

AITKIN COUNTY SWCD
307 2nd STREET NW, ROOM #216
AITKIN, MN 56431

Minutes of the Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 29, 2022 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
Lori Nelson, District Secretary
Sue Westberg, Lake Minnewawa Association President
Dan Westberg, Lake Minnewawa Association
Tim Rinowski, Lake Minnewawa Association
Chris Pence, BWSR (attended virtual)
Lindberg Ekola, BWSR (attended virtual)

Additions to the agenda:

- Area III Thank you letter to Long Lake Conservation Center
and SWCD staff/Frank Turnock
- TSA 3 Meeting Update/Tom Fasteland
- Cost-Share Project Review/Cisco Lakes
- Lindberg Ekola, CCFFC Grant Proposal
- Bill over \$3000/Lake Minnewawa Association AIS Education Grant/\$3112.88

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

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve the August 16, 2022 minutes. Approved unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve checks written. Approved unanimously.

SUE WESTBERG, LMA PRESIDENT/MINNEWAWA FISH PASSAGE PROJECT

Sue Westberg, LMA President introduced herself along with her husband Dan Westberg, LMA and Tim Rinowski, LMA. She came today to discuss the Minnewawa Fish Passage project. She is concerned about the timeframe of the project and getting it completed. Project was planned to start when the ground is froze. Sue would like to see the project started this fall. Janet Smude, District Manager will contact the contractor and ask what the timeframe is with the project. Also, there is additional funding available for this project: Lake Minnewawa Association, Sportsmen's Club and Lake Improvement District.

AREA III MEETING WRAP UP

Discussion. Lots of positive comments from other Area III districts. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to send a thank you note to Long Lake Conservation Center and thank the SWCD staff. Approved unanimously.

SHORELAND RESTORATION POLICY

Discussion of the current Aitkin County SWCD Shoreland Restoration Policy. Janet will check with other districts as far as there Shoreland Restoration Policy. A motion was made by Frank Turnock to table this discussion.

CHRIS PENCE, MN BWSR

Chris has to leave the meeting for another meeting but wanted to discuss the Federal Forest Grant that is to be discussed later in the meeting. Just reminding the SWCD that no work can be done for a grant until it has been executed. DNR (Federal \$) will execute the contract and then SWCD may contract with Stephanie. A suggestion was to possibly start Stephanie on the project if other funds were available in the budget. Any \$ used to fund this project before the contract is executed would not be reimbursed.

PHEASANTS FOREVER LOCAL PARTNER AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Frank Turnock to sign the Pheasants Forever Local Partner Agreement. Approved unanimously.

2023 SOIL HEALTH COST-SHARE AGREEMENT/AUTHORIZATION & AUTHORIZE SIGNATURE

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the authorization of the 2023 Soil Health Cost-Share Agreement and authorize Janet Smude, District Manager to sign the agreement. Approved unanimously.

2023 BUFFER LAW & LOCAL CAPACITY AGREEMENT/AUTHORIZATION & AUTHORIZE SIGNATURE

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve the authorization of the 2023 Buffer Law & Local Capacity Agreement and authorize Janet Smude, District Manager to sign the agreement. Approved unanimously.

PROTECTION OF HIGH QUALITY CISCO LAKES CONTRACT AMENDMENT/AUTHORIZATION & AUTHORIZE SIGNATURE

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve authorization of the Protection of High Quality Cisco Lakes Contract Amendment and authorize Janet Smude to sign the agreement. Approved unanimously.

COST-SHARE PROJECT AMENDMENT/CWF 2020 CISCO LAKES, ROUND LAKE

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Wayne Anderson to approve a cost-share project amendment CWF 2020 Cisco Lakes, increase of \$364.20 due to price increase of project, total cost of the project \$1169.20. Approved unanimously.

COST-SHARE PROJECT PROPOSAL/POLLINATOR PLANTING/DISTRICT CAPACITY

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share project proposal for a pollinator planting, \$6,000 not to exceed 75% of the total eligible costs, whichever is less. Approved unanimously.

Recording easements on projects to be discussed at a later date.

BUFFER SPECIALIST REPORT (Sam)

- Buffer update
- Ag Inspector Update
- City Park sprayed in preparation for seeding
- Rum River meeting
- HELP Grant/Quarterly report
- WCA
- Forage & Grassland Field Day
- Culvert Inventory (Salo Twp.)

COST-SHARE PROJECT REVIEWS/PAYMENT APPROVALS

FY22 STATE-COST-SHARE/LONE LAKE

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share payment for \$1386.10 for a shoreline stabilization and revegetation project. Approved unanimously.

319 GRANT 2022, HORSESHOE LAKE/\$1687.50

A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Wayne Anderson to approve a cost-share payment for \$1687.50 for a shoreland stabilization and revegetation project. Approved unanimously.

CWF 2020 CISCO LAKES, LONG LAKE/\$4586.05

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve a cost-share payment for \$4586.05 for a shoreland stabilization and revegetation project. Approved unanimously.

FY20 DISTRICT CAPACITY/2020-3

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve a cost-share payment for \$267.40 for a stormwater management project. Approved unanimously.

CWF 2020 CISCO LAKES, ROUND LAKE/\$1169.20

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve payment of \$1169.20 for a shoreland stabilization and revegetation project. Approved unanimously.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN POSITION

Discussion re: District Technician position and what the duties of this position might be (Outreach to include website, facebook, articles in the paper, workshops, etc. and shoreland projects). Janet will write up a job description and pay rate and bring to the next SWCD Board meeting.

LINDBERG EKOLA, BWSR (ATTENDED VIRTUAL 10:30 a.m.)

Discussion re: (Coordinated County Family Forest Conservation (CCFFC)

DNR puts the contracts together and at this time no timeframe has been given as to when the grant will be coming out. Through this grant looking to subcontract with Stephanie Finch. Stephanie will not be able to start working through this grant until it has been executed. Discussion re: \$2,000 contract that Aitkin County SWCD could contract with her until the CCFFC grant is executed. Aitkin County SWCD would not be able to get reimbursed for this contract. Rate of pay (\$45-\$50/hr.). Janet Smude, District Manager will look into the \$ available and a contract with a list of tasks she could do for Aitkin County SWCD until the CCFFC grant is executed.

AITKIN/CARLTON FORESTER (Kaysie)

- Update on Forest Stewardship Plans completed in Aitkin & Carlton
- Workshops/Webinars

DISTRICT FORESTER/TECHNICIAN REPORT (Kyle)

AIS Update

- End of year picnic
- Decontamination trackers
- New equipment (tablets)
- Sheriff's allocations

Forestry Update

- Stewardship Plan Update
- Outreach/Education

- Snake River 1W1P

 - Entity structure

 - 90 Day Review, Board approval of the plan by Oct. 20, 2022

 - Deanna Pomije can talk at the next SWCD Board meeting to describe/explain

- Radio-Invasives

- Area III

Landowner Assistance

- Oak stress

Grants

- CPL Grant/City Park

- CCFC Budget, scope of work

WOODLAND STEWARDSHIP RATES

Discussion re: Woodland Stewardship rates. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve new rates for Stewardship Plans (\$300 base rate + \$7 acre) and in the future follow DNR rates. Approved unanimously.

Discussion re: Woodland Stewardship Plan updates. They are now almost like a full rewrite and are done every 10 years. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Wayne Anderson to approve charging full price for the updates and in the future follow DNR rates. Approved unanimously.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT (Bob Roseberg)

Snake River 1W1P Update

- Entity Structure

- Additions/Corrections for the Plan

- 90 Day Review, Board approval by Oct. 20, 2022

Deanna would be willing to talk at our next SWCD Board meeting on October 18, 2022 to describe/explain the plan. Bob Roseberg will not be able to attend the next Snake River meeting on October 24, 2022. Wayne Anderson was asked to attend in Bob Roseberg's absence.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Wayne Anderson that we support SWCDs having a voting membership. Approved unanimously.

1W1P PROJECTS

-Mississippi/Grand Rapids-This was funded. Planning process meeting next week. Itasca is the fiscal agent.

-Mississippi/Brd.-First part of the plan is completed.

-Snake River-This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

NRCS REPORT (Tom Gervais)

-Conservation Practice Update

-Applications due (Oct.-Nov.) for FY23 Programs

-RCP (Gold Wing Warbler Habitat available)

PHEASANT'S FOREVER/\$6500

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve payment of \$6500 (FY22 BWSR match 7/1/21-6/30/22) to Pheasants Forever. Approved unanimously.

HOUSTON ENGINEERING/\$10,633.81

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment of \$10,633.81 to Houston Engineering. Approved unanimously.

HOUSTON ENGINEERING/\$3842.25

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve payment of \$3842.25 to Houston Engineering. Approved unanimously.

LAKE MINNEWAWA ASSOCIATION AIS GRANT

A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment of \$3112.88 to the Lake Minnewawa Association. Approved unanimously.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT (Janet)

- Leadership Training
- Healthy Lake Expo
- Decontamination Unit, claim with MCIT
- Sheriff's Dept. report/Decont. unit working with insurance adjuster evaluating the value with MCIT.
- Projects are winding down for the year

TSA UPDATE (Tom Fastland)

Discussion.

SWCD FORESTRY MEETING (Tom Fastland)

Good tour.

The MASWCD Annual Convention will be held on December 12-14, 2022 (Mon.-Wed.)

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center, 3rd floor training room.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to adjourn at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary

