



**Isanti Soil & Water Conservation District
110 Buchanan St. North
Cambridge, MN 55008
763-689-3271**

REGULAR SUPERVISORS MEETING

**ISANTI SWCD DISTRICT OFFICE
CAMBRIDGE, MN 55008**

May 21, 2019 8:00 A.M.

Attendance

Present: Clark Anderson, Al Koczur, Roger Larsen, Jerry Schaubach, Greg Swanson

Staff Present: Todd Kulaf, Thomas Zimmermann, Anne LeRoy

Others Present: Josh Bork – NRCS, Greg Anderson – Isanti County Commissioner

The regular board meeting was called to order by Chair Larsen at 8:00 am.

1. Approve Agenda

Motion/Seconded Koczur/Anderson To approve the agenda as presented.

Affirmative: Anderson, Koczur, Larsen, Schaubach, Swanson

Abstain: None

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

2. Public Comment/Open Forum

Board member Swanson recommended a podcast that is called Field Work. The podcast focuses on the experiences of farmers who use conservation practices. Swanson would be interested in the District developing a farmer mentor program as a means to increase conservation.

3. Consent Agenda:

LeRoy reviewed the District expenses and revenues.

a. Treasurers Report

Motion/Seconded Swanson/Schaubach To approve the Treasurers Report as presented..

Affirmative: Anderson, Koczur, Larsen, Schaubach, Swanson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

b. Board meeting minutes – March 19, 2019

Motion/Seconded Swanson/Koczur To approve the consent agenda, and the March 19th, 2019 board meeting minutes.

Affirmative: Anderson, Koczur, Larsen, Schaubach, Swanson

Abstain: None

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

4. Approve Payment of Bills

LeRoy reviewed the District expenses.

Motion/Seconded Swanson/Anderson To approve payment of the bills including checks as follows: Check # 5629 thru 5634, Check # 6602 thru 6608, and all electronically paid bills.

Affirmative: Anderson, Koczur, Larsen, Schaubach, Swanson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

5. New Business

a. Authorization to execute a change order to the MN Native Landscapes contract for Rum River Re-meander reinforcements.

Kulaf presented evidence of structural damage done due to high water during the 2019 spring thaw. Recommended repairs include installing log sills, adjust the slope to a 3:1 grade or less, use trees and fill from the north side of the project area, with adding vegetation at a later date. Kulaf also noted that the DNR advised that the logs would be preferred over installing rock. The initial construction costs were lower than anticipated. The modification would use existing grant funds to pay MN Native Landscapes up to \$99,000.

Motion/Seconded Schaubach/Swanson To approve the execution of a change order to the MN Native Landscapes contract for the Rum River Remeander reinforcements so that repairs can be made.

Affirmative: Anderson, Koczur, Larsen, Schaubach, Swanson

Abstain: None

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

b. Resolution to support Snake River Watershed 1W1P

The Snake River 1W1P covers 3% of Isanti County towards the northern borders with Kanabec and Pine counties.

Motion/Seconded Koczur/Anderson To approve a resolution that states that the Isanti SWCD supports the Snake River Watershed One Water One Plan organization, but will not participate in the process. The Isanti SWCD would like to be notified of projects managed by the SR1W1P within Isanti County.

Affirmative: Anderson, Koczur, Larsen, Schaubach, Swanson

Abstain: None

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Note: The board requested more information as to how the flow of the Snake River Watershed impacts the Lower St Croix Watershed.

c. Decision to pay National Association of Conservation District (NACD) annual dues

Kulaf presented the request to join/pay NACD annual dues. The NACD is an organization that facilitates federal legislative advocacy and provides educational materials.

Motion/Seconded Swanson/Anderson To table a decision on supporting the National Association of Conservation District until the benefits of membership are better understood.

Affirmative: Anderson, Koczur, Larsen, Schaubach, Swanson

Abstain: None

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

d. MASWCD Resolution discussion

Each year, the MASWCD membership utilizes the resolution process as a means for voicing concerns and opinions to influence change with regard to natural resources conservation policies and funding issues. Discussion amongst the board members focused on acknowledgement of this resource for advocacy and the need for pre-planning and knowledge of the deadlines if they should decide to author a resolution.

e. No-Till Drill - consider charging landowner for damage and repairs

Zimmerman explained that during a rental a bearing went out. The renter tried to remove the disc for repairs and didn't realize that there were right-handed and left-handed nuts. This led to stripping out the threads and necessary repair expense. The replacement parts cost \$158.75, plus \$197.26 in shipping costs. (Total \$356.01)

Motion/Seconded Koczur/Anderson Since the renter was attempting to repair, and the damage was not malicious, do not charge the renter for the repair; but to reinforce that renters should not attempt repairs in the future.

Affirmative: Anderson, Koczur, Larsen, Schaubach, Swanson

Abstain: None

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

6. Campus Groundwater Conservation Program - Board Training

Zimmermann presented his findings of CGCP with a hand out that was given to attendees. Zimmermann analyzed water usage at the Anoka-Ramsey Community College in Cambridge and the City of Isanti. He advised modifications to reduce water usage. Zimmermann feels the assessment would benefit other organizations. If others are interested in doing a study coordinating access to the facilities is necessary.

7. Activity Reports

a. Staff

Kulaf's staff report included many lake shore site visits, participation in the organization of tree week. He completed project feasibility and effectiveness rankings for project sites on Green Lake and scheduled project installations. Kulaf organized a pre-construction meeting with the contractor and engineer for the Isanti Township Boat Access. This project is expected to be complete by June 15th. Kulaf hosted a shore line restoration workshop on Blue Lake on March 30th. Project sites on Blue lake were ranked and selected for upcoming work. He also visited sites of installations done in 2018. Kulaf attended the Wyanett Township meeting and met with landowners.

Zimmerman dedicated time to the tree sale. He worked to receive and pre-bag the orders. Zimmermann collaborated with Mille Lacs County to inspect Judicial Ditch 3. No-till Drill rentals are being scheduled with 5 current users, and 3 more interested. He flagged properties as requested by landowners to ensure continued compliance with buffer laws. Zimmermann partners with NRCS to view Peggy Nelson's forestland. Water monitoring has begun. New stream probes enclosures and equipment were installed on two Blue Lake inlets. Campus groundwater conservation planning included a site inspection of the City of Isanti infiltration basin.

LeRoy reported administrative functions that included payroll, accounting, website maintenance, bank deposits and administrative support. Time was dedicated to the tree sale by printing all orders and pre-bagging orders for customers. LeRoy contacted the customers who didn't pick-up on the designated day and met with customers on the Monday after the sale. Special reports that had to be filed included the MCIT 2020 payroll estimation, SAFES report, and an inventory of all electronic equipment to MCIT.

b. NRCS District Conservationist

Bork summarized activities of the NRCS. EQIP has 1st sign up completed, with 2 additional application sin the works. The EQIP program has obligated \$120,000 for no-till, cover crops, sediment basin and erosion control. The CSP program is working on Forestry based applications. The incentive programs have been taken out of CRP and the CP38e acres are not included in the latest program. Pheasants Forever programming will not be included with CRP. The NRCS has approved hiring team lead positions.

c. County Commissioners

Commissioner Anderson reported that the Isanti Conservation Day was a success with 22 different stations serving over 500 elementary students. Commissioners Anderson and Turnquist are involved with the Rum River 1W1P policy group. At the most recent meeting the firm called Respec was chosen to facilitate the establishment of group policies. County roadwork will begin on a 4-mile stretch of County Road 5 starting at the Sherburne County Line. New traffic control

signals are being installed at the intersection of Hwy 5 and 47 to improve safety. The County will be requesting resident feedback to clearly define cost points for broadband services. County Auditor/Treasurer Chad Struss will be involved with the 2020 Census.

d. LSC 1W1P Policy Committee

Board member Swanson reported that the Lower St Croix One Watershed One Plan committee is working to establish language/common terminology to be used in plans. They are also working to identify priorities identified for protection or repair. The next meeting will be on May 28th from 4-6pm.

e. Rum 1W1P Policy Committee

Board Member Koczur reported the selection of the company Respec (Respec.com) to be the group facilitator. The next meeting will be on June 27th from 5-8pm, with the location to be determined.

8. Informational/Announcements

- a. Program updates/other: Blue Lake CWF grants**
- b. Upcoming meetings/events: SWCD Audit is scheduled for July 22nd**
- c. Meeting evaluation: What worked? What were the gaps? What could be done to improve the meeting?**

9. Adjourn

Motion/Seconded Anderson/Swanson To adjourn the meeting at 9:45 am.

Affirmative: Anderson, Koczur, Larsen, Schaubach, Swanson

Abstain: None.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

_____ **Greg Swanson, Board Secretary** _____ **Date**