



Brown Soil and Water Conservation District



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Minutes of the February 13, 2018 Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN

Meeting was called to order at 9:31am 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. Alan Gleisner – District Technician
8. Andy Meyer – District Technician
9. Amanda Wold – District Technician
10. Dustin Van Thuyne – PF/Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
11. John Knisley – Brown County Water Planner
12. Dale Krystosek – BWSR PRAP Coordinator (exited at 10:10am)
13. Jeremy Maul – BWSR Board Conservationist

AGENDA

- ◆ Motion was made by Windschitl and seconded by Rathman to approve the agenda as presented.

Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Nielsen, Roiger

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

PRAP REPORT – GUEST, DALE KRSTOSEK WITH BWSR

- ◆ Dale Krystosek, BWSR PRAP Coordinator, passed around printed copies of the draft PRAP report and reviewed the report results for both Brown County and Brown SWCD. Discussion was held. Brown SWCD will prepare a comment letter for board approval in March and then submit to BWSR.

Dale Krystosek exited at 10:10am

CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Consent Agenda items were reviewed and Krueger answered some questions about staff report events. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Windschitl to accept the Consent Agenda items as presented which included the January 16, 2018 Annual Planning Meeting Minutes, the January 17, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes, the January 2018 Treasurer's Report, the Bills Report dated January 12, 2018 to February

7, 2018, and the Monthly Staff Reports dated January 12, 2018 to February 7, 2018.
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Nielsen, Roiger
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

WATER PERMITS/WCA REPORTS

- ◆ Krueger advised of a limited two year water appropriation permit that was issued to Sellner in Stark 31 and it involves a public water wetland and a WCA regulated wetland. Knisley explained the WCA regulations for this also.

NRCS REPORT

- ◆ Cottrell was unable to attend today's meeting as he is attending training in Texas this week. He provided a written report for the board.

PF/FARM BILL WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST REPORT

- ◆ Van Thuyne provided a written report and reviewed that with the group.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- ◆ Commissioner Simonsen did not attend today's meeting.

COST SHARE

- ◆ Reviewed the cost-share projects status report handout and then Krueger and Gleisner also gave additional updates on the Nilson project, Runck project, and other flood relief projects being planned and surveyed. Krueger also advised that the County Commissioners did approve the Well-Sealing Cost Share Program that Knisley proposed to them in January. Therefore, Brown SWCD will not pursue adding that as an option to our state cost-share program since funding is now available through the County.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ None

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **2018 Annual Plan Approval:** Reviewed the Annual Plan as edited per the changes noted at the annual planning meeting on January 16. Discussion held. A motion was made by Rathman and seconded by Roiger to accept the 2018 Annual Plan as presented.
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Nielsen, Roiger
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **2017 Accomplishments Report:** Krueger reviewed the revised report of accomplishments for 2017 and explained the changes that were made. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Windschitl to adopt the 2017 Accomplishments Report as presented.
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Nielsen, Roiger
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Farm Show Event:** Discussion was held on staffing the booth for the farm show event on March 9 and 10 in New Ulm and giveaway items were agreed upon to be 3 potted trees and 1 AIS promotional items package.
- ◆ **Buffer CS Policy Amendment:** Krueger advised of an amendment needed for technical authority on Brown SWCD FY18 Buffer CS Policy. The change requested is to amend Item D, Technical Representative, on the Brown SWCD FY18 Buffer Cost Share Policy, by designating Alan Gleisner and Andy Meyer, District Technicians, as authorized technical authority for contracts. Van Thuyne will review the first six contract plans and document that review in each file. Subsequent contracts will be authorized by Gleisner

or Meyer without review from Van Thuyne. A motion was made by Rathman and seconded by Nielsen to amend the buffer cost share policy as discussed for technical authority.

Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Nielsen, Roiger

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

- ◆ **MASWCD Legislative Days:** Discussion was held on attending the MASWCD Legislative event on March 12 and 13. It was decided that nobody would attend.
- ◆ **Watonwan Watershed MOA:** Krueger discussed the Watonwan Watershed MOA document and advised that approval by the board is necessary for all SWCD's and Counties to move forward with submitting a grant work plan to BWSR. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Windschitl and seconded by Rathman to sign the Watonwan Watershed MOA presented.

Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Nielsen
Opposed: Roiger; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Meeting Reports:**
 - ◇ Rathman attended a Legislative Town Hall session on January 26 and advised that discussions were held on the budget, primary elections, new nitrogen well guidelines, highway funding being short again, and ditch mowing regulations.
 - ◇ Roiger and Meyer gave a report about the Minnesota Voices: Water Testing Meeting on January 29 where Commissioners and members of public spoke about the County's decision to not accept the nitrate well testing program from the MDA.
 - ◇ Windschitl and Rathman attended the Watonwan Watershed 1W1P Informal Meeting on January 31 in St. James and provided details from that meeting.
 - ◇ Nielsen attended the RCRCA meeting on February 1 in Redwood and gave a report.
- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Roiger and seconded by Windschitl to approve/attend the following upcoming meetings/events:
 - ◇ Monday, February 19 – President's Day Holiday (Office Closed)
 - ◇ Thursday, February 22 – MASWCD Are VI Chairman's Meeting, New Ulm (Roiger, 1 Staff if available)
 - ◇ Friday, March 2 – RCRCA Board Meeting, Redwood (no one able to attend)
 - ◇ Friday, March 9 – GBERBA Policy/Technical Meeting, Mankato (Windschitl, Rathman)
 - ◇ Friday-Saturday, March 9-10 – Farm-City Hub Club Farm Show, New Ulm (as discussed today during agenda item 12)
 - ◇ Tuesday, March 13 – Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting, 9:30am
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Windschitl, Nielsen, Roiger
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 12:15pm

Secretary:  Date: 3-13-18