

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 Tuesday, November 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
Janet Smude, District Manager
Lori Nelson, District Secretary

Additions to the agenda:

Old Business

-Snake River Report
-MASWCD Annual Convention

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 October 18, 2022 minutes. Approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CHECKS WRITTEN

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

MINNEWAWA FISH PASSAGE PROJECT

Discussion. Total cost of the project \$84,609.00. The project is not quite completed. \$6605.45 will be withheld until the project is completed. The TSA 3 Engineer and TSA 3 staff assisted with this project and were on site during the installation. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to approve payment of \$78,003.55 to R&R Landscaping, Inc. for the Minnewawa Fish Passage project. Approved unanimously.

Lake Minnewawa Association, Lake Minnewawa LID, and Minnewawa Sportsmans Club put \$8645 into the Minnewawa Fish Passage project.

Janet will send a thank you letter to Matias Valero, Conservation Engineer and the TSA 3 staff.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT

Discussion re: language in the 1W1P. The 1W1P that was written, ready to send to BWSR for a 60-90 day review and was changed after the Aitkin County SWCD Board approved at the last meeting.

A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Wayne Anderson to approve the Snake River 1W1P to send to BWSR. Approved unanimously.

BUFFER SPECIALIST REPORT (Sam)

- Buffer update
- Ag Inspector update
- Rum River 1W1P update
- WCA update
- Culvert Inventory Update (Lakeside)
- Mississippi Grand Rapids 1W1P update
- No Till Drill update
- Talon Metal Technical Report reviewed. Placement of wetland monitoring wells to be reviewed by Henry Egland and Sam Seybold.

MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION

Discussion on upcoming MASWCD Annual Convention, who is going, rides, etc. Tom Fasteland, Frank Turnock, Wayne Anderson and Janet Smude will attend.

KAYSIE MALESKI/END OF PROBATION PERIOD

Kaysie Maleski's probation period ends December 27, 2022. Brad Matlack, Carlton SWCD Manager gave a written report on Kaysie's performance. She has written (7) Forest Stewardship Plans, attended training, and building relationships with other partners. A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Janzen to take Kaysie off probation. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Wayne Anderson to approve a \$1/hr. raise. (\$28 to \$29). Approved unanimously.

CCFFC GRANT CONTRACT/LINDBERG EKOLA -STEPHANIE FINCH, SUBCONTRACT

No contract has come yet. If it comes between now and the next SWCD Board meeting the CCFFC Grant contract can be e-mailed to the supervisors and will make it official in January.

KEEP IT CLEAN EFFORT/VIDEO

This is an effort to keep big lakes in the state of Minnesota (Red Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mille Lacs) clean. Ron Schara recorded a 3 minute video to be used on sportsman's shows etc. The Keep It Clean video is also on the website. The Keep It Clean video was shown to the SWCD Board.

APPAREL

Janet looked into apparel for supervisors and staff. The Tee Hive in Baxter will print up to 12 different styles of clothing with logo. McGregor Printing didn't return phone call. Janet will contact Red Thread, Crosby (this is who the County uses). Name tags were also discussed.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN POSITION

Six applications were received. Interview Committee was discussed. Sam Seybold, SWCD staff would like to be a part of the Interview Committee, also Chris Pence, MN BWSR. A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve an Interview Committee. Approved unanimously. Tom Fasteland and Wayne Anderson will be on the Interview Committee with Bob Janzen as an alternate along with Janet Smude, District Manager, and Sam Seybold, District Technician, and Chris Pence, MN BWSR Board

Conservationist. Four of the six applicants will be interviewed. A date in December will be chosen for interviews (December 16, 19, 20). Questions will be given to those interviewing ahead of time.

BILLS OVER \$3000

HOUSTON ENGINEERING \$6792.50

A motion was made by Bob Roseberg and seconded by Frank Turnock to approve payment of \$6792.50 to Houston Engineering. Approved unanimously.

2023 WAGE & BENEFIT REQUEST

A motion was made by Frank Turnock and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve the 2023 Wage & Benefit request (see attached). Approved unanimously.

MEETING DATE FOR THE NEXT SWCD BOARD MEETING

Discussion. The next SWCD Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 20, 2022.

SNAKE RIVER REPORT (Bob Roseberg)

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

-Received a check for MCIT for the decontamination unit that was stolen (\$13,617.17, \$250 deductible plus \$144.50 that was received earlier).

-Tree & Native Plant sale is underway. Bitternut Hickory was added this year.

-Discussion re: Performance BWSR Grant & Assessment, 5 yr. strategic plan. This is a grant opportunity to hire a facilitator, set goals for the office, etc. A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Bob Roseberg to approve going ahead with this grant opportunity. Approved unanimously.

AITKIN/CARLTON FORESTER

-Forest Stewardship Plan Update/Aitkin & Carlton

-Outreach letter, Big Sandy Minnewawa 319

- Conservation Corp. application
- Trainings/Meetings

NRCS REPORT (Dalton)

- Update on programs

FARM BILL BIOLOGIST REPORT (Jake)

- EQIP update
- Easement update

The next Aitkin County SWCD Board meeting will be held Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at the Aitkin County Government Center at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Turnock
Secretary