs would be for each scenario. The Watonwan SWCD had a board meeting this past Monday and advised that their 1<sup>st</sup> choice it to submit a joint application again, but they will submit a separate application if Brown SWCD decides to go that way. Discussion was held about the options presented by Van Thuyne. A motion was made by Roiger and seconded by Rathman to submit a FY17 Farm Bill Assistance grant application to BWSR for both the joint and separate scenarios discussed.  
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Stadick, Roiger  
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Roiger – 3 Items for Discussion:** Roiger advised he was happy to see terraces and basins installed on a field near his home to curb severe erosion that was happening on that field. He would like staff to look into replacing the SWCD signs in the county as they are looking a little tough and worn. He advised that he has a Finance Committee teleconference call on May 31 as there are 4 districts seeking hardship for dues to MASWCD that they can't pay.

- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Rathman and seconded by Windschitl to attend and approve the following upcoming meetings/events:
  - ◇ Wednesday, May 25 – GBERBA Technical Meeting, Mankato (Goodrich, Hansen)
  - ◇ Wednesday, May 25 – Legislative Town Hall sponsored by Bridging Brown County, REA Building, 7:15am, Sleepy Eye (Rathman, Windschitl-alternate)
  - ◇ Monday, May 30 – Memorial Day Holiday (Office Closed)
  - ◇ Thursday, June 2 – RCRCA Board Meeting, Redwood Falls (Vogel)
  - ◇ Tuesday, June 7 – Local Work Group Meeting, Community Room in SWCD office building, 9am (Windschitl)
  - ◇ Wednesday, June 15 – MASWCD Area VI Summer Meeting, Winthrop (All Supervisors and Staff)
  - ◇ Thursday, June 16 – Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting, 9:00am (rescheduled due to the Area VI meeting, reschedule notice will be posted)
    - Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Stadick, Roiger
    - Opposed: None; Motion Carried

**Meeting Adjourned – 11:04am**

Secretary:  Date: 6-16-16