

ISANTI SWCD

REGULAR SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES 8:00 A.M.

July 19, 2023

Attendance

Present: Al Koczur, David Medvecky, Valerie Anderson

Board Supervisors not present: Clark Anderson, Tom Anderson

Staff Present: Tiffany Determan, Linda Gehrking

Others Present: Bill Berg, County Commissioner

1. Approve Agenda with addition 5.f. Pheasants Forever Membership.

Motion/Seconded Koczur/V. Anderson to approve Agenda with addition 5.f. Pheasants Forever Membership.

Affirmative: Koczur, Medvecky, V. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Treasurers Report June 2023

b. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – June 21, 2023

Motion/Seconded: No motion needed.

4. Old Business Items

None.

5. New Business Items

a. 2023 Outstanding Conservationist

Determan mentioned that it is time to think about the 2023 outstanding conservationist. Two landowners were presented and debated. 1. A landowner that focuses on soil health cover crops for small grain, is in the process of getting MN Ag Water Quality Certified, does mostly no-till, recently became a member of the farmer lead group, is hosting the SWCDs soil health field day and is involved in several federal programs; 2. A landowner that is involved in several pollinator programs, is a lake improvement district board member, took the lead in a community-led lakeshore restoration program and helped to install several projects which led to an eight pound reduction on phosphorus.

Motion/Seconded Koczur/V. Anderson to approve 2023 Outstanding Conservationist.

Affirmative: Koczur, Medvecky, V. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

b. Isanti SWCD Partnership Recognition Program

Kulaf explained a new conservation recognition program titled "The Clean Water Club". This program would recognize all participants in SWCD programs by: providing signage, posting success stories and pictures along with quotes on our website, and having a bi-annual recognition BBQ. Kulaf noted that we would need to purchase 12x18" signs which could likely be included in grant costs. Koczur mentioned he thinks a t-shirt would also be a good option. Determan said the budget would be for \$750. This would be worked into a cost grant. She will check with BWSR to verify.

Motion/Seconded V. Anderson/Koczur to approve Isanti SWCD Clean Water Club Recognition Program.

Affirmative: Koczur, Medvecky, V. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

c. Authorize purchase of new Computer for \$1,572.75

Determan noted that the 2023 budget for new computers was originally approved at \$2,000. She went on to explain that two new computers are needed in this fiscal year and the budget would need to be changed to \$6,000 to accommodate expenses.

Determan will bring adjusted 2024 budget to the August Board board meeting. The budget will recognize the increased expense by raising computer software to \$6,000.

Motion/Seconded Koczur/V. Anderson to approve purchase of new Computer and adjusted budget.

Affirmative: Koczur, Medvecky, V. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

d. No-Till Drill Discussion

Medvecky mentioned that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has a grant to which would assist with purchasing new soil health related equipment. If selected, the SWCD could be reimbursed up to 50% of the cost to purchase a new drill.

Determan suggested increasing the service range for the drill use to partners within portions of the Lower St. Croix and Rum River watersheds.

Motion/Seconded V. Anderson/Koczur to approve applying for the MDA grant for a new no-till drill.

Affirmative: Koczur, Medvecky, V. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

e. Contracts:

1. **FY20 Spec Lake CWF: Contract #2023-4, 1001 Raingarden, for \$7,488.00.**

This project will result in a rain garden to infiltrate stormwater from impervious surfaces before draining to Spectacle Lake.

Motion/Seconded Koczur/V. Anderson to approve FY20 Spec Lake CWF: Contract #2023-4, 1001 Raingarden, for \$7,488.00.

Affirmative: Koczur, Medvecky, V. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

2. **FY20 Spec Lake CWF: Contract #2023-7, 1001 Raingarden, for \$5,985.00.**

This project will divert stormwater to a rain garden to and address erosion on Spectacle Lake.

Motion/Seconded V. Anderson/Koczur to approve FY20 Spec Lake CWF: Contract #2023-7, 1001 Raingarden, for \$5,985.00.

Affirmative: Koczur, Medvecky, V. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

f. Pheasants Forever Membership.

The SWCD typically purchases a Membership for Pheasants Forever. Koczur mentioned the SWCD could setup a soil health table at Pheasants Forever Banquet on September 7th in Braham, MN at event center.

Motion/Seconded V. Anderson/Koczur to approve \$250 Pheasants Forever Membership.

Affirmative: Koczur, Medvecky, V. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

6. Approve Payment of Bills

Gehrking reviewed the district expenses. Checks as follows: Check #'s 7088 through 7096 (Check #7096 was voided), Check # 5756 and direct deposits for staff and Board Supervisors, and all electronically paid bills.

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

Affirmative: Koczur, Medvecky, V. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

7. Reports

a. Staff

Determan mentioned that we would be receiving a R12 Trimble survey unit through Metro Conservation District funding. Determan went on to note that she presented the SWCD 2024 budget request to the County Board on July 11th. She also mentioned the draft County budget will be set in September 2023.

On Tuesday Determan spoke with State Employee Association regarding the SWCDs Human Resources Management resolution. She indicated that the MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is interested in getting a jump start in creating a subcommittee to identify human resources needs gaps for SWCDs.

Val requested information that can be shared with Stanchfield township regarding available programs.

Gehrking noted that she provided administrative support as usual.

b. NRCS District Conservationist

Steffen not present. Determan reported that 40 people on waiting list for federal funding. She went on to note that there is a significant amount of funding and work coming and NRCS will be relying on us to help. Remer is excelling in his knowledge helping with NRCS programs.

c. Committee Reports

Koczur attended Rum River Watershed Partnership board meeting on meeting on June 22nd. They approved agricultural projects for Benton SWCD and forest stewardship plans for Morris SWCD.

All Attended the Lower St. Croix Workshop on the Water tour- no report given.

d. Commissioner Report

Berg noted that he attended the Lower St. Croix Workshop on the Water and found the program useful. Berg also explained that the County Board will be setting a preliminary budget on September 19th. Finally, he reported on the status of administrator noting that Amanda Usher filling the role temporarily.

8. Information/Announcements

a. Approved meetings & events

Meeting/Event	Approved	Date/time
Treasures Report and Bank Reconciliation Review	Koczur	Monthly
2024 Budget	Finance Committee	June 14th, 10AM
LSC Policy Committee Meeting	T. Anderson/Medvecky	July 24 th , 4-6PM

9. Adjourn

Motion Medvecky to Adjourn meeting at 9:39.

The meeting was Reopened at 9:43.

Todd Kulaf requested to be authorized to approve Blue and Skogman Lake stormwater reduction projects funded with FY23 Rum River Watershed Based Implementation Funds.

Motion/Seconded V. Anderson/Koczur to approve authorizing Kulaf to Blue and Skogman Lake stormwater reduction projects funded with FY23 Rum River Watershed Based Implementation Funds .

Affirmative: Koczur, Medvecky, V. Anderson

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Medvecky to Adjourn meeting at 9:46.

Board Secretary:  Date 9.20, 2023

