

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 at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 26, 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  
Steve Hughes, District Manager  
Lori Nelson, District Secretary  
Rick Bruesewitz, MN DNR Fisheries  
Chris Pence, MN BWSR Board Conservationist

Thank you to Steve Hughes, District Manager and Stephanie Finch, MN Green Corps. for everything they have done. Steve Hughes retiring after 38 years, last day July 29, 2022, and Stephanie Finch will be leaving August 12, 2022 after being with the District for her 1 year appointment through MN Green Corp.

Additions to the agenda:

-Checks over \$3000  
Crow Wing SWCD \$5020.75  
Dr. Alec Lackman \$7500

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

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve the June 21, 2022 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Discussion. A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Frank Turnock to accept the June financial statement. Approved unanimously.

## CHECKS WRITTEN

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

## AIS UPDATE

- 4 decontamination units-1 decontamination unit was added this year (Army Corp.) Army Corp. is maintaining, adding water etc.
- Diamond Industrial recommended to burn kerosene.
- 1 decontamination unit had an electronic problem.
- Decontamination units are at Lake Minnewawa, Spirit Lake, Big Pine/Mille Lacs, and the Army Corp.
- Gun Lake and Sugar Lake were added this year for inspectors.
- 4 car covers were bought to cover the decontamination units all week. During the week the decontamination units are brought to a secure location.

## DISTRICT MANAGER APPLICATIONS

Interviews are scheduled for Thursday, August 4, 2022 starting at 10:00 a.m. Interview questions are ready and Steve will e-mail the interview questions to the supervisors.

## MINNEWAWA FISH LADDER BIDS

Rick Bruesewitz, MN DNR Fisheries discussed the Minnewawa Fish Passage not a fish ladder allows fish to move back and forth. Matias, TSA3 did the design a year ago, 1 bid received and was higher than the dollars that were allocated. The bid was not awarded last year. The project was put out again this year for bids. There were two bids received R&R Landscape, \$79,629 and MN Native Landscape \$103, 943. There will be a DNR person on site when the project is put in making sure it is put in as designed. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to award the bid to R&R Landscape \$79,629. Steve Hughes will contact the two bidders for the Minnewawa Fish Passage project. Approved unanimously.

## 2023 SWCD BUDGET

Discussion. The 2023 SWCD Budget was e-mailed to the SWCD Board. Steve met with Jessica July 25, 2022 to go over the 2023 SWCD Budget.

CHECKS OVER \$3000

CROW WING SWCD

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment of \$5020.70 to Crow Wing SWCD. Approved unanimously.

DR. ALEC LACKMAN

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve payment of \$7500 to Dr. Alec Lackman. Approved unanimously.

ROUND LAKE (HAZELTON) CISCO LAKES GRANT, SHORELINE  
STABILIZATION & REVEGETATION PROJECT/\$850

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve a cost-share assistance contract for a shoreline stabilization and revegetation project, 75% of the total project cost not to exceed \$806.25. Approved unanimously.

COST-SHARE PROJECT REVIEWS/PAYMENT APPROVALS

ROUND LAKE (HAZELTON) CISCO LAKES GRANT, \$675.44/SHORELINE  
STABILIZATION & REVEGETATION PROJECT

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve a cost-share payment of \$675.44 for a shoreline stabilization project. Approved unanimously.

PINE LAKE (FINLAYSON) DISTRICT CAPACITY/\$3035.43  
STORMWATER RUNOFF, SHORELINE EROSION, & NATIVE PLANTS

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Wayne Anderson to approve a cost-share payment of \$3035.43 for a Stormwater Runoff, Shoreline Erosion & Native Plant project. Approved unanimously.

DISTRICT CAPACITY 2022/\$20,000

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Wayne Anderson to approve using \$20,000 for cost-share projects from 2022 District Capacity \$. Approved unanimously.

#### STEVE HUGHES/SEVERANCE PAY, \$23,945.04

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Wayne Anderson to pay Steve Hughes severance pay of \$23,945.04 for vacation and sick leave. Approved unanimously.

#### SNAKE RIVER REPORT (Bob Roseberg)

-Snake River 122-page draft plan on Mille Lacs County website  
60-day window, public hearing, Policy Committee, make recommendations and send to BWSR Board.

The Snake River Watershed Management Board met on Monday, July 25. There was a project to approve.

#### DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Frank Turnock to authorize payment, if a payment is needed, at this time to the leadership training. Approved unanimously.

Steve Hughes had a subscription to the Zoom Pro and is now cancelled.

#### BREMER BANK & SECURITY STATE BANK

Steve and Lori went to the Bremer Bank and Security State Bank. Steve Hughes has been removed from the signature card at both banks for the checking and savings accounts. Also, removed from the safe deposit box at Security State Bank. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Wayne Anderson to approve removal of Steve Hughes name on these accounts at Security State Bank and Bremer Bank. Approved unanimously.

#### NO TILL DRILL DISCUSSION

Discussion re: moving the No-Till Drill around the county. If Sam is not available to move the drill depending on workload. A motion was made by Frank

Turnock and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve Wayne Anderson to move the No-Till Drill \$30/hr. plus mileage. Approved unanimously.

#### MN BWSR REPORT (Chris Pence)

The BWSR Academy will be held on October 25-27, 2022 at Cragun's Resort in Baxter. There will be some forestry training available this year.

#### DISTRICT TECHNICIAN/FORESTER REPORT (Kyle)

- Nature Conservancy million acre representing MASWCD
- Forestry Association tour
- CPL Grant, Aitkin City Park
- AIS Coordinator, Big Sandy Dam highlight the decontamination unit

#### NRCS REPORT (Tom Gervais)

- Trainings
- Project Updates
- Staffing Updates
- Forage & Grassland Field Day/Floodwood, September 15, 2022

#### FARM BILL BIOLOGIST (Jake Granfors)

- Trainings
- Site visits
- Snake River Easement Program (letters sent out)

#### BUFFER SPECIALIST REPORT (Sam)

- Buffer update
- Ag Inspector
- Townships (Wagner & Workman) spraying
- Planning & Zoning (bluff call)
- No Till Drill
- HELP Grant (removing invasive weeds)
- Brush cutter work
- Eagle Mine Tour
- Rum River

#### AMERICORP REPORT (Stephanie)

- Talon Tour (Eagle Mine)
- Aitkin County Fair
- HELP Grant with Sam
- Wrap up paperwork for Americorp
  - Last day will be August 12, 2022
- Collaborative County Family Forest Conservation (CCFFC)/Lindberg Ekola
  - This is a \$295,000 grant. Purpose of the grant is working with landowners in the county to improve forest land. Stephanie's program would fit into this grant. Aitkin County SWCD would be the fiscal agent. Process has started more details to work out.

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Wayne Anderson to proceed with the CCFFC grant further. Approved unanimously.

#### KAYSIE MALESKI/AITKIN CARLTON FORESTER

Kaysie Maleski introduced herself to the SWCD Board.

Aitkin/Carlton activities for the month included

- Trainings
- Aitkin Forestry
  - Aitkin County Fair Booth
  - Timber inventory for Stewardship Plans, Plan updates etc.)
- Carlton Forestry
  - Workshops (Invasive Knotweed Workshop, Honeybee Festival, Working on EAB & Oakwilt Workshop)
  - Timber Harvest data
  - Starting to work with landowners

Frank Turnock asked Kaysie to bring back a presentation from Carlton County on BioChar.

The Area III fall meeting will be held on September 8-9, 2022 at Long Lake Conservation Center.

The next SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center.

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Janzen to adjourn at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock  
Secretary