



MEETING Minutes

Meeting will be held USDA Service Center at 1680 Franklin Street North, Glenwood, MN 56334
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am
April 19, 2022

Attendance: Holly Kovarik, Randy Pederson, Tom Talle, Kelly Erickson, Randy Mitteness, Keith Nygaard, Commissioner Paul Gerde, Sarah Zellmer, Earl Hauge, Jeff Hellerman, D. Gary Reents.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 a.m. by Chairman Nygaard.
2. Introductions were made for our new intern Sarah Zellmer. She began her duties on April 18th.
3. The agenda was approved by general consensus with a few additions.
4. Consent Agenda (approved by one motion)-*President*
 - o *March 15, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes*
 - o *Resolutions-None*

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
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- o *Contract/Applications for Approval-None*

<u>Number/Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Application \$\$</u>

- o *Appropriations/Payments*

	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description of Payment</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payment Code/Description</u>
1.	WCTSA	Engineering	\$15,224.67	various

- o *Grant Payment/Project Approvals-*

<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 Mitteness 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.

5. Commissioner Update-*Paul Gerde*
 - He shared that he attended the Kick Off meeting for the Chippewa River Watershed Association.
 - He shared information about the upcoming broadband project which Pope County will be a part of it.
6. Old Business
 - o Chippewa River Watershed One Watershed One Plan Kick Off meeting April 5th at the Minnewaska House-Kovarik and members that attended shared information about this event. There were 99 people in attendance and good feedback was captured.
 - o Tree pickup dates set April 29-30
 - o Stewardship Week April 24- May 1 "Healthy Soil: Healthy Life"-materials sent to 24 churches
7. New Business



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- Water Fest date set September 23
 - Conservation date set September 29
 - Outdoor education event for 5th graders from KMS at Glacial Lakes State Park is set for May 20th
 - Jason Weinerman will be officially our BWSR Board Conservationist
8. **Treasurer Report**-D. Gary Reents made a motion to approve the treasurer report as presented and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- Monthly Checking Account Report #11247
 - Monthly Savings Account Report #870903
 - Treasurer Report (3-year comparison)
9. **Reports**
- Holly Kovarik, Manager
 - BWSR Spring Training was attended by Kovarik and other staff virtually.
 - Clean Water Fund Updates meetings April 25, May 2nd, and May 6th, May 16th
 - Attended North Fork CAC meeting virtually
 - WCTSA meeting attended
 - Attended FAC meeting
 - Completed 2022 Census of Government report
 - Irrigation Nitrogen Interaction Study AR \$1,530.23 for chemical and fertilizer prepay
 - Quarterly Billable completed
 - CRWA IWIP and WRAPS \$11,848.13 AR
 - MAWQCP quarterly \$7,212.19 AR
 - Farmbill CREP quarterly \$269.15 AR
 - Attended Managers Training
 - May 1st presentation to United Parish Adult Forum has now been moved to September.
 - May 11th present at BWSR Regional Managers Meeting in Alexandria
 - MACDE Administrative Session Brainerd June 29-30th. Kovarik is still debating attendance at this training.
 - MDA Nitrogen Study 1st quarter \$29,603.07 AR
 - LCCMR Kernza 1st quarter \$628.36 AR
 - Be Kind group presentation on April 22nd staff plan to attend.
 - Kovarik mentioned it is time for resolutions. The board did not have any items at this time for staff to spend time on for development of resolutions.
 - Kovarik presented the Swift SWCD East Branch 1st Quarter invoice \$1,428.45 for payment. D. Gary Reents made a motion to pay the invoice and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
 - Kovarik mentioned the passing of Randy Reents. D. Gary Reents brother. The board members and staff will personally pitch in to contribute toward a



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memorial for Randy and wish to express our deepest sympathies to Gary and his family.

- Kovarik asked the board to authorize her to close out the 2018 Lake Emily grant. Randy Mitteness made a motion to approve and authorize Kovarik to close out the 2018 Lake Emily grant as required. Tom Talle seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. There will be a payment back to the state as we did not fully expend this grant due to timing and changes on a project.
- Kelly Erickson, Conservation Technician
 - Sales Program Updates-He has 14 tree plans in the works and 300 acres of seeding for CRP.
 - WCA Training is coming up on May 17-18.
 - He worked with a landowner on a wildlife excavation for WCA.
 - He has been working with the Grove Lake Town board on a flooding issue.
 - He has a mitigation proposal that he worked on but now was canceled by the landowners.
 - He has been working on getting the Ag Sense for the irrigation system at Rosholt.
 - He has been working on the agronomic details for at Rosholt including purchase of the fertilizer, chemical, and seed.
 - He installed the sink at Rosholt in the office.
 - He completed the observation well monitoring.
 - He has 5 pivots signed up.
 - He attended a 2-day irrigation training.
 - He has been working on job approval authority.
- Kimberly DeMorett, Resource and Outreach Technician (written report attached)
- Nicole Brede, Habitat Resource Specialist (written report attached)
- Jeff Hellerman, NRCS
 - He shared an update on EQIP and that they had 7 approved. There will be projects including WASCObS, Cover Crops, No till, Irrigation, and pasture practices.
 - CSP has 1 application that he is working on.
 - He is going to be gone next month hunting.
 - The Local Work Group meeting is set for June 21st to follow the SWCD board meeting.
- Alexander Fellbaum, FSA CED-no report

10. Board Member Meeting Reports

- Randy Pederson-North Fork Watershed IWIP meetings & staff update, Glacial Lakes Trail-Randy shared that the Policy Committee wont meet till June.



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- o Randy Mitteness-Chippewa River Watershed Board & staff update-He had nothing else to report at this time.
- o D. Gary Reents-Sauk River Watershed IWIP Committee meetings & staff update-Sara Jo left the position at the Sauk River Watershed District. Jon Roeschlein will be stepping into her workload for now.

II. Upcoming Meetings:

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>
5-17-22	Pope SWCD Regular Board Meeting	USDA Service Center Building	7:00 a.m.

12. FYI Items-none

13. Public Comment-

Earl Hauge submitted two letters prior to the SWCD Board meeting. He stated he wasn't here for a fight. He expressed that he has not liked how this has gone. He shared that he has appealed to the Pope SWCD board more than once to overturn the verdict on his project in Chippewa Falls Township that is currently in court. He stated he believes he is innocent of the violations of the Wetland Conservation Act before him. He stated this is all about working with landowners and having an advocate for the landowners. He said there is no one for the landowner to talk to about the process and their rights. He stated he feels the local board should be the judge and the jury. He said he wasn't asking for the board to take any action today. He is surprised that he cannot put a culvert in the wetland versus a bridge. He again shared his opinions on the depth of the ditch clean out and being too deep and frustrations with a Cease-and-Desist order being issued. He was told the applications were incomplete when submitted. Staff were busy doing tree plantings to stop out immediately. He feels he needs to warn the people of Pope County. He stated he would be back next month and wants to be an advisor on behalf of wetland owners. He also asked that staff's ability be taken away for issuing Cease-and-Desist orders.

The board has reviewed this case previously with staff, BWSR staff, and nothing new was presented by the landowner at this time. Randy Pederson made a motion to state that the Pope SWCD works with landowners to make sure that the Wetland Conservation Act is upheld within that framework. 8420.0900 Enforcement Procedures. Subpart 1. Enforcement authorities. The commissioner, conservation officer, and other peace officers may issue cease and desist orders and restoration and replacement orders. Subpart 2. Cease and Desist orders. A. Cease and desist orders may be issued when the enforcement authority has probable cause that an activity is being or will again be conducted that impacts a wetland, does not qualify for a no-loss or exemption under parts 8420.0415 and 8420.0420, and is being or will again be conducted without prior approval of a replacement plan by a local unit under part 8420.0255 or involving a decision stayed by the board pursuant to part 8420.0905. The board heard nothing new to change our position with the questions today presented by Earl Hauge. D. Gary Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.



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14. Adjourn-Randy Mitteness made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 a.m. and Tom Talle seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Tom Talle Aggud 5-17-22

Randy Mitteness 5/17/22

