

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



“Helping bring YOU clean water”

Redwood SWCD

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Staff

Scott Wold
District
Administrator

Tyler
Christensen
Deputy
Administrator

Kristy Zajac
Conservation
Specialist

Kurt
Mathiowetz
Water Quality
Technician

Brian Pfarr
Resource
Specialist

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 13, 2019 BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Redwood County Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. by chair Jeff Potter. The meeting was held in the meeting room of the Ag Service Center in Redwood Falls, MN.

Present for all or portions of the meeting were Supervisors Jeff Potter, Edward Carter, Joseph Plaetz, and Kristen Tauer. Also present were County Commissioner Lon Walling; County Administrator Vicki Knobloch; NRCS District Conservationist Shannon Gegner; County Environmental Director/SWCD Administrator Scott Wold, Deputy Administrator Tyler Christensen, Conservation Specialist Kristy Zajac, Resource Specialist Brian Pfarr and Water Quality Technician Kurt Mathiowetz.

ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Potter, second by Plaetz, the board voted unanimously to amend and adopt said agenda to include the following items:

- A. Setting Meeting Agendas
- B. Meeting Updates and Cancellations
- C. Finance Reports
- D. Outside Accounting Firms
- E. Phased Retirement
- F. 2019 Legislative Update Day

SETTING FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS

The board discussed ideas for the improvement of setting meeting agendas.

PLANNING MEETING UPDATES AND CANCELATIONS

The board concluded that any meeting time changes and cancellations should be made by noon of the day prior to the originally scheduled meeting.

MINUTES

Motion by Plaetz, second by Carter to approve the minutes from the January 2019 board meeting as sent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Negative Report

FINANCE REPORTS

The Monthly Checks Written, Cash Asset Accounts, and Deposit reports from the current year were presented by Wold and discussed amongst the board members.

OUTSIDE ACCOUNTING FIRM: The board discussed the possibility of hiring an outside accounting firm to complete an audit of the books. Plaetz motioned, Tauer second to examine books as far back as determined necessary by the District Administrator. The selection of the specific accounting firm was tabled. Motion carried.

BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Carter, second by Plaetz to approve payment of the CY 2019 bills through February 13, 2018 totaling \$48,800.88. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Shannon Gegner: See Attachment A.

Kristy Zajac: See Attachment B.

Brian Pharr: 1) Brian Pharr discussed the 319 grant that is for the Plum Creek watershed. 14 people have requested future projects in the watershed.
2) 18 water and sediment control basins have been planned for NRCS EQIP funds.
3) The Minnesota Soil Health Coalition is officially organized, with Redwood County designated as the hub for the organization.

Kurt Mathiowetz: 1) Activities have been progressing well with the 319 Grant Application.
2) Water Quality Certification
3) Kurt was involved with the WRAPS committee to target the Plum Creek watershed.

RCRCA: Negative Report.

Lon Walling: The County has been discussing the Cooperative Agreement with Redwood County SWCD.

MASWCD LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

The Board discussed the briefing and agreed to send Potter as a representative at the meeting, which is planned for March 5 & 6 2019 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

AREA V MEETING

The meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2019 in Marshall, MN. No board member will be attending.

RETIREMENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The board acknowledged the retirement of the former district administrator Marilyn Bernhardson on February 8, 2019.

PHASED RETIREMENT

On motion by Carter, second by Plaetz, the Board voted unanimously to rescind their agreement with former District Administrator to allow participation in the PERA Phased Retirement Program.

319 GRANT APPLICATION

Carter motioned, Plaetz second to move forward with the 2019 grant application. Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

The board discussed that a meeting should be planned in March for the liaison committee to meet in regards to the BWSR changes to the Cooperative Agreement. A date was not finalized.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular board meeting is planned for March 13, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in the meeting room of the Ag Service Center in Redwood Falls, MN.

ADJOURNMENT

Potter called the meeting to adjournment at 10:34 a.m.

Board Member

Date

ATTACHMENT A



United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS DC Report

February 13, 2019 Redwood County SWCD Board Meeting

Submitted by: Shannon Gegner

- Jonathan Matz is our new ASTC-FO for the SW area. He started Feb 4th. He will be making the rounds to the field offices to meet the staff. I can have Tyler let you guys know when he is coming to Redwood if you would like to meet him as well.
- CSP-Renewals- At a standstill with the new Farmbill. Renewals were not authorized so we are not sure what will happen to these.
- No new CSP sign-up announced.
- We currently have 34 EQIP applications. I am working though eligibility and planning right now.
- 1026's certifications have picked up. They are being done out of Waseka currently. I will be able to have a more accurate number of back logs in March.
- A Soil Conservation Tech will be starting March 18th. The office is excited about it. With is engineering background it should compliment what we do here quite nicely.
- Filter Strip training Feb 7th in New Ulm was canceled due to weather.
- Integrated Erosion Tool Training Feb 5th went well, I was the only one who actually got trained since the program would not load to Kristy's computer and Brian and Kurt were gone.
- Upcoming Trainings- Creating Seed mixes Feb26th in Marshall.

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ATTACHMENT B

Kristy Zajac, Conservation Specialist

Activities ~ Feb 13th 2019



Winter on the prairie

Farm Bill

- ✦ Conservation Plans & Maps
- ✦ Easement development
- ✦ PF/UM grant – 5 participants thus far (due Friday)
- ✦ PIRFs for enhancing vegetation - \$ available again
- ✦ Winter Farm Bill Asst Meeting in Alexandria
- ✦ Haying plans
- ✦ Working with Sen Dahms and BWSR on pollinator proposal for LCCMR
- ✦ Sleepy Bison Acres – proposing a grazing research project on RIM site

WCA

- ✦ Three Solar Farm applications – (No-Loss and Boundary & Type)
- ✦ Hospital site application (No-Loss and Boundary & Type)
- ✦ Charlestown 35 grade stabilization application – (Boundary & Type and Replacement Plan)
- ✦ Stolp Road Mitigation Wetland Bank – prospectus review
- ✦ Reviewed potential grade stabilization project in Delhi Twp
- ✦ Possible violations in Paxton Twp (City developments)

Buffers

- ✦ Non-compliant parcels submitted to County – approx. 15 PWI, 450 Ditches

Other

- ✦ Environment Fair to be held at Shetek Lutheran Ministries this year
- ✦ Requesting Districts to contribute \$750 this year – Water Plan \$