

AITKIN COUNTY SWCD  
307 2<sup>nd</sup> STREET NW, ROOM #216  
AITKIN, MN 56431

Minutes of the Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting called to order on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 9:05 a.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Those attending were:

Those absent were:

Tom Fasteland, Chair  
Wayne Anderson, Vice Chair  
Bob Roseberg, Treasurer  
Frank Turnock, Secretary  
Bob Janzen, Reporter  
Steve Hughes, District Manager  
Lori Nelson, District Secretary  
Kurt Beckstrom, Area III Director  
Alma Jorgenson, Miller Dwan Foundation

Addition to the agenda:

-Talon

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the agenda with an addition. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve the February 22, 2022 minutes. Approved unanimously.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Janzen to accept the February financial statement. Approved unanimously.

#### CHECKS WRITTEN

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Wayne Anderson to approve the checks written. Approved unanimously.

#### AIS UPDATE

Discussion re: new project for AIS. (draft project idea attached).

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve the new AIS project. Approved unanimously.

#### 2022 MILEAGE FOR AIS INSPECTORS

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve 2022 mileage for the AIS inspectors. Approved unanimously.

#### KURT BECKSTROM, AREA III DIRECTOR

- Importance of attendance at meetings
- Legislative Conference update
- Area III meeting will be held on June 10 in Carlton.
- Attended NACD meeting in Orlando, FL as a MN Representative
- Conservation Easement discussion

#### ALMA JORGENSON, MILLER DWAN FOUNDATION

Alma Jorgenson introduced herself and the services that are provided Rural Mental Health Support Supporting Farmers in Stressful Times sponsored by Miller Dwan Foundation (flyer attached).

#### SHARED FORESTRY POSITION WITH CARLTON COUNTY SWCD

Job description draft for discussion.

#### STEWARDSHIP RATES

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Roseberg to table the Stewardship Rate discussion until the April SWCD Board meeting.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> BANK AUTHORIZATION TO WRITE A CHECK TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO NEW ACCOUNT AND DISCUSSION OF SIGNATURES ON ACCOUNTS

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve writing a check for \$200,000 to transfer money from Security State Bank to Bremer Bank, divide between checking and savings at your discretion and

approve signatures on accounts (S. Hughes, L. Nelson, B. Roseberg and B. Janzen). Approved unanimously.

#### COST-SHARE PROJECT PROPOSALS

JOE BAHNEMAN, HORSESHOE LAKE \$1227.50/BIG SANDY 319

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Wayne Anderson to approve a cost-share assistance contract for Joe Bahneman, cost-share not to exceed \$1227.50 or 75 percent of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

ANDREW PUNG, PINE LAKE \$3035.43/DISTRICT CAPACITY

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Wayne Anderson to approve a cost-share assistance contract for Andrew Pung, not to exceed \$3035.43 or 75 percent of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

PIGNATELLO, LAKE MINNEWAWA/BIG SANDY 319

MARK PIGNATELLO, \$12,999.75

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve a cost-share assistance contract for Mark Pignatello, cost-share not to exceed \$12,999.75 or 75 percent of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

JEANINE PIGNATELLO, \$12,999.75

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve a cost-share assistance contract for Jeanine Pignatello, cost-share not to exceed \$12,999.75 or 75 percent of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

KENNETH JOHNSON, \$12,999.75

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve a cost-share assistance contract for Kenneth Johnson, cost-share not to exceed \$12,999.75 or 75 percent of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

DENNIS & DAVID SUTLIFF, \$15,000

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve a cost-share assistance contract for Dennis & David Sutliff, cost-share not to exceed \$15,000 or 75 percent of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

#### DISTRICT TECHNICIAN REPORT (Janet)

- Brainerd 1W1P
- Grand Rapids Watershed
- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Observation Well readings
- Keep It Clean (Mille Lacs)

#### OTHER

#### MCGREGOR TOWNSHIP/DRONE USE

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve up to \$1000 of drone time to help McGregor Township. Sam will contact Jack Hooper.

#### TALON

Open House was held on March 2, 2022. About 150 people attended. Presentation included where they are going, how far along they are and planning on a mine in under ten years, maybe five years.

Discussion: How they plan on protecting our water. Some discussion on SWCD going out sampling with Talon to understand the methods first hand on what they are doing. Staff will talk to Talon.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to check into being proactive in groundwater and surface water in mining. Approved unanimously.

#### SNAKE RIVER REPORT (Bob Roseberg)

Snake River Management Board

Discussion re: shoreland restoration, coir logs vs. rip rap. There was a project funded 2-3 years ago and failed, 8" diameter coir logs were used and didn't hold up. The project was re-done using 12" diameter coir logs.

The Snake River 1W1P Policy Committee

Discussion re: priority goals and rewriting language in the draft.

## DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Discussion of Area III meeting dates September 8-9, 2022 at Long Lake Conservation Center.

## DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT

- EQIP
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Early Successional Habitat Development & Management & Forest Stand Improvement (7 practices installed)
- American Bird Conservancy/Gold Winged Warbler habitat projects
- In May NRCS Field office should be back to normal staffing in the office & should be open to the public again
- Local Work Group/April or May after the SWCD Board meeting

## FORESTER REPORT/DISTRICT TECHNICIAN REPORT (Kyle)

- Stewardship Plans
- Outreach/Education
- Meetings
- Landowner Assistance
- Education/LIDAR in forestry
- Grants
  - City Park
  - CPL Grant
- FSC Certification

## BUFFER SPECIALIST REPORT (Sam)

- Buffers
- Culvert Inventory

- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Rum River Watershed

#### AMERICORP REPORT (Stephanie)

- Grant/City Park
- Website edits, etc.
- Rivers & Lakes Fair meeting & Grant Application
- Maps/Noxious weeds website
- AIS product materials
- Green Corp. reporting
- Drone certification testing soon

#### BWSR REPORT/CHRIS PENCE

- Staff changes
- Telework until July, allowed to attend meetings
- Legislative update
- BWSR Spring training, March 29 virtual

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m..  
Place of the meeting to be determined.

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Janzen to adjourn  
at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock  
Secretary

Personnel meeting following the regular SWCD Board meeting.

With the upcoming retirement of Steve Hughes, District Manager there was  
some discussion re: District Manager and future staffing. Steve will put together  
a job description for District Manager for discussion at the next Personnel  
meeting to be held in April following the regular SWCD Board meeting.

