



**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting will be held USDA Service Center at 1680 Franklin Street North, Glenwood, MN 56334  
**Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am**  
**May 17, 2022**

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

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nygaard at 7:00 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Introductions were made of our new staff.
3. The agenda was approved by general consensus with a couple of additions.
4. Consent Agenda (approved by one motion)-President
  - o April 19, 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.				

- 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 Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

5. Commissioner Update-Paul Gerde
  - Commissioner Gerde shared that they are reviewing the disaster declaration information at their meeting later this morning.
  - He shared that the local equalization process is completed.
  - He shared that the Sauk River WD Manager appointment is up right now, and they are taking applications.
6. Old Business
  - o Poster contest select winners was moved to the end of the agenda.
  - o Be Kind program was held and trees were planted by the group and youth. Kimberly DeMorett shared a few details about the program that she participated in.
  - o RCPP Irrigation Meeting update/sign up was mentioned to the board. This is now open and applications can be taken.
7. New Business



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- DNR ECP Conservation Partner Legacy Grant submitted \$50,000-Kovarik shared the details from the grant application that was submitted. Gary Reents made a motion to approve the application as prepared and submitted by staff and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. We should know in June if we are awarded the funding.
  - 8. Treasurer Report-D. Gary Reents made a motion to approve the treasurer report as submitted applicable to audit. Tom Talle 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
      - MDA Irrigation Nitrogen Study \$8,255.23 AR 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter
      - AFREC Grant 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter \$2,340.49 AR
      - BWSR Regional Meeting Kovarik participated in panel discussion.
      - Board Conservationist came to meet and discuss our office work.
      - Request to use plastic folding tables for grad party was granted for Kovarik by consensus of the board.
      - Kovarik shared that it is now time for consideration for starting our budget for 2023.
      - Kovarik provided information on a well sealing project for David Peterson. Randy Pederson made a motion to approve the well sealing contract and authorized Kovarik to sign to fully execute the agreement once prepared. Randy Mitteness seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
      - Kovarik shared information on the Loren Boysen project and asked the board to authorize her to finalize the contract. Tom Talle made a motion to approve the contract for Loren Boysens WASCOP project to be encumbered from the Capacity or State Cost Share funding pools (\$). Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
      - Nygaard, Talle, Pederson, Reents, and Mitteness indicated interest in attending the Area II meeting in June. Kovarik will prepare their registrations.
    - Kelly Erickson, Conservation Technician
      - Sales Program Updates-14 tree plans to complete with 7 planted as of the board meeting. He has been getting calls on trees and we are out. He is working on grass seeding plans and drill rentals.
      - WCA-He is headed to two days of training this week. He has had several site visits this spring.
      - He has worked with West Central Irrigation for ordering the Ag Sense hardware. We have not heard anymore at this time.



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- He has the seed and fertilizer preordered for Rosholt. Jim Bailey will assist with the tillage we need to do.
- Kimberly DeMorett, Resource and Outreach Technician
  - She attended the Area Envirothon. There were 5-6 schools that participated in this event on April 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - Rosholt Spring Prep has happened, and they have been sampling for 2 weeks now. They have started analyzing and she has been cross training the new staff.
  - Stewardship materials were distributed to area churches.
  - We have begun planning for water fest.
- Nicole Brede, Habitat Resource Specialist-no report
- Jeff Hellerman, NRCS
  - He has been working on EQIP workload.
  - Melissa has been working on CRP workload.
  - Jeff shared a training in June that Kelly Erickson from our staff will assist with on the drills and seedings. The training is for new staff.
  - The Local Work group meeting will be held in June.
- Alexander Fellbaum, FSA CED

**10. Board Member Meeting Reports**

- Randy Pederson-North Fork Watershed IWIP meetings & staff update, Glacial Lakes Trail-The policy meeting will be on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Randy Mitteness-Chippewa River Watershed Board & staff update-There was no meeting last month. We will have a meeting this coming Friday.
- D. Gary Reents-Sauk River Watershed IWIP Committee meetings & staff update-There is a meeting coming up yet this month.

**11. Upcoming Meetings:**

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>
6-21-22	Pope SWCD Regular Board Meeting	USDA Service Center Building	7:00 a.m.

**12. FYI Items-None**

**13. Public Comment 8:00 a.m.**

-Keith Nygaard asked if anyone would like to address the board at this time. Earl Hauge attended the meeting and asked to address the board. Nygaard indicated that the board sets aside 15 minutes under public comment on our agenda for the public to address the board and then gave Mr. Hauge the floor to address the group. Mr. Hauge referenced his letter that he submitted to the board prior to the meeting. Most of his discussion was taken from that letter. He shared that he sees that the implementation of WCA puts the authority in the hands of the



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local committee and to find a reasonable solution. He stated that he believes that the law is what the County Committee says it is. This is as he sees the law. He stated he believes his point of view is the right one. He stated he sees that the Pope SWCD Board is committed to following the law. Then he stated, "what is the law?" He followed that by saying the law is what Pope SWCD says it is.

Reents shared that the #1 thing is to avoid wetlands if possible. Kovarik shared first you avoid. If you cannot avoid impacts to a wetland you minimize the impact. Lastly you can mitigate or pay to offset the impacts created through buying wetland credits. Mr. Hauge shared that he already understood this.

Mr. Hauge stated landowner rights were taken away from wetland owners with this law. There was some concurrence on this statement that when this law was passed it made it so you could not just go in and impact wetlands. Kovarik shared that this law happened because we have lost so many of the wetlands in our state since the 1800's. Wetlands are an important resource that now has some protections. D. Gary Reents stated there are other things you cannot do because there are laws in place that provide protections. You cannot kill was one example given there are laws in place that if you do this it would be a violation of the law. You would go to jail. Randy Pederson shared that there are processes in place to work with the law and these have been explained to Mr. Hauge. While you may not be able to do anything you want in the wetland there is a way to minimize or mitigate impacts and processes have been laid out to landowners in those situations.

Nygaard stated that we have used all the public comment time. Mr. Hauge shared that he knows he cannot go into any wetland and change it unless he has worked through the Wetland Conservation Act with staff in our office.

Mr. Hauge was displeased with his amount of time to address the board. Nygaard shared that the board has heard from Mr. Hauge many times on this topic. Mr. Hauge had an outburst of inappropriate behavior and stated do we need to sue the SWCD? Randy Mitteness stated that the board has heard nothing new to change their minds. He also stated we are already in litigation with Mr. Hauge and that at this time there is nothing further that the SWCD Board can do regarding this matter. Mr. Hauge stated he held no hard feelings toward the board and left the meeting.

14. **Poster Contest Judging:** Tom Talle made a motion and Randy Mitteness seconded the motion to select the following Poster contest winners and approved sending our overall winner to Long Lake Conservation Camp. BBE Winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Eliana Funes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ashlyn Speddrich, 3<sup>rd</sup> Harper Buckentine, Glacial Hills Winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Josiah Arevala, 2<sup>nd</sup> Decklin Johnson, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mason Swenson, MAHS Winners 1<sup>st</sup> Maia Larson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mia Troen, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Aubrey Polzin Overall Winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Maia Larson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mia Troen, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Aubrey Polzin The motion passed with all in favor.
15. Alexander Fellbaum-Alex provided a quick report. They are working on documentation of the recent storm and damage. The CRP signup is going on right now. They are gearing up for acreage reporting.
16. Adjourn-Randy Mitteness made the motion to adjourn, and Tom Talle seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman Nygaard.



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*Kerry Ayers*

*6-21-22*

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*Randy Pederson*

*6-21-22*

