

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on March 11, 2020.

Meeting was called to order by Randy Smith, Board Chairman.

Supervisors Present: Jim Gebhardt
Jon Erichson
Randy Smith
Jim Kellogg
Micah Peterson

Staff Present: Justin Hanson, District Manager
Jeanne Crump, Administrative Assistant

Others Present: Brian DeVetter, NRCS
Gary Kurer, NRCS

Gary Kurer, NRCS Team Lead:

Kurer introduced himself to the board and explained the new staff role changes.

Agenda:

Windbreak cost share was added to action items. Gebhardt made a motion to approve the March agenda with changes. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2020 board meeting. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Checks Payable:

The treasurers and payables reports were reviewed with the board. Kellogg made a motion to approve the treasurers and payables reports, March payroll and to transfer money as needed. Peterson second the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

NRCS Report:

DeVetter updated the board on NRCS Programs, to include; Cover Crop Production Seminar through Goodhue, BWSR/NRCS training available, CSP, Ag Certainty program, CRP workload, staffing, MOU, and BWSR cost share available.

Action Items:

Set Date for Local Work Group:

Hanson talked about the local work group meeting that is done yearly. Kurer handed out a packet for the meeting. Discussion held. Erichson made a motion to set the workgroup meeting for April 8 at 8:30am. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Job Approval Authority for Lawler:

Hanson talked about Cover Crop Assistance Job Approval Authority for Steve Lawler. Peterson made a motion to approve the Cover Crop Assistance JAA for Steve Lawler. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Joint Powers Board Funding:

Hanson updated the board on the SE MN JPB Technical Service Area. The board held discussion regarding the shortfall of the TSA. Erichson made a motion to approve the dues increase for 2020 of up to \$2500 for the SE MN JPB Technical Service Area. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Cedar 1W1P MOA:

Hanson explained the Cedar-Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Memorandum of Agreement. The board held discussion. Erichson made a motion to approve entering into the Cedar-Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Memorandum of Agreement. Gebhardt seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Windbreak Cost Share:

Fred Harvey is requesting District cost share for his windbreak project. The total estimated cost for his windbreak is \$445.20 with a cost share amount of 50% not to exceed \$222.60. Kellogg made a motion to approve the District cost share contract for Fred Harvey at 50% not to exceed \$222.60. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Commissioner Report:

No report.

Discussion Items:

Chert Mine:

Fett talked with the board on the chert mine project.

2019 Annual Report and Newsletter:

Ruzek gave an update on the 2019 annual report, the new online newsletter and general SWCD outreach.

Project Updates:

Fox gave a presentation on 2019 projects.

Sustainable Answer Acre:

Lawler updated the board on Sustainable Answer Acre.

Supervisor Reports:

Chairman Report:

Nothing added.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be April 8, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____