

ISANTI SWCD

REGULAR SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

February 15, 2023 - 8:00 A.M.

Attendance

Present: Al Koczur, Clark Anderson, David Medvecky, Thomas Anderson

Staff Present: Tiffany Determan, Lydia Godfrey

Others Present: Bill Berg, Jason Weinerman, Darren Mayers (virtual)

1. Approve Agenda with additional item:

Determan proposed an addition 5.f. Resolution to Adopt the Snake River Watershed Plan.

Motion/Seconded Koczur/T. Anderson to approve agenda with addition 5.f. Resolution to Adopt the Snake River Watershed Plan.

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

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

2. Consent Agenda

a. Treasurers Reports: January

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2023

Motion/Seconded: No motion needed.

3. Public Comment

Berg provided the Commissioner's Report. Since being sworn in, he has been doing a lot of learning and reading. He has a desire for people to feel comfortable voicing their concerns. At the county level they are pursuing hiring a new administrator and have had many applicants. Interviews will take place at the end of the month. The Board Members have been assigned to their Committees and are now attending their respective meetings.

4. Old Business Items

None.

5. New Business Items

a. 2023 Annual Plan

Determan provided an overview of the SWCD's 2023 Annual Plan which is required by statute. The staff met in early February to go over the annual plan and Koczur sat in on the meeting. Koczur provided comments that he noticed the staff worked together well to help each other out. The 2023 Annual Plan will get posted to the website to help with public transparency.

Strategic Planning Information was taken into account when creating the plan, so much of the annual work focuses on surface water restoration and protection. Isanti SWCD is also increasing agriculture outreach, wetland restorations, and soil health programs to align with the board's wishes. Not included in the plan is statutory requirement items which generally does not take up much staff time. Other notable items in the annual work plan include water management planning, doing an MDM for some county ditches, planned lakeshore projects, and initiating the Skogman Lake program.

Motion/Seconded Koczur/C. Anderson to approve 2023 Annual Plan.

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

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

b. Rum River Watershed Partnership Watershed Coordinator Agreement for Services

The agreement would reimburse Determan's time for coordinating the Rum River Watershed Partnership. The Rum River Watershed Partnership board approved the agreement at their last meeting.

Motion/Seconded T. Anderson/ Koczur to approve Rum River Watershed Partnership Watershed Coordinator Agreement for Services.

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

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

c. Rum River Watershed Partnership 1st Q 2023 Funding Requests

Determan explained the projects the SWCD is planning within the Rum River Watershed. The SWCD is requesting funding for studies including updating a subwatershed assessment for Skogman Lake and completing a Multi-Drainage Management study for County Ditches 7 and 9. Funds are also being requested to get a final wetland restoration design done and installed, and for staff time to create a list of potential wetland restorations. Money will also be requested for Remer to continue getting landowners on board with soil health projects and to install cover crops. Isanti SWCD also plans to request money for projects on Skogman Lake and Blue Lake for their respective programs. Finally, there will be a request for Godfrey's time to do education and outreach.

Motion/Seconded No motion needed.

d. 2023 CLIMB Theater Agreement for Services for Aquatic Invasive Species Education for \$2,400.

The agreement is the same as the previous year. CLIMB Theater will do a few performances throughout the county about aquatic invasive species (AIS) as part of the planned AIS outreach.

Motion/Seconded Koczur/T. Anderson To approve 2023 CLIMB Theater Agreement for Aquatic Invasive Species Education for \$2,400.

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

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

e. FY2020 Buffer grant closeout

The 2020 Buffer Grant Agreement was closed. It had been used to do buffer compliance inspections.

Motion/Seconded No motion needed.

f. Resolution to Adopt Snake River Watershed Plan

Previously, the SWCD Board decided not to take an active role in the Snake River Watershed because it was a very small amount of the county. The watershed is now asking for partners to sign a resolution to adopt the plan, and then will ask if they want to sign into the JPE. If Isanti SWCD signed onto the JPE staff and board would need to take an active role in the watershed. However, adopting the plan is beneficial in case something comes up in that area of the county.

Motion/Seconded T. Anderson/ Koczur to adopt the Snake River Watershed Plan.

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

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

6. Approve Payment of Bills

Determan reviewed the district expenses. Checks as follows: Check #'s 7052 through 7056 and direct deposits for staff, and all electronically paid bills.

Motion/Seconded C. Anderson/ Koczur to approve Payment of Bills.

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

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

7. Reports

a. Staff

Determan has been getting meetings set up with legislatures for the day SWCDs visit the Capital. Determan attended the MASWCD briefing about SWCD aid which would increase SWCD capacity funding and move it into the state's general fund. She also presented at the Lower St. Croix Watershed's workshop for realtors. Determan included the Skogman Lake monitoring results in her report, since this was the first year of monitoring.

Godfrey showed the board the soil health iSpy activity jars she used for her second-grade presentations. She reported the presentations went well and the students were intrigued by both the activity jars and the "Soil your Undies Display". She also did end of year tasks including the annual report, annual survey, and updating the project map.

Remer, Gehrking, and Kulaf reports are included in the agenda packets. Remer provided a picture of the Woods wetland project in his report. We need to wait until the ground freezes to do the project, so due to the unusually warm weather the project was pushed back.

b. NRCS District Conservationist

There was another round of funding for EQIP. Six applications in Isanti County were submitted. However, none of them were funded. There were quite a few CIC applications for projects in the Rum River Watershed that were all funded.

c. Committee Reports

Koczur provided a report on the Rum River Watershed Partnership. Jake Janski and Lisa Fobbe were re-elected as the JPE Board's Chair and Vice Chair. At the last JPE board meeting, the WBIF policies were approved, the board signed the Fiscal Agent and Watershed Coordinator Agreements, and they approved the WBIF grant agreement with BWSR. At the next meeting in March, the board will approve projects.

T. Anderson provided the Lower St. Croix Watershed report. It was his first meeting, so he learned a lot. The Sunrise River WMO dropped out of the partnership. Jennifer Hahn gave a good presentation about the Soil Your Undies display. They also approved their new funding work plan.

8. Board Training: Board of Water and Soil Resources- SWCD Board Responsibilities (Jason Weinerman)

The training was recorded so absent board members could view or review it. Weinerman provided an overview of what SWCD's are and how BWSR interacts with them. He provided the statutory definitions. Weinerman reminded that the board is the SWCD, and staff are then employees of the SWCD. SWCD board members have a role as board members, elected officials and community leaders. Members also help set plans and policies of the SWCD.

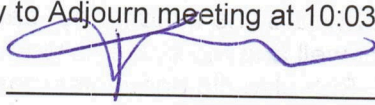
9. Information/Announcements

a. Approved meetings & events

Meeting/Event	Approved	Date/time
Treasures Report and Bank Reconciliation Review	Koczur	Monthly
SWCD Annual Staff Planning	Koczur	February 6 th
Metro Conservation Districts Board	Medvecky, T. Anderson (alternate)	February 22nd
MASWCD Legislative Briefing	Koczur, T. Anderson	March 7th
MASWCD Day at the Capital	Koczur	March 8th

10. Adjourn

Motion Medvecky to Adjourn meeting at 10:03

Board Secretary:  Date 4.19, 2023