

ISANTI SWCD

REGULAR SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES 8:00 A.M. October 18, 2023

Attendance

Present: Al Koczur, Clark Anderson, David Medvecky, Valerie Anderson, Tom Anderson

Staff Present: Tiffany Determan, Linda Gehrking

Others Present: Bill Berg, County Commissioner

Call meeting to order, Pledge of Allegiance

1. Approve Agenda with addition New Business Item 5.f. People School training.

Motion/Seconded C. Anderson/T. Anderson to approve Agenda with addition 5.f. People School training.

Affirmative: Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Consent Agenda

a. Treasurers Report September 2023

b. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2023

Motion/Seconded: No motion needed.

4. Old Business Items

a. Payments

1. Cargill Grant: 2021-4, J. Engquist, 3 of 3 payment for multi-species cover crops on 18 acres for \$990.
2. Cargill Grant: 2021-7, Haubenschild's Farm Dairy Inc., 3 of 3 payment for single species cover crops on 100 acres for \$4,500.
3. Cargill Grant: 2021-6, N. Alderink, 3 of 3 payment for multispecies cover crops on 96 acres for \$5,263.
4. Rum River WBIF: 2023-10, D. Smith, 3-year payment for multispecies cover crops on 30 acres for \$5,400.
5. Rum River WBIF: 2023-8, J. Holz, 3-year payment for multispecies cover crops on 45 acres for \$8,100.
6. Isanti SH Grant: 2023-12, B. Bauwman, 3-year payment for multispecies cover crops on 40 acres for \$7,200.
7. LSC WBIF: WBIF21-01, K. Stamm, 3-year payment for multispecies cover crops on 53 acres for \$9,540.

Determan noted that the SWCD policies for most current soil health programs prescribe a 3-year up-front payment after the first year's successful planting and certification of cover crops. She went on to state that Remer will be responsible for verifying and certifying the 2nd and 3rd year planting according to the contract. If the farmer does not plant the same amount of acres, they will be required to pay money back. Finally, Determan indicated the Cargill cover crops are in their final year of payment, an annual payment for each of three years planting.

Motion/Seconded V. Anderson/C. Anderson to approve payments Cargill Grant: 2021-4, J. Engquist, 3 of 3 payment for multi-species cover crops on 18 acres for \$990; Cargill Grant: 2021-7, Haubenschild's Farm Dairy Inc., 3 of 3 payment for single species cover crops on 100 acres for \$4,500; Cargill Grant: 2021-6, N. Alderink, 3 of 3 payment for multispecies cover crops on 96 acres for \$5,263; Rum River WBIF: 2023-10, D. Smith, 3-year payment for multispecies cover crops on 30 acres for \$5,400; Rum River WBIF: 2023-8, J. Holz, 3-year payment for multispecies cover crops on 45 acres for \$8,100; Isanti SH Grant: 2023-12, B. Bauwman, 3-year payment for multispecies cover crops on 40 acres for \$7,200; and LSC WBIF: WBIF21-01, K. Stamm, 3-year payment for multispecies cover crops on 53 acres for \$9,540.

Affirmative: Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

5. New Business Items

a. FY24 & 25 Conservation Delivery Grant Agreement

Determan noted that the funds are for FY25 & 25 for Conservation Contracts (aka State Cost Share) and Conservation Delivery. The funds will expire on December 31, 2025. Determan noted that the Conservation Delivery money pays for a portion of the Administrative Assistants time and the Conservation Contracts can be used to cost share projects. BWSR has updated the policies for use which lessen the red tape on spending the funds on priority projects. Finally, Determan indicated that she would like to use the funding for Rum River and Lower St. Croix projects.

Motion/Seconded Koczur/T. Anderson to approve FY24 & 25 Conservation Delivery Grant Agreement.

Affirmative: Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

b. MACDE Education Grant for LSC

Determan let the board know that she had previously signed this grant from the Employees Association and the funds will help cover costs associated with developing an educational video to introduce Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) to decision makers. She indicated the funds, \$3,600.25, will be routed through the SWCD to the Washington Conservation District.

Motion/Seconded: No motion needed.

c. MASWCD Resolutions

Determan let the board know that voting must be done online by November 1, 2023. Isanti SWCD's resolution is included in the packet, "Human Resources Exploration for SWCDs."

d. MASWCD Annual Convention Attendance

MASWCD Convention this year is November 12th, 13th, and 14th. November 14th will be when Outstanding Conservationist is acknowledged. Koczur, V. Anderson and Determan will be attending.

e. Contracts:

1. **T. DeWall, FY23 and 24 State Cost Share, Well Sealing for \$500**

Determan noted the well is on Blue Lake.

Motion/Seconded V. Anderson/C. Anderson to approve T. DeWall, FY23 and FY24 State Cost Share, Well Sealing for \$500.

Affirmative: Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

f. People School

Determan mentioned that People School is an online interpersonal skills improvement program that improves communication, work relationships, and empathy to become high performers at work. Determan noted that the SWCD relies on people skills for success and the district will take the lessons together. One year access to online training is \$1,495. Rates will be increasing 30% next year.

Motion/Seconded T. Anderson/Koczur to approve People School training for staff for \$41,495

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

6. Approve Payment of Bills

Gehrking reviewed the district expenses. Checks as follows: Check #'s 7117 through 7133, Check # 5757 and all electronically paid bills.

Motion/Seconded C. Anderson/T. Anderson to approve payment of bills.

Affirmative: Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

7. Reports

a. Staff

Determan attended the MASWCD Human Resources Sub-committee meeting. There are nine SWCD managers from across the state on the Committee. She noted that the group is focusing

on hiring, retention, and policies and they will be developing a white paper to help address the needs. She noted that she has realized that there is a need to spend more time and money on human resources upfront vs. waiting until there is a problem and then spending more money. Determan told the board that the SWCD policies must be updated.

Kulaf has been planning for next year. Kulaf sent out eight bids for Cartwright wetland project. Kulaf indicated that he is working on developing a list of landowners interested in wetland projects.

Remer spent a significant amount of time on the Soil Health Field Day. During the event he spoke about NRCS and SWCD programs. Remer noted that approximately 40 people attended. Remer went on to note that the EQIP deadline was October 6 and he spend quite a bit of time helping NRCS with site visits and paperwork.

Godfrey highlighted the booth she had at the Anderson Park Fall Festival. She also noted that she coordinated the Soil Health Field Day, has been taking minutes at the RRWP meetings, and is in the process of finalizing the county-wide newsletter "Everyday Environment."

Gehrking noted that she provided administrative support as usual.

b. NRCS District Conservationist

Steffen not present. Determan mentioned that Isanti has 39 applicants interested in the EQUIP program and Remer and Riley are working on processing the applications.

c. Committee Reports

Koczur attended the Rum River Watershed Partnership meeting. He indicated there was discussion on shifting money in the grant work plan and the board authorized Determan to make the funding shift as needed. He indicated there was discussion on Morrison County manure storage project on the West Branch of the Rum River. Koczur said the feedlot project could not be funded due to BWRS policies. Determan mentioned there is extra funding available for watersheds and the planning team is interested in using the money for well sealing, completing the Mille Lacs County geologic Atlas and a new Land Protection Staff.

d. Commissioner Report

Berg mentioned the County is again pursuing hiring a County Administrator.

8. Information/Announcements


a. Approved meetings & events

Meeting/Event	Approved	Date/time
Treasures Report and Bank Reconciliation Review	Koczur	Monthly
LSC Policy Committee Meeting	T. Anderson	October 23, 4-6PM

MASWCD Area IV Meeting-Cabela's	Koczur/V. Anderson	October 26th
Small Lakes seminar	All	November 8th

9. Adjourn

Medvecky to Adjourn the meeting at 9:49.

Board Secretary:  Date 11.15, 2023

