

AITKIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER 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 Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at Long Lake Conservation Center.

Those attending were:

Tom Fasteland, Chair
Wayne Anderson, Vice Chair
Bob Roseberg, Treasurer
Frank Turnock, Secretary
Bob Janzen, Reporter
Steve Hughes, District Manager
Stephanie Finch, MN Green Corp

Those absent were:

Lori Nelson, District Secretary

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

A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Wayne Anderson to approve the March 15, 2022 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Steve Hughes discussed the details of the second bank chosen by the Aitkin SWCD, Bremer Bank. Day-to-day use will remain with Security Bank. \$200,000 was transferred to Bremer Bank, with \$5,000 to be in the checking account and \$195,000 in the savings account.

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

AIS UPDATE

Steve discussed the details of the upcoming contest run by the Aitkin County SWCD, where members of the public can take a picture relating to the steps of Clean, Drain, Dry and a random entry will be chosen to win a kayak or cash prize.

Still attempting to recruit AIS inspectors for this summer-15 or 16 so far.

FORESTER INTERVIEWS/SHARED POSITION WITH AITKIN/CARLTON

Forester interviews are Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. Steve will send a notice of the interviews to Tom Fasteland.

Discussed logistics of the shared forester position; flexibility in the home office for the forester, dependent on where they wish to live.

Steve will send a scanned version of the two forestry applicant's resumes to all of the supervisors through e-mail.

DISTRICT MANAGER JOB DESCRIPTION

Steve presented a draft copy of the District Manager job posting to the supervisors. Discussed potential for internal recruitment.

Supervisors will send in comments on this draft to Steve before the next meeting.

CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD/MAY 17-MAY 30, 2022

Wayne Anderson and Tom Fasteland need to file as candidates between May 17-May 30, 2022.

AREA III MEETING, LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CENTER/SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2022

Long Lake Conservation Center will be the venue for the Area III meeting. North Star Lodge will be used for the meeting space using the dining halls for meals. A walking tour is planned as an alternative to prior bus tours. Walking tour to include forestry, buffers, drone, native shoreland plantings, etc.

Frank suggested talking about the solar panels installed at Long Lake as well.

Tentative prices for the Area III meeting

Single day \$55

2 days, all meals and lodging \$140

2 days, no lodging \$110

Discussed options for evening programs.

LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETING/MAY 2022

Local Work Group meeting is scheduled for May after the SWCD Board meeting. The Aitkin County SWCD must chair the meeting. Tom suggested that there should be a higher farmer/farming interests component at this meeting.

STEWARDSHIP RATES

DNR is ending their cost-share program for forest stewardship plans. SWCD will therefore charge full price for a new plan, unless there is riparian or desirable characteristics. There may be other sources of funding available for those options. 10-year plan updates will be charged at half-price.

Tom Fasteland suggested that it would be valuable to table this discussion until the next meeting, as many of these issues regarding the future of rates and cost-sharing will come up at the next Forestry Association meeting. This meeting may provide additional clarity.

BILLS OVER \$3,000

MN IT SERVICES/\$10,000

Funding for this project was approved at a prior meeting. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Wayne Anderson to approve payment of \$10,000 to MN IT Services. Approved unanimously.

Janet called in from the office to discuss her work.

MISSISSIPPI BRAINERD 1W1P CONTRACTS

HOUSTON ENGINEERING, MORIYA RUFER PLAN WRITER \$146,464

Houston Engineering has been chosen as the plan writing firm and Moriya Rufer as the plan writer and because the Aitkin SWCD is fiscal agent, the Aitkin SWCD Board must approve the choice and cost of the plan writer.

A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve the contract with Houston Engineering. Approved unanimously.

REGION 5 DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION/TAD ERICKSON, FACILITATOR, \$6500

Region 5 includes Todd, Morrison and Crow Wing counties

Tad will facilitate the meetings and keep everyone on track and coordinate with the plan writer to ensure that there is progress and communication even when the plan writer cannot attend. Tom asked the time frame of the contracts. Contracts are just over a year in length. A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve the contract with Region 5 Development Commission, Tad Erickson. Approved unanimously.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN REPORT/Janet

-Big Sandy newsletter

-Field work, Cedar Lake project. Connecting with existing projects and contracts to ensure work is progressing

Discussion of purchasing/utilizing a microphone for certain meetings and for quiet speakers. Looking into voice amplifiers, will bring suggestions to the next SWCD Board meeting.

Wayne mentioned that the Brainerd Mississippi 1W1P would have an open house event for the public to discuss/announce the plan at Camp Ripley, June 6?

MEMBERSHIP DUES/SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS (SAF) \$126

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve payment of \$126 to Society of American Foresters for membership dues. Approved unanimously.

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT/JAKE GRANFORS

- Mississippi River easements
- LCCMR Easement
- Kettle & Snake River 1W1P informing SWCDs about easements
- 40 completed easements in Aitkin County
- EQIP update

COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE CONTRACT/PETE ANDERSON, FARM ISLAND/\$2782 DISTRICT CAPACITY

Sam presented a proposed cost-share project on Farm Island Lake. A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve cost share project for Pete Anderson, Farm Island Lake, total estimated cost \$2782, 75% of the project costs \$2086.50. Approved unanimously.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT/Bob Roseberg

Slow progress on 1W1P.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

Applied for another Green Corp/AmeriCorps position to have a similar position to Stephanie's current role. Sam will be the site supervisor, and will be the day-to-day contact for the potential future applicant. Steve presented a resolution for the Board in support of the Green Corps application. A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve the resolution. Stephanie discussed several aspects of the GreenCorps program.

Steve discussed the proposal for flying a drone along the shorelines of con-con lakes; flying the shoreline of suggested lakes in Con-Con areas to have video. Potential uses for shoreline zoning violations, early signs of disease or pest outbreaks, and other monitoring. Steve and Kyle have offered use of their personal boats. Frank suggested the sheriff department may be willing to provide a boat for SWCD use. Wayne suggested looking into a second storage unit for backup of the video products.

BUFFER SPECIALIST REPORT

- Buffer checks
- ACTISMA meeting
- Rum River Steering Committee meeting

- Mississippi Grand Rapids 1W1P
- Culvert Inventory
- McGregor Township, beaver dams/Drone flights
- Rivers & Lakes Fair

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN/FORESTER REPORT

- Stewardship Plans
- Community Education Class will be held on April 20, 2022 at the Aitkin City Park, discussing buckthorn and methods of removal.
- Community Gardens Tom suggested talking with Lynne Jacobs and Hannah Colby who have been helpful for similar initiatives in Hill City.
- Snake River Watershed, there will be several public outreach events to attempt to get public input on the plan.
- AIS
- Forestry Association, treasurer paperwork, by-laws
- Tree sales-400 Red Pine available

AMERICORPS REPORT

- Forest Stewardship Plans-cover type mapping, old records
- Community Education classes-outreach and planning
- Rivers and Lakes Fair-logistics and planning
- Wetland mapping-extension of existing project, fill in the gaps
- Outreach for several events
- Website editing/tutorials

NRCS REPORT

- Finalizing EQIP applications
- RCPP applications
- CRP update
- Cover crop field days in Carlton County
- Local Work Group meeting next month after the SWCD Board meeting

Forage & Grassland Tour on September 15th or 17th

BSALWMP ditch cleanout

Using money from 1W1P to aid the City of McGregor with water issues.

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Place of meeting to be determined.

A motion was made by Bob Janzen and seconded by Bob Roseberg to adjourn at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary