



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

MEETING Agenda
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am
March 17, 2020

Attendance: Holly Kovarik, Jessica Hoheisel, Kelly Erickson, Commissioner Paul Gerde, D. Gary Reents, Keith Nygaard, Randy Mittenness, Randy Pederson (Tom Talle Absent)

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Keith Nygaard and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. The agenda was approved by consensus additional items as presented by staff.
3. Consent Agenda (approved by one motion)- *Vice President*
 - a) *February 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>

- 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*

<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 Mittenness made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented and D. Gary Reents seconded the motion.

4. Commissioner Update-*Paul Gerde*
 - Mentioned that the County will be looking at policies due to COVID-19 and how to continue to keep services open.
 - He mentioned the need to keep Pope Douglas Solid Waste operating during this time.
 - He shared a policy being discussed for variances for daycares.
5. Old Business
 - No-Till Drill Discussion-Staff presented estimates for a new no-till drill. The no-till drill with the best price was a Haybuster drill from Bakko for \$27,000. The drill is used but with under 100 acres on the machine. Staff has explored other brands of drills. It is the recommendation of the staff to move forward with a purchase of this Haybuster drill from Bakko for \$27,000. Kovarik shared that the 2020 Capacity grant would fund a portion of the drill \$20,931 and the remaining will be out of the general fund of \$6,069. The SWCD board has discussed updates



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annually for several years. The drills were purchased in 2000 or 2001 and are worn out. The Pope SWCD in our annual plan strives to promote conservation tillage practices, cover crops, and native plantings. It is important to have good operating equipment to promote these efforts with landowners. Randy Mitteness made a motion to approve the purchase of the no-till drill as presented and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

- Earl Hauge follow up completed- The board reviewed the information sent to Mr. Hauge and concurred that no further follow up is needed at this time.
- Sauk River Watershed Legislative Items updates-Kovarik shared general updates on the Sauk River Watershed. There is legislation that has been proposed to limit their levy.

6. New Business

- Sauk River Watershed Agreement Discussion on Fiscal and Coordination roles/Updates on TAC progress-The board discussed their position on the fiscal and coordination roles. D. Gary Reents is the Pope SWCD member on the Policy Committee. He shared some perspective from the meetings he has attended. There are a few policy committee members with strong opinions based on controversial projects done by the SRWD in their area.

The Pope SWCD discussed if the Pope SWCD should volunteer for either of these roles. The consensus was that the Pope SWCD covers a small portion of the watershed and that it did not make the most sense for our organization to step forward for either of these roles. The Pope SWCD will hold a major role in the Chippewa River Watershed planning effort.

The board also discussed the role of fiscal as being a smaller role with contracts between the fiscal agent and the LGUs that would utilize the funding. This could be any one of the LGUs but the Pope SWCD Board discussed that a County or SWCD with more of the watershed area should be in this role. If there is concern of oversight separating the two roles would be the best scenario and provide some assurances for anyone who accepts this responsibility on behalf of the partnership.

The Pope SWCD discussed the coordination role. It was mentioned that the Stearns SWCD has indicated that they would not be interested in the fiscal agent or the coordination role because of current workload. The Pope SWCD does support the SRWD in the coordination role and it was discussed that this was the one LGU that covers the entire area. It would make the most sense for the SRWD to be in this role.

The Pope SWCD does not have a strong opinion either way if an LGU wants to step forward for either of these roles. It was mentioned that someone will need to step forward for this to work in the implementation phase. Kovarik mentioned that there is some hesitation at this time by the SRWD in stepping forward for either role.

The Pope SWCD Board wanted to provide some direction for D. Gary Reents who is on the policy committee and the group is supposed to meet on March 20th and will be asked to



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- Johnshoy project discussion-Kovarik asked for the board to approve the delegation to staff to execute a contract with Johnshoy for their project. Randy Pederson made a motion to authorize staff to execute a contract for the Johnshoy project which the engineer estimates to be \$61,325 from the Lake Emily Grant funding. D. Gary Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Kovarik will try to get a signature from the chair or vice chair if feasible but a lot is unknown with the current COVID-19 situation.
- Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification program updates were shared with the board. We are up to about 31 operations signed up and about 10 are in process with certification right now. Nicole has been getting trained on the program and will work at least 1 day per week on the program. The interest in the program continues to grow. There are several landowners using the MDA financial assistance available to them when they are certified.
- Planning for spring 2020 construction-Kovarik shared that they are working on projects for several landowners for spring work.
- North Fork Crow IWIP TAC updates were shared with the board. The TAC has been meeting and working on the workplan.
- Legislative Days Updates-The Day at the Capitol has been canceled due to COVID-19.
- Event Cancellations-Kovarik shared information about the pandemic situation and asked the board to provide some direction for policy for the Pope SWCD. Kovarik shared policies provided by the County and shared what was known from our federal partners. Randy Mitteness made a motion to follow policies set by the County and our Federal co-located partners in the USDA Service Center. Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Kovarik also explained that our April meeting may need to be held virtually. She will explore options on how this would be accomplished, and this allowed under a pandemic situation for open meeting law.
- Irrigation Clinic Follow up-Kovarik shared that 40 people attended the event held on March 10th.
- Rosholt Spring Planning Meetings-Kovarik shared that staff is working with the researchers and the MDA on planning for the 2020 growing season.
- Intern job notice posted closes March 20th-Kovarik will review the applications and make hiring decisions on the interns likely the last week in March. It is anticipated that sampling could begin as early as mid-April.
- RMB reports for each lake-Kovarik shared that she would like to utilize the LWM funding for the cost of these reports. The cost estimate from RMB is around \$2,000 for the 20 lakes. D. Gary Reents made a motion to authorize the project. Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.



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decide on who would be the fiscal agent and who would be the coordinator. Randy Pederson made a motion for the Sauk River IWIP partnership to encourage Stearns LGUs or the SRWD to assume the role of fiscal or coordinator and that the Pope SWCD would support any willing party for either role. D. Gary Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

- Probe Truck Purchase was made, and the truck will be used at Rosholt. The truck price was \$1,000. Kovarik shared that this would be an eligible expense under the Rosholt grant projects. She is working with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on the reimbursement of this expense.

7. Reports

- a. Treasurer Report D. Gary Reents made a motion to approve the treasurer report as presented and Randy Mitteness seconded the report. The motion passed with all in favor.
 - ii. Monthly Checking Account Report #11247
 - iii. Monthly Savings Account Report #870903
 - iv. Treasurer Report (3-year comparison)

b) Holly Kovarik, Manager

- Buffer Cost Share Contract Updates: Kannegiesser, Nissen, Bennett, Freeman
Kovarik provided updates on the Buffer Cost Share projects. A new contract was executed for Brian Bennett and Tim Kannegiesser for buffer seedings 512 Forage and Biomass practices. These sites were not able to be seeded in the fall of 2019 due to wet conditions and the original contracts expired. The new contract was executed by staff as this authority was delegated by the board for this grant when it was received. Kovarik shared that Nissen has an erosion control practice very close to go to final designs and when they are complete staff will execute the contract.
Kovarik shared an update on the Freeman project which is an erosion control practice from the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification program. The project is going to final designs and will be paid out of three funds-MAWQCP \$5,000 and then the remaining buffer cost share funds after the decision from the Nissen project, and then state cost share. Kovarik asked the board to authorize and delegate staff to execute a contract like we have for the Buffer Cost Share program. It is uncertain with the current situation with COVID-19 if we will have a meeting in April and to be able to work with the landowner so they can install at least the tile in the spring. Randy Mitteness made a motion to approve the delegation to staff to execute a contract for the Freeman project and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Kovarik will try to get a signature from the chair or vice chair if feasible but a lot is unknown with the current COVID-19 situation.
- WCTSA Updates/Area II Meeting updates were shared with the board.
- Attended North Fork Crow River WD Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting



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8. Board Member Meeting Reports

- a. Randy Pederson-North Fork Watershed IWIP meetings & staff update, Glacial Lakes Trail - no meetings
- b. Randy Mitteness-Chippewa River Watershed Board & staff update-no meetings
- c. D. Gary Reents-Sauk River Watershed IWIP Committee meetings & staff update -meeting scheduled for this coming Friday.

9. Upcoming Meetings:

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>
4-21-2020	Pope SWCD Regular Meeting and Local Work Group Meeting to follow	USDA Service Center	7 a.m.

10. FYI Items-none

11. Public Comment-none

12. Adjourn-A motion was made by Randy Mitteness to adjourn at 9:09 a.m. and it was seconded by Randy Pederson. The motion passed with all in favor.

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4-21-20

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4-21-20

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- The Pope SWCD discussed the current JPA for the Chippewa River Watershed. It was decided to table the agreement till the next meeting.
 - An amendment for the Rosholt Irrigation Nitrogen Interaction Study with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture was discussed. This would increase the agreement by \$5,000 for the University of Minnesota expenses. **Randy Mitteness made a motion to approve the amendment to the agreement and D. Gary Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**
- c) Kelly Erickson, Technician
- Sales Program Updates-Tree Pickup set for May 1st and 2nd
 - 1 Irrigation Water Management contract signed for 2 pivots to manage
 - Attended the IAM conference and the Irrigation Clinic
 - WCA items-He shared that there are 3 mitigations and a few violations that are in process.
 - Preparing the addition area at Rosholt for the freezers.
 - Attend the Kernza Rosholt plot planning meeting.
- d) Nicole Brede, District Technician-She provided a written report to the board of her activities.
- CRP Sign Up
 - MAWQCP Training
 - Poster Contest
- e) Jessica Hoheisel, District Technician
- CWMA updates-The MDA CWMA grant for 2020 was not awarded. Staff explained that a few for service set up could be used and offset by the chemical that we have in inventory. It is the desire to continue to promote this program and to reapply in the next cycle.
 - City of Glenwood updates-Staff met with the City of Glenwood to go over the workplan. She has also met with a couple of landowners on a project possibility. She is finalizing the workplan and will be submitting that to BWSR in the next month. We should expect the first half of the grant funds to be released at that time.
 - RIM-She has been working on ownership changes and the RIM SWAP has been finalized. There have been sites needing upgrades of cover.
 - Buffer Law Stuff-She has reached out to the County again to get the MOU approved as we moved to the enforcement stage. We will only have a few that are non-compliant right now. We do have a few alternative practices wrapping up this season.
 - Training
- f) Jeff Hellerman-no report
- g) Laurie Aaberg, FSA -no report