



Brown Soil and Water Conservation District



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

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Minutes of the February 15, 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. Jeremy Groskreutz – District Technician
8. Alan Gleisner – District Technician
9. Heather Hansen – District Technician
10. Dustin Van Thuyne – PF/Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
11. Nick Smetana – PF/Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Watonwan County
12. Dean Simonsen – Brown County Commissioner Liaison

ABSENT

None

AGENDA

- ◆ Motion was made by Windschitl and seconded by Rathman to approve the agenda with the additional items of FY16 Buffer Grant Final Report and One Watershed One Plan – Watonwan Watershed under New Business on the agenda.
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Consent Agenda items were reviewed. Motion was made by Windschitl and seconded by Rathman to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented which included the January 18, 2017 Board Meeting minutes, the January 27, 2017 Annual Planning Meeting minutes, the Bills Report dated January 12, 2017 to February 10, 2017, the Area VI Membership Dues bill of \$400.00, the Office of the State Auditor Audit Services bill of \$165.00, and the Monthly Staff Narrative report dated January 12, 2017 to February 10, 2017.
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

TREASURER'S REPORT – JANUARY 2017

- ◆ The January 2017 Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Discussion was held about adding an additional cash report to the back of the treasurer's report to reconcile the amounts of receipts and disbursements on the report. Staff was instructed to start doing that as of the next meeting. Motion was made by Windschitl 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 that no new well reports from MDH have been received and no new water permits from the DNR have been received either. Hansen advised on four WCA items that have occurred since the last meeting which included two irrigation TEP panel meetings that were attended, one preliminary review in Burnstown Township for a farm convert, and a WCA application for a tile setback review.

COST SHARE

- ◆ A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Windschitl to approve cost share contract CAPSE-FY16-02 with Laray Kral Living Trust (Frandsen Bank and Trust is Power of Attorney) for a WASCOD project in Cottonwood 4. NRCS will be the technical representative. Cost estimate is \$3,355.00 with cost share funding approved at \$2,516.25. FY16 Capacity Grant Soil Erosion Cost Share grant funds will be encumbered for the project.

Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

NRCS REPORT

- ◆ Cottrell was unable to attend the meeting and a report was not provided.

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

- ◆ Rathman attended the SCTSA Board Meeting in Mankato on January 24 and gave a report to the group and advised staff that they would like us to set up a time to sync our Trimble equipment with theirs.
- ◆ Roiger attended a MN River Congress Committee meeting on January 30 and shared a report with the group. The next congress meeting will be held in Redwood in May.
- ◆ Roiger attended the RCRCA Board meeting on February 2 and gave a report to the group and advised of a Cottonwood WRAPS grant they will be receiving and managing.
- ◆ Rathman attended the Bridging Brown County hosted Legislators Town Hall in Sleepy Eye on February 3 and gave a report to the group.
- ◆ Groskreutz attended the GBERBA Technical meeting in Mankato on February 10 and gave a report and advised on new grant funds coming up for cover crops.
- ◆ Vogel and Krueger attended the Area VI Chair and Managers Meeting in New Ulm on February 14 and advised that Blue Earth, Waseca and Watonwan are scheduled to host this year and advised of the topics discussed for those meeting events.
- ◆ Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Simonsen gave report to the group of current happenings at the County: 1) the AMC Legislative conference is tomorrow, 2) they are working on Bonding for roads projects, and 3) the enforcement role for the Buffer Law is still being considered.

Van Thuyne and Smetana exited at 4:02pm

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ None

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **BWSR – RIM Program Master JPA Agreement:** Krueger explained the new RIM Master JPA process from BWSR and what activities, tasks, and sign-ups the agreement is for. She also advised that Krueger is listed as the Authorized Representative for the district and that approval of the agreement is needed and then it can be sent back to BWSR to execute. A motion was made by Roiger and seconded by Nielsen to sign the RIM Master JPA Agreement.
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **2017 Annual Plan Approval:** The Annual Plan for 2017 was reviewed. Edits to the plan were made by Krueger as noted at the January 27 Annual Planning Meeting and a draft copy had been sent to Supervisors for review prior to today's meeting. A motion was made by Windschitl and seconded by Rathman to approve the Annual Plan.
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Buffer Workshops:** Staff gave an update to the Board about the buffer workshops meetings planned for February 28 and March 8.
- ◆ **Farm Show Event:** Discussion was held and the staffing schedule for the booth was set for the upcoming Farm Show event in March. Staff will put together the display board and handouts and the main focus will be the Buffer Law and CREP.
- ◆ **Tree Planter:** Krueger advised she added this topic to the Agenda to discuss how the board wanted to proceed with the tree planter as far as selling it or re-considering the planting service option as we have had several requests this year to hire us for large easement and grove plantings and the County has asked to use it for a planting on the new land next to the landfill. Discussion was held on how the prices previously charged never covered the costs to provide this service as well as the staffing situation has changed at the district since last summer so we do now have more staff available to offer this service again but it may not be the best use of staff resources. Discussion was also held on the tree planter services and whether it is a good service to offer and if the district should add that service back as an option to landowners for the tree program due to the several requests and large plantings this year. A motion was made by Windschitl and seconded by Rathman to offer the planting services again to landowners at the same flat rate fees and increase the per tree price charge to \$.50 each.
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Nielsen
Opposed: Roiger; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Soil Health Workshop:** Krueger reviewed details of a Soil Health Workshop planned for March 28 in Comfrey. Partnership and/or funding was requested from Brown SWCD for this workshop. A motion was made by Roiger and seconded by Nielsen to become a partner in the soil health workshop and contribute up to \$250.00.
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **FY16 Buffer Grant Final Report:** Krueger reviewed the final financial report details for the FY16 Buffer Grant. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Windschitl to accept the Buffer Grant Report.
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Simonsen exited at 5:00pm

- ◆ **One Watershed One Plan – Watonwan Watershed:** A meeting is being held on February 21 in St. James to discuss a One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) grant proposal for the Watonwan watershed and a request was made by GBERBA to also include the Little Cottonwood watershed into this proposal since the WRAPS would be completed at about the same time, the hydro-conditioning could be done, the terrain is similar, and the partners would be the exact same. Krueger advised of information learned from Watonwan SWCD about the reasons they do not want to include the Little Cottonwood watershed into the grant proposal. Discussion was held and the consensus is that the district strongly supports and prefers the inclusion of the Little Cottonwood watershed into the 1W1P grant proposal. However, the district would still support the 1W1P grant proposal for Watonwan watershed alone if that is how they vote to proceed after the discussions at the meeting. Krueger will be attending the meeting and will express the opinion of the district is to include the Little Cottonwood watershed.
- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Roiger and seconded by Rathman to attend and approve the following upcoming meetings/events:
 - ◇ February 28 and March 8 – Buffer Workshops (Roiger on 2/28; Windschitl and Nielsen for 1pm on 3/8; Vogel for 5pm on 3/8)
 - ◇ Thursday, March 2 – RCRC Board Meeting, Marshall (Vogel)
 - ◇ Friday-Saturday, March 10-11 – Farm-City Hub Club Farm Show, New Ulm (Vogel and Nielsen on March 10 from 4-8pm; Staff for remainder of shifts)
 - ◇ Friday, March 10 – GBERBA Policy Meeting, Mankato (Rathman)
 - ◇ Wednesday, March 15 – Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting, 2:00pm
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Roiger, Nielsen
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 5:22pm

Secretary:  Date: 3-15-17