



Brown Soil and Water Conservation District



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Minutes of the July 10, 2018 Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN

Meeting was called to order at 9:30am by Chair Vogel.

PRESENT

1. Jack Vogel – Chair
2. Gary Rathman – Vice Chair
3. Jeff Nielsen – Treasurer
4. Greg Roiger – PRI
5. Melanie Krueger – District Manager
6. Amanda Wold – District Technician (exited at 10:25am)
7. Ethan Boertje – PF/Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
8. Ben Cottrell – NRCS District Conservationist
9. Jeremy Maul – BWSR Board Conservationist

ABSENT

1. Clem Windschitl – Secretary

AGENDA

- ◆ Motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Rathman to approve the agenda with the addition of BWSR Report after Commissioner Comments on the agenda.
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Nielsen, Roiger
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Consent Agenda items were reviewed. Questions about the SCTSA invoice and AIS bait shop posters were answered by staff. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Roiger to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented which included the June 12, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes, the June 2018 Treasurer's Report, the Bills Report dated June 7, 2018 to July 4, 2018, the SCTSA 2018 Grants Cash Match Invoice for \$3,319.00, and the Monthly Staff Reports dated June 7, 2018 to July 4, 2018.
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Nielsen, Roiger
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

WATER PERMITS/WCA REPORTS

- ◆ District Manager advised there are no new water permits or WCA items to report on. Wold gave an update on the WCA Restoration order that was issued last month.

PF/FARM BILL WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST REPORT

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

NRCS REPORT

- ◆ Cottrell gave a verbal report. He has been working on CSP tasks, new staff is still attending lots of training, and he has several site visits to do for EQIP 2019 applications.

AIS PREVENTION PROGRAM REPORT

- ◆ Wold reviewed her written report on the AIS program to update the group on this year's program activities and outreach accomplished.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- ◆ Commissioner Simonsen was not able to attend today's meeting.

BWSR REPORT

- ◆ Jeremy Maul, BWSR Board Conservationist, attended today's meeting and gave a report advising on 1) the potential for DRAP due to the summer rains and flooding but nothing is official yet, 2) the RFP is closed for 1W1P grant applications and 9 were received, one of them was Hawk Creek, and 3) the CWF grant RFP is opening and closes on August 31 and reminded staff to discuss any potential grant applications with him. Further discussion was then held on the potential for DRAP flood relief funding by the group. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Roiger to have District Manager send a letter to John Jaschke at BWSR regarding including buffer reseed and repair for buffer cost share projects that were damaged from 2018 rain events.

Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Nielsen, Roiger

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

COST SHARE

- ◆ Reviewed the cost-share projects status report handout and discussed flood relief projects. District Manager advised that staff is evaluating damages and keeping track of them in the event a DRAP round is opened. District Manager then presented one contract for payment approval.
- ◆ A motion was made by Rathman and seconded by Nielsen to approve buffer cost share flat rate payment of \$150.00 to Rhonda Olson for contract FY18-BCS-01. This is for a .5 acre buffer strip that was installed in Milford 31. Payment will be made with FY18 Buffer Cost Share Grant funds.

Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Nielsen, Roiger

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Wold exited at 10:25am

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ None

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **2018 Quarter 2 Budget Review:** Reviewed the quarter 2 budget report.
- ◆ **Rain Gauge Inventory:** District Manager requested authorization to order 6 to 8 more rain gauges for inventory as they are depleted. A motion was made by Roiger and seconded by Nielsen to authorize ordering more rain gauges for inventory.

Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Nielsen, Roiger

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

- ◆ **Tree Program – 2018 Report, 2019 Program:** Reviewed the 2018 tree program report presented and discussed whether or not to continue the sales and the planting services for the 2019 season.
 - ◇ A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Roiger to discontinue the tree planting service and continue the tree sales for 2019.
 - Affirmative: Nielsen, Roiger
 - Opposed: Vogel, Rathman
 - Motion Failed
 - ◇ A motion was made by Rathman to continue the tree program for 2019 as in the past.
 - No second was given.
 - Vogel declared motion died for lack of second.
 - ◇ A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Roiger to continue the 2019 tree program sales and revisit the tree planting decision at the next board meeting.
 - Affirmative: Rathman, Nielsen, Roiger
 - Abstained: Vogel
 - Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Revised FY19 Farm Bill Assistance Agreement:** Krueger presented a revised FY19 Farm Bill Assistance agreement for approval. BWSR requested we change our amount from 50% to 75% FTE so they can shift other funds to the non-CREP counties and still fund all of these positions in the state. The match amount from the SWCD will not change. The only change will be that 3 quarters payment will pass through the SWCD instead of just 2. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Roiger to accept the revised FY19 FBAP agreement for 75% FTE as requested by BWSR.
 - Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Nielsen, Roiger
 - Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Revised FY19 Pheasants Forever Agreement:** Krueger presented an Amendment to the FY19 Pheasants Forever Agreement acknowledging the change in funds from 50% to 75% for the FY19 FBAP position as well as the change to 3 quarters of payments through the SWCD instead of 2. A motion was made by Roiger and seconded by Nielsen to sign the revised Pheasants Forever Agreement.
 - Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Nielsen, Roiger
 - Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Outstanding Conservationist:** Discussion was held on potential candidates to honor as 2018 Outstanding Conservationist. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Rathman to nominate Gary Veenstra for 2018 Outstanding Conservationist.
 - Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Nielsen, Roiger
 - Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Meeting Reports:**
 - ◇ Rathman attended the SCTSA board meeting on June 19 and gave an update on the budget, new staff, GIS equipment requests approved, fleet management presentation, and projects update.
 - ◇ Nielsen, Roiger and Rathman attended the MASWCD Area 6 meeting in Courtland on June 21 and gave a report on the meeting presenters from that day.
 - ◇ Nielsen attended the RCRCA meeting on July 9 and gave a report on a MCEA letter that RCRCA received, discussions held on flooding issues, and upcoming meetings.
- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Rathman and seconded by Nielsen to approve/attend the following upcoming meetings/events:
 - ◇ Friday, July 13 – GBERBA Policy/Technical Meeting, Mankato (Rathman)
 - ◇ Thursday, July 19 – Cottonwood WRAPS Public Information Meeting, Sleepy Eye (Windschitl if he chooses)

- ◇ Thursday, August 2 – RCRC Board Meeting, Redwood (Roiger)
- ◇ Tuesday, August 14 – Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting, 9:30am (All)
Affirmative: Vogel, Rathman, Nielsen, Roiger
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 11:46am

Secretary:  Date: 8-14-18