



Minutes of the March 23, 2022 Brown SWCD Regular Board Meeting Brown County Office Building, Sleepy Eye, MN

Meeting was called to order at 4:20pm by Craig Fischer.

PRESENT

1. Craig Fischer – Chair
2. Mark Wellner – Vice-Chair
3. Brandon Anderson – Secretary
4. Jeff Nielsen - Treasurer
5. Greg Roiger – PRI
6. Melanie Krueger – District Manager
7. Dean Simonsen – Brown County Commissioner (entered 4:35pm, exited 6:15pm)
8. Loren Clarke – NRCS District Conservationist (exited 4:47pm)

AGENDA

- ◆ Motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Wellner to approve the agenda as printed.
Affirmative: Anderson, Fischer, Nielsen, Roiger, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

CONSENT AGENDA

- ◆ Reviewed the consent agenda items presented which included the February 16, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes, the February 2022 Treasurer's Report, the Bills Report dated February 3, 2022 to March 4, 2022, the SCTSA FY22 Grant Match Invoice payment of \$3,550.00, and the Staff Reports dated February 3, 2022 to March 4, 2022. A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Nielsen to approve the consent agenda items as presented.
Affirmative: Anderson, Fischer, Nielsen, Roiger, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

WATER PERMITS/WCA REPORTS

- ◆ Krueger gave an update on water permit notices from the DNR, well record reports from the MDH, and WCA program activities since the last board meeting.

PF/FARM BILL WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST REPORT

- ◆ Reviewed report provided by Fore.

*Simonsen entered at 4:35pm

NRCS REPORT

- ◆ Clarke reviewed his board report with the group and answered program questions.
- ◆ NRCS Civil Rights Review: Clarke reviewed the annual Civil Rights Review document and requested board members to sign the affirmation of review. Motion was made by Wellner and seconded by Nielsen to sign the annual USDA NRCS Civil Rights Affirmation of Review document.

Affirmative: Anderson, Fischer, Nielsen, Roiger, Wellner

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

*Clarke exited at 4:47pm

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- ◆ Commissioner Simonsen gave an update to the group about the commissioner redistricting that is in process due to population changes, recent equipment purchased, and advised they are in process of hiring a new probation director due to a retirement.

COST SHARE REPORT & CONTRACTS

- ◆ Reviewed the cost-share report and presented a new contract for approval.
- ◆ A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Anderson to approve cost share contract FY22-01 with Darryl Schwartz as presented:
 - ◇ FY22-01 with Darryl Schwartz for a Grassed Waterway project in Leavenworth 8. Project cost estimate is \$7,644.48 with 75% cost-share of the project at \$5,733.36 total. The project cost-share amount is being co-funded through the MAWQCP FA grant (\$5,000.00) and the Brown SWCD FY22 Cost Share Grant (\$733.36). SCTSA will be Technical Representative on the project. FY22 State Cost Share Grant funds of \$733.36 will be encumbered for the project.

Affirmative: Anderson, Fischer, Roiger, Nielsen, Wellner

Opposed: None; Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ **2022 Annual Work Plan:** Reviewed the annual work plan for 2022 that was updated with edits as discussed at last month's board meeting. A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Nielsen to approve the 2022 Annual Work Plan as presented.

Affirmative: Anderson, Fischer, Nielsen, Roiger, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **MASWCD Legislative Information:** Discussed legislative information provided by MASWCD so far this year and reviewed letters drafted by Krueger to be sent to legislators. A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Wellner to approve letters to legislators as presented and mail this week.

Affirmative: Anderson, Fischer, Nielsen, Roiger, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **One Watershed One Plan Resolution Cottonwood/Middle MN:** Discussed the water planning process for the Cottonwood/Middle MN Watersheds. Members of the watershed recently met and would like to move forward with a planning grant application this year to begin the water planning process for the #23 planning area. Krueger presented a resolution supporting the project for board approval. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Anderson to approve Resolution 22-01: Resolution To Support a Cottonwood/Middle MN Watershed #23 One Watershed, One Plan Project.

Affirmative: Anderson, Fischer, Nielsen, Roiger, Wellner
Opposed: None; Motion Carried

- ◆ **Brown County Parks Tree Planting Request:** Discussed a request from Brown County Parks to hire the SWCD for tree planting service or be allowed to use the SWCD's tree planter to plant the 175 trees purchased from the SWCD at the Lost Dog and Fox Hunter Park by Clear Lake. A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Wellner to deny Brown County Parks request for tree planting services of 175 trees at Lost Dog and Fox Hunters Park.
 - Affirmative Anderson, Fischer, Nielsen, Wellner
 - Opposed: Roiger; Motion Carried
- ◆ **District Technician Position Vacancy:** Discussed the District Technician position vacancy due to Cleys resignation from the district and plans for moving forward with hiring and staffing at the district. A motion was made by Wellner and seconded by Nielsen for the Personnel Committee to meet to discuss staffing options for the district and present a recommendation to the Board.
 - Affirmative: Anderson, Fischer, Nielsen, Roiger, Wellner
 - Opposed: None; Motion Carried
- ◆ **Meeting Reports:**
 - ◇ Wellner gave a report about the RCRCA board meeting attended on March 7.
 - *Simonsen exited at 6:15pm
 - ◇ Anderson gave a report about the GBERBA Policy meeting attended on March 11.
 - ◇ Anderson gave a report about the SCTSA board meeting attended on March 22.
- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings/Events:** A motion was made by Roiger and seconded by Nielsen to approve and attend the upcoming meetings/events:
 - ◇ Wednesday, April 6 – Area 6 Meeting, New Ulm (Mark, Jeff, Greg, Staff as decided by Manager).
 - ◇ Thursday, April 7 – RCRCA Board Meeting (Wellner)
 - ◇ Wednesday, April 13 – Brown SWCD Board Meeting, 4:15pm (All)
 - ◇ Personnel Committee Meeting(s) – date/time to be determined
 - Affirmative: Anderson, Fischer, Nielsen, Roiger, Wellner
 - Opposed: None; Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned – 6:30pm

Secretary: Mark Wellner Date: 4/13/2022
 Vice-Chair: _____