

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 held on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room. Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Frank Turnock, Chair. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Those present were:

Frank Turnock, Chair  
Dan Gravley, Vice Chair  
Bob Janzen, Treasurer  
Tom Fasteland, Reporter  
Janet Smude, District Manager  
Lori Nelson, District Secretary  
Mary Krueger, TSA 3  
Steve Hughes, Retired District Manager  
Daren Mayers, BWSR Board Conservationist

Those absent were:

Wayne Anderson, Secretary

Additions to the agenda:

- Bill over \$3000
  - Houston Engineering, \$16,205.25
- Postpone presentation by Dan Gravley until the March SWCD Board meeting.

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the agenda with an addition of bill over \$3000 and postpone presentation by Dan Gravley. Approved unanimously.

Steve Hughes stopped by for a visit with staff and supervisors. He gave a little background on the time he was at the district and what he is up to in retirement.

Welcome Mary Kruger, TSA 3. Introductions were made.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve the January 23, 2024 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Dan Gravley to accept the January financial statement. Approved unanimously.

#### CHECKS WRITTEN

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the checks written. Approved unanimously.

#### STAFFING/NEW EMPLOYEE POSITION

Position announcements were handed out (District Technician Watershed Mgmt. Outreach Specialist and Soil Health Specialist)

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Bob Janzen to post the Soil Health Specialist position internally and then post the District Technician Watershed Management & Outreach Specialist position. Website is under construction so the District Technician Watershed Management & Outreach Specialist will be advertised when available to post on website. Approved unanimously.

#### HEALTH INSURANCE DISCUSSION

A short meeting to discuss health insurance will take place after the regular SWCD Board meeting today with Tom Fasteland, Dan Gravley, Janet Smude, and Sam Seybold, but no decision will be made until Wayne Anderson can be a part of the discussion.

Information was received back from four other districts re: health insurance and they are all doing some kind of health insurance.

#### BANK SIGNATURES/SECURITY STATE BANK & BREMER BANK

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Dan Gravley to add Wayne Anderson, Secretary on the bank accounts (Security State Bank, Checking, Savings, and Safe Deposit Box; Bremer Bank, Checking and Savings). Approved unanimously.

#### MARY KRUGER, TSA 3

Mary Kruger, TSA 3 gave a Power Point presentation on projects the TSA 3 have worked on.

## DRONE SEEDER PRESENTATION/VERONICA & SAM

Veronica and Sam gave a presentation on drone seeder. A soil health grant was applied for (\$9250) and was approved that will pay for part of the seeder. A motion was made by Tom Fastland and seconded by Dan Gravley to approve the purchase of the drone seeder. Approved unanimously.

## DAN GRAVLEY PRESENTATION

Dan Gravley will give his presentation at the March SWCD Board meeting.

## HOUSTON ENGINEERING/BILL OVER \$3000

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment to Houston Engineering in the amount of \$16,205.25. Approved unanimously.

## DARREN MEYERS/BWSR BOARD CONSERVATIONIST REPORT

Darren gave a short presentation of the recent Supervisor training that was held (Major roles of Elected Officials, Policy Development, Personnel Policy handbook, Wage scales, Benefits, Cost-share policies, Annual and Long Term Planning, etc.).

## SNAKE RIVER REPORT

Snake River Board is looking to dissolve when the last of the projects are completed.

The Snake River 1W1P is moving ahead.

## DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT-Janet

Recently finished reporting the end of January (24 different grants to report on).

## WATERSHED MANAGEMENT/

### OUTREACH SPECIALIST REPORT-Veronica

-Shoreline site visits

-Mille Lacs Watershed Management Group meeting

- Rum River Watershed
- Rivers & Lakes Fair
- Website
- Other (business cards, facebook, trainings and webinars, drone research/license)
- Shoreline book stickers
- Intern prep. (list and schedules put together)

Supervisor business cards—discussion of supervisor phone #'s on business cards.

A motion was made by Dan Gravley and seconded by Tom Fastland to order business cards with phone numbers. Approved unanimously.

Ask Wayne before ordering cards.

Veronica showed the SWCD Board a preview of the new Aitkin County SWCD website.

#### NRCS REPORT-Jesse

- EQIP Update
- RCPP Update
- Forester position in the Aitkin NRCS Field Office
- Internet service in the Aitkin NRCS Field Office has been upgraded.

#### FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT-Joe

- NRCS Program updates
- Easement updates

Steve Cole and Garrett Christiansen would like to attend the next SWCD Board meeting. They want to discuss forestry and hear from the SWCD Board (We Want Forestry-What Does It Mean?)

#### DISTRICT TECHNICIAN/FORESTER/AIS UPDATE-Kyle

##### AIS

- 2024 AIS Education Grants
- AIS network meetings, inspectors, signage, CD 3 units, technology, tablets, etc.

#### FORESTRY

- (2) Stewardship Plans completed
- Workshops (EAB, Forest Health Webinar, etc.
- CCFFC Grant
- LCCMR Grant
- Meetings
- Other, SFIA, Rum River 1W1P, SWCD Forestry meeting, etc.

#### BUFFER SPECIALIST REPORT-Sam

- Riparian buffer
- Rum River 1W1P
- WCA/TEP meeting
- Culvert inventory/Lakeside, Logan, Beaver
- Mississippi Grand Rapids 1W1P
- Soil Health Grant

Discussion re: WCA-what we do, not do, time involved, etc. Sam and Janet to look into and report on what they find out at the March SWCD Board meeting.

#### TSA 3 REPORT-Tom

- Matias gave a presentation at the TSA meeting of all the work that TSA 3 does.

#### AUDIT 2022 AND BUDGET DISCUSSION-Janet

The 2022 Audit was discussed. Janet handed out the budget and what was actually spent in 2023 and went through it with the SWCD Board.

The next SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room at 9:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Dan Gravley to adjourn at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Anderson  
Secretary