



Meeting site: USDA Service Center,
 1680 N. Franklin Avenue
 Glenwood, MN 56334
 BA-Board Action
 I-Information

MEETING MINUTES
 Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am
 February 18, 2020

Attendance: Holly Kovarik, Kelly Erickson, Jessica Hoheisel, Jeff Hellerman, Keith Nygaard, Tom Talle, D. Gary Reents, Randy Mitteness, Randy Pederson, Commissioner Paul Gerde

1. The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited at 7:04 a.m.
2. Reorganization of the Board-Randy Mitteness made a motion to leave the officers the same. Tom Talle Chair, Keith Nygaard Vice Chair, Randy Pederson Secretary, and D. Gary Reents Treasurer. D. Gary Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
3. Appointment to Special Committees- Randy Pederson made a motion to appoint to the Chippewa River Watershed Project- Randy Mitteness, North Fork Crow River Watershed project Randy Pederson, and D. Gary Reents to the Sauk River Watershed project. Randy Pederson was appointed to the Glacial Ridge Trail. Tom Talle and D. Gary Reents would serve on the Budget Committee and Randy Pederson and D. Gary Reents would serve on the Personnel Committee. Keith Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
4. Approve official newspaper for publications/ bank accounts-Keith Nygaard made a motion to select Eagle Bank for all official accounts, and the Pope County Tribune/Bonanza Valley Voice/Starbuck Times as official newspapers. D. Gary Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
5. Approve the Agenda
6. Consent Agenda (approved by one motion)-*President*
 - a) *January 2020 Board Meeting Minutes*
 - b) *Resolutions-None*

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>

c) Contract/Applications for Approval

<u>Number/Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Application \$\$</u>
2020 City of Glenwood Targeted Urban Stormwater Imp. Grant	Stormwater project	\$292,500

d) Appropriations/Payments-None

	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description of Payment</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payment Code/Description</u>
1.				

e) Grant Payment/Project Approvals-NONE



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<u>Contract Code</u>	<u>Grant Name</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>	<u>Project Location</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payment</u>

Randy Pederson made a motion to approve all consent agenda items as presented. Keith Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

7. Commissioner Update-Paul Gerde

- He mentioned the joint meeting that was held on the One Watershed One Plan Program.
- He shared information about renovations that are being discussed in the Health and Human Services Building.
- He asked for clarifications on the Profit and Loss table in the Annual Report. Kovarik shared this is a draft financial statement report and will be audited later in the year. Kovarik shared information about how things are coded in the Quickbooks Software. The pass-through grants from the County including the Local Water Management Plan and the Wetland Conservation Act grant and match are categorized under the County income line. This line also includes locally generated funds from business for the waterfest. The remaining match is reflected with the Capacity Grant. Kovarik will explore ways to reflect this in the software to make things cleaner in the Profit and Loss report. The charts shown in the report show the full amount in a bar chart format for all County funding included pass through grants, match, and allocation.

8. Old Business

- Chippewa River Watershed Association JPA/Updates on status of work-Kovarik shared updates on the boundary adjustment and status of the work for the Chippewa River Watershed project. The CRWP board will be meeting on February 21, 2020 to discuss the edits to the agreement. Kovarik shared that Pope County had a few additional edits to language in the agreement which will also be discussed. Kovarik touched on some of the monitoring information that the staff has been reviewing during the Technical Advisory Committee meetings.
- Earl Hauge Project/Resolution Continuation of Discussion-The board discussed Earl Hauge's resolution request dated December 2, 2019. He met with the board during the December 17, 2019 board meeting to present the resolution. The board discussed the resolution at the January 21, 2020 meeting and at the February 18, 2020 board meeting. It should also be noted that this same site was discussed at the October 15, 2019 and the May 21, 2019 board meetings. The discussion was regarding the project site in Bangor Township Section 26.



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"Sample Resolution"

Since Nitrates are considered the worst pollution problem in Minnesota groundwaters,

and since every acre of irrigated corn, potatoes, sugar beets and edible beans needs high rates of nitrogen and leaches about 10 lbs. of nitrogen per acre to the groundwater,
and since these nitrates are concentrated in the top few feet of the groundwater,

Irrigators should be encouraged to use the nitrate polluted shallow ground water, rather than the pure water from their deep wells.

We think use of shallow groundwater for irrigation will have a short-term effect on nearby wetlands, but we think nitrogen pollution of our groundwater is far more serious.

Therefore, our Pope County Soil and Water Board has passed this resolution stating that "the state of Minnesota should encourage irrigators to use shallow groundwater, even though it may have a short-term affect on nearby wetlands."

Earl Hauge's suggested resolution for discussion is shown above.

Kovarik shared that she has reached out to the University of Minnesota and the Irrigators Association. Earl has also reached out to these same groups about conducting a research project on the dug pit. The Irrigation Specialist that conducts most of the research at Rosholt told Pope SWCD staff that this type of a research trial would need a hydrologist and it would be outside of her area of expertise. Kovarik shared that the SWCD already does a lot of research on nitrates, irrigation, and living covers at Rosholt. This is defined in our Annual Plan. The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District has many resolutions that are brought forth each year and some that have been approved are about nitrates. It is staff's recommendation that a resolution would not be a suggested route for Mr. Hauge's project. The predominant agency in the state that does research on nitrates is the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. They are a partner with all the work at Rosholt. For this type of a project to move forward there would need to be a researcher, funding, and a lead agency. Kovarik stated she is waiting to hear back from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Irrigators Association of Minnesota if this is a project that should be further explored. **D. Gary Reents made a motion to not develop a new resolution or adopt the suggested resolution provided by Earl Hauge. Randy Pederson seconded the motion.** The board did discuss that best practices could be explored with the landowner including utilizing the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program. Kovarik will report back after she visits with both organizations mentioned and will follow up with Mr. Hauge on the outcome of the discussion. It was also mentioned that with the observation wells in place the landowner could amend his appropriation permit with the DNR and do the activity. It was recognized that this would be a cost for this landowner but that it was possible to try this out with these conditions. The landowner would need to coordinate any modification to his appropriation permit with the DNR.

9. New Business

- 2019 Annual Report was shared with the board. **D. Gary Reents moved to approve the report and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**
- 2019 Sales Program Updates-Kovarik provided an update of the sales program from 2009-2019.



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- County Conflict of Interest Statements were distributed for the board members to review and sign.
- Sauk River Watershed Agreement & Joint meeting with County Board Discussion-D. Gary Reents made a motion to agree to the Joint Powers Collaboration type of agreement. Keith Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- Chippewa River Watershed JPA and general updates-These were all discussed earlier on the agenda.
- Pay Equity Report Completed-Keith Nygaard made a motion to approve and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- Area II Meeting Benton SWCD hosting March 11, 2020 in Foley-Randy Mitteness stated he would attend, and Randy Pederson was a maybe.
- Area II Meeting Pope SWCD host in summer 2020-The board discussed that we should host the meeting at Rosholt. Kovarik on getting this set in June.
- Set Local Work Group Meeting for March or April after SWCD Board meeting-Kovarik will coordinate with the federal partners and get this notice out.
- Rosholt AFREC Grant Proposal Funded authorize staff to execute agreement when received. Randy Mitteness made a motion to authorize staff to sign and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- Rosholt Intern Job Notice was shared with the board. Keith Nygaard made a motion to approve the job notice and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- Irrigation Clinic is coming up on March 10th and advertising has been distributed.
- North Fork Crow River WD Boundary Change-This was discussed and for the purposes of the plan no change is needed. The boundary in the plan is based on the hydrologic boundary not the Watershed District's legal boundary.
- Chippewa River Watershed Project Boundary discussion-Kovarik shared that a part of the Upper Minnesota is asking to be added into this Chippewa River Watershed. The CRWP JPB will discuss this at their meeting on March 21, 2020. The JPA will need to be revised if approved and redistributed.
- Minnesota Land Trust Meeting and Proposal will be coming for our assistance on the promotion of the program.
- Rosholt addition/storage area for chemical was discussed. Chemical is stored at the Ag Inspector's home. This additional area would be able to be heated. Erickson has attained estimates and Kovarik asked for a budget not to exceed \$6,000. D. Gary Reents made a motion to approve and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. It was noted that a small amount was covered by the MDA Cooperative Weed Management Grant.

10. Reports

- a. Treasurer Report- December 2019 and January 2020-D. Gary Reents made a motion to approve both treasurer reports and Keith Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. D. Gary Reents asked why the balance has went down some. Kovarik shared



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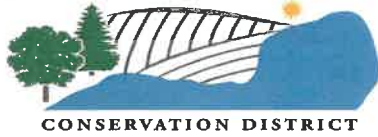
that the SWCD has more reimbursable grants that we are waiting for payment. These are accounted for on the Treasurer report on the bottom right. The total at year end was \$106,465.79. It was noted that she has color coded what has been deposited in our accounts in January and what will be reflected in the February report.

- ii. Monthly Checking Account Report #11247
- iii. Monthly Savings Account Report #870903
- iv. Treasurer Report (3-year comparison)

b) Holly Kovarik, Manager

- Work on Data Request received
- CREP Contractor Workshop was held and Kovarik attended.
- IWIP meeting with County Commissioners was held
- Johnshoy project discussion-Kovarik shared that she is working with Representative Anderson, Johnshoy and the DNR to resolve issues and move forward on the project for the landowners.
- Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification program updates were shared with the board. Nicole is working on training for the program.
- Planning for spring 2020 construction has begun. Staff is working with landowners on final designs.
- Grant Reporting: **Randy Mitteness made a motion to approve the reports and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**

Grant	Accounts Receivable	Status
2020 Local Water Management		INTERIM
2020 Wetland Conservation Act		INTERIM
2021 Wetland Conservation Act		INTERIM
2021 Conservation Delivery		INTERIM
2021 Local Water Management		INTERIM
2021 State Cost Share		INTERIM
2018 Local Capacity Services		INTERIM
WCTSA Conservation Collaboration	\$1,636.85	Quarterly
2019 Buffer Law		FINAL



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c) Kelly Erickson, Technician

- Sales Program Updates-He has 1 pivot for Irrigation Management signed up. He has been working on writing a CRP contract. He has 5 potential tree plans. He has 2 potential CRP projects. He has 2-3 buffer sites to seed. He attended Irrigation training. He mentioned a machine that would let him know if the machine is running or not. The cost would be minimal. It is an item that would not need approval from the board. Kelly mentioned about a \$300-\$400 investment. Staff will explore this more and the board agreed this could be useful.
- WCA items: Novel Fisher Solar LLC and Novel Stavem Solar LLC-D. Gary Reents made a motion to approve the applications and Keith Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

d) Nicole Brede, District Technician (at training) no formal report

- CRP Sign Up is in progress
- MAWQCP Training
- Poster Contest presentations will be in March.

e) Jessica Hoheisel, District Technician

- CWMA updates-She is working on wrapping up purchases in the grant and finalizing reporting. We do not know on the 2020 grant funds yet.
- SWAG-She had a quick check in with MPCA on this to prepare for the upcoming monitoring season.
- City of Glenwood updates-the board approved the contract. Staff is setting up a meeting with the city and will finalize the workplan soon.
- RIM-She has been working on old payments, ownership changes, and foodplot additions.
- Buffer Law Stuff-She has been working on wrapping up alternative practices.
- Training-Attended Shoreland training in the City of St. Cloud.
- She has been talking with landowners in the City of Glenwood on projects.

f) Jeff Hellerman

He mentioned that there has been a lot of days at training. He mentioned CRP and that eligibility is basically done. He stated he has 3 CSP payments left to make. He shared they are taking EQIP and CSP applications for 2020. He shared that the NRCS will have an employee meeting February 25-27th and both local staff will be attending.

g) Laurie Aaberg, FSA-no report

II. Board Member Meeting Reports

- a. Randy Pederson-North Fork Watershed IWIP meetings & staff update, Glacial Lakes Trail



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He shared some background on the Glacial Lakes Trail and the promotional work that they are doing. They are trying to coordinate for another group to take this over. There hasn't been a policy committee for the North Fork Watershed IWIP process.

- b. Randy Mitteness-Chippewa River Watershed Board & staff update
There is a meeting on Friday.
- c. D. Gary Reents-Sauk River Watershed IWIP Committee meetings & staff update
See updates above regarding the Sauk River Watershed IWIP Committee information.

12. Upcoming Meetings:

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>
3-17-2020	Pope SWCD Regular Meeting	USDA Service Center	7 a.m.

13. FYI Items-none

14. Public Comment-none

15. Adjourn-Keith Nygaard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m. and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Keith Nygaard V-Chair 3-17-2020

Randy Pederson 3-17-2020

