



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting will be held at the Pope County USDA Service Center
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am
October 20, 2020

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

1. The meeting was called to order by the President Tom Talle at 7:08 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. The board approved the agenda by consensus with addition of the Feigum/Branch/Velde project approval.
3. Consent Agenda (approved by one motion)-*President*

a) *September 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>
2021 SWCD Local Capacity Grant	Capacity funding contract	\$135,931
2021 Buffer Law	Buffer Initiative funding contract	\$21,500

d) *Appropriations/Payments-None*

	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description of Payment</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payment Code/Description</u>
1.	WSN	Engineering	\$13,833.00	City of Glenwood Grant

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>
CAP01-19	2019 SWCD Local Capacity	Jeff Trunnell	Critical Area Planting	Leven 13		\$750.00

Keith Nygaard made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented and D. Gary Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

4. Commissioner Update-*Paul Gerde*

- He shared that they are working on the budget and right now the preliminary is set at a zero increase and they hope to decrease it more before it is final.
- He has had several meetings to spend CARES funding.



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- The bonding bill passed, and Pope Douglas Solid Waste will receive funding to improve their facility.

5. Old Business

- 2021 County Appropriation Request Follow up-discussion on correspondence from County Board/Coordinator-D. Gary Reents made a motion to send a response letter to the County indicating that the Pope SWCD would not want money taken away from our existing amount from the Local Water Management state funding. It was discussed and noted that the Pope SWCD is appreciative of the intent of the County Board to attempt to give more general appropriation. We would not want to do it this way. The Local Water Management funds received by Pope SWCD are used for implementing the water plan, the Pope Stevens Water Fest, educational programming, and well sealing. We understand the situation for 2020 and 2021 but would ask that we continue this discussion for the 2022 budget. Keith Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- 2019 Audit-Kovarik went over the final 2019 Audit as completed. This year the audit took a little more time and more items were reviewed. All items were scanned and loaded onto a portal for the accountant to review. Randy Pederson made a motion to approve the 2019 Audit and Randy Mitteness seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Kovarik mentioned that we will not have to submit to the Office of the Legislative Auditor this time our financial report was not selected. The report will be submitted to BWSR and posted on our website once complete.
- Area II Meeting Follow Up-Randy Mitteness, Keith Nygaard, and Holly Kovarik participated in the Zoom meeting. Mark Hauck from DNR gave an update on the Bonanza Valley Groundwater Management Area. The officers stayed the same for the next year. We will not have dues in 2020 and have had few expenses. The virtual meeting had a few glitches at its start with Zoom bombing being a problem. Stearns SWCD set up a new meeting and we were able to finish out the meeting tasks. The group talked about the challenges of virtual meetings.

6. New Business

- NACD Dues Invoice-D. Gary Reents made a motion to pay the NACD dues of \$775.00 and Keith Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- Set 2021 Sales Program Prices-The board discussed the 2021 Sales Program Order Form and prices. Erickson provided background on neighboring SWCDs pricing and pricing from the nurseries. Randy Mitteness made a motion to approve the price change for deciduous trees and shrubs to \$1.70 each or \$42.50 per bundle and conifers to \$1.80 each or \$45.00 per bundle. D. Gary Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. There were no other edits recommended.
- Resolutions were moved to the end of the meeting.
- 2018 Lake Emily Targeted Extension request 12/31/2021-Keith Nygaard made a motion to approve the extension request as presented by Kovarik. Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.



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- RCPP Implementing Innovative Irrigation Practices to Protect Groundwater Quality and Quantity letter of support submitted- Randy Mitteness made a motion to approve the letter of support for this RCPP application and D. Gary Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
7. Reports (Note all reports from staff and agencies will be brought in 1 at a time with the exception of the Manager for social distancing reasons in the small conference room.)
- a. Treasurer Report-D. Gary Reents made a motion to approve the treasurer report subject to audit and Keith Nygaard seconded the motion. 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
 - Quarterly reporting is being worked on.
 - 2019 Audit preparations were done to finish the audit.
 - Sauk River Watershed WRAPS grant 3rd Quarter Invoice \$145.80
 - End of the Quarter-Per diem submittals requested
 - 2018 SWCD Local Capacity Grant-CLOSED OUT \$145,500
 - Farmbill CREP 3rd Quarter report \$1,344.00
 - MASWCD Contribution Agreement Invoice Submitted \$8,800
 - MAWQCP 3rd Quarter Invoice submitted \$4,691.96
 - 2019 State Cost Share Grant Closed Out \$95.49 returned
 - 2018 State Cost Share Grant Closed Out
 - LCCMR Accelerating Perennial Crop Production to Prevent Nitrate Leaching Project completion 6/30/21-a 1-year extension requested by group
 - LCCMR Long-Term Nitrate Mitigation by Maintaining Profitable Kernza Production 7-1-2020 to 6/30/2024-work plan was revised with cuts
 - 2017 Lake Emily Grant Verification/Reconciliation Audit submitted
 - Kiosk on one of the nodes will have program and project work featured by the SWCD.
 - Richard Feigum WASCOB project-Keith Nygaard made a motion to approve Feigum project CWF17-04 paid out of 2017 and 2018 Lake Emily Targeted funds cost share amount NTE \$38,717.32 (75%). Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
 - Ron Branch and Denice Velde project was discussed. Randy Mitteness made a motion to approve funds for this project from the 2018 Lake Emily project contract CWF18-01 cost share amount NTE \$4,548.75 (75%).
 - c) Kelly Erickson, Technician
 - Sales Program Updates-He has 90 acres of fall dormant seeding to complete.
 - The mower broke down and had to be repaired.

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- WCA Violation: Hauge (Chippewa Falls 26) Erickson read the findings to the board from the TEP communication sent to Hauge.

Findings and Recommendations

Mr. Hauge has submitted an after the fact Application. His application is incomplete for the following reasons.

1. Mr. Hauge did not submit a Joint Application form for Activities Affecting Water Resources in Minnesota.
 2. Mr. Hauge has been issued a restoration order that gives direction on what the TEP has required for restoring the area to it's prealtered condition. This letter does not address those requirements.
 3. The TEP established the extent of the violation. Mr. Hauge's disagreement with those findings is irrelevant. The TEP has established and documented that there was a violation.
 4. The shoreland permit provided with the letter is for a different parcel.
 5. Mr. Hauge refers to using the crossing for a possible future irrigator crossing. WCA Rules Chapter 8420.0420 Subpart 1. C. Exemptions may not be combined on a project. The LGU cannot allow the drainage exemption (ditch cleaning) and the irrigator crossing on the same parcel.
- The TEP recommends we extend the deadline for the restoration order to 11/30/2020. To give Mr. Hauge more time to comply.

Lesterberg (Gilchrist) violation was mentioned more information will be provided as it is available.

- WCA Boundary and Type and No Loss Application: Swan Garden Solar-Randy Mitteness made a motion to approve the Swan Garden Solar no loss application and Keith Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- North Fork Crow River Exemption (maintenance)-Erickson mentioned a cleanout of a ditch project and that no culverts were changing. This is considered a no loss application. D. Gary Reents made a motion to approve the North Fork no loss application and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- Nathan Johnson wetland bank was mentioned, and a final approval of this wetland ag bank was needed. Keith Nygaard made a motion to approve this and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- He has completed observation well monitoring.
- He is working on pesticide applicator training.

d) Jessica Hoheisel, District Technician

- Pope-Swift CWMA grant submitted \$5,000-approval needed on application submitted-Keith Nygaard made a motion to approve the grant application as submitted and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- The MOU for the CWMA for Pope and Swift was discussed. Keith Nygaard made a motion to approve the MOU and to execute the document. Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

e) Jeff Hellerman, NRCS



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- He mentioned CRP status reviews which Melissa completed most of them.
- He mentioned 4 new CRP interests.
- He indicated his main work right now is CSP.
- He mentioned Melissa has been doing most of the field checks this fall.

f) Laurie Aaberg, FSA-no report

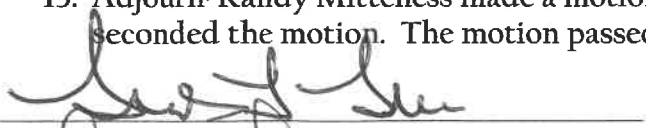
8. Board Member Meeting Reports

- a. Randy Pederson-North Fork Watershed IWIP meetings & staff update, Glacial Lakes Trail- There was no meeting held this past month.
- b. Randy Mitteness-Chippewa River Watershed Board & staff update-Randy talked about the previous months meeting. The group discussed receptiveness for Pope SWCD staff to continue in a leadership role for the Chippewa River Watershed in 2021 and beyond. If this conversation comes up with the partnership Kovarik wanted to ensure that our board had discussed this first. There was discussion about workload. We do have a fair amount of workload but the CRW at this time cannot fully support a staff position. It will be a discussion that we will have once the CRW group decides what needs they have. Randy Mitteness made a motion that Pope SWCD should advocate to continue in this leadership role for the Chippewa River watershed partnership. Keith Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- c. D. Gary Reents-Sauk River Watershed IWIP Committee meetings & staff update -He shared that the plan is out for public comment. Kovarik will share the link with the board after the meeting.


9. Upcoming Meetings:

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>
11-17-20	Pope SWCD Regular Board Meeting	Pope SWCD Office Conference Room	7:00 a.m.

- 10. Resolutions were reviewed. - D. Gary Reents made a motion to approve the resolution form as reviewed, signed, and voted on for the 21 resolutions presented. Keith Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- 11. FYI Items-none
- 12. Public Comment-none
- 13. Adjourn-Randy Mitteness made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 a.m. and Keith Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.



 Randy Pederson



 Keith Nygaard