



PENNINGTON SWCD BOARD MEETING
(Held at the American Legion
and Via Zoom Video Conferencing
Due to Covid-19)
March 18, 2021
10:00 A.M.

Supervisors Present:

Ricky Peterson, Chair
Linda Hanson, Vice-Chair
Greg Hilgeman, Treasurer
ADawn Nelson, Secretary

Staff Present:

Peter Nelson, District Manager
Barb Molskness, District Coordinator
Bryanna Grefthen, Water Resource Specialist
Matthew Sorvig, Resource Technician
Donna Christianson, Outreach Coordinator
Jill Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

Guest Present:

Bryan Malone, Becker SWCD District Administrator
Luther Newton, District Conservationist - CST Leader

Absent:

Brenda Szymanski, Chair
Nico Bennett, NRCS

The meeting was held at the American Legion and via Zoom Video Conferencing. Ricky Peterson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

Ricky completed a roll call of all supervisors and staff and asked if there were any visitors joining the meeting. All supervisors present, except for Brenda Szymanski. All staff present except for Nico Bennett. Guests present, Bryan Malone and Luther Newton.

Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn to approve the revised agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

March 18, 2021 Minutes

Linda made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve the February 18, 2021, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Barb reviewed the February 2021 Financial Report. **Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn to approve the February 2021 Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.**

Linda made a motion, seconded by ADawn to approve payment for the following bills:

Marco Technologies	\$ 39.85
Sjoberg's	\$ 66.95
Steve Johnson	\$ 5,500.00
Chase Card Service	\$ 1,448.95
TRF Times	\$ 205.00
Verizon	\$ 55.16
Becker SWCD	\$ 719.29
MN IT Services	\$ 63.90

All in favor, motion carried.

Barb reviewed the 2021 billing rates with the Board. **Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn to approve the 2021 billing rates retroactive to January 1, 2021. All in favor, motion carried.**

Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to pay the MACFO Dues of \$125.00. All in favor, motion carried.

Bryanna talked about the different promotional options available this year to get the word out about AIS. After some discussion, the Board decided not to renew the Highway 32 billboard. More information about the brown metal AIS signs placed near boat landings was requested. **ADawn made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve payment for the following AIS purchases:**

2021 Linder's Angling Buzz	\$ 500.00
NCOR Guide Service	\$ 2,000.00
Printing Plus License Holders	\$ 1,621.00

All in favor, motion carried.

Peter contacted Scott Mostrom and Kevin Wilde about taking Brenda Szymanski's place as supervisor from District III. Both gentlemen were interested in the position. After some discussion, **Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn to appoint Kevin Wilde as the new Pennington SWCD supervisor for District III. All in favor, motion carried.**

March 18, 2021 Minutes

Greg asked about ordering District clothing again this year as we have two new supervisors and one new employee. Donna will contact Universal Screenprint to get some catalogs and examples of available clothing items.

Due to COVID-19 concerns expressed in an NRCS National Directive, staffing levels had to be reduced to 25%. Only 2 staff members and 1 NRCS member will be allowed in the office at one time. The balance of the staff will be working from home.

Linda made a motion, seconded by ADawn to purchase program inserts from Quick Print for the area churches to dispense during Stewardship Week. All in favor, motion carried.

Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn to request the use of FY2021 Conservation Cost Share Grant funds in the amount of \$11,038.00 for technical assistance (staff salaries) instead of practices. Technical assistance will be provided for developing grazing plans; survey, design, and construction inspection of SWI's; and tree plantings eligible for EQIP. All in favor, motion carried.

ADawn made a motion, seconded by Linda to accept the MDA Grant Agreement in the amount of \$5,000.00 to finish the noxious weed inventory for the county. All in favor, motion carried.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda authorizing Peter to sign the MDA Grant Agreement. All in favor, motion carried.

The Cooperative Weed Management Area Memorandum of Understanding has been completed. The document will be sent to the County Attorney for review and then presented to the County Board.

The 2019 Clean Water Fund Grant for the three Thief River Falls Streambank Stabilization Projects (Hartz Park, Greenwood, and Wenzlaff) is due to expire 12/31/21. Peter will be requesting a grant extension to December 31, 2022. The RRVCSA Engineer has started engineering work on two of the projects but doesn't have time to finish within the grant period. Houston Engineering Inc. submitted a proposal in the amount of \$69,375.00 for engineering services to complete the work. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to accept the proposal of \$69,375.00 from Houston Engineering. All in favor, motion carried.**

March 18, 2021 Minutes

The northern part of the Technical Service Area (TSA) is researching the possibility of hiring an engineer and a technician as District employees. Pennington SWCD would be the host District. Peter is working with four of the northern counties on a budget and options for equipment. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to keep pursuing the shared engineer and technician positions. All in favor, motion carried.**

Nine applications were received and have been ranked for the District Technician position. **ADawn made a motion, seconded by Linda to schedule interview dates. All in favor, motion carried.**

Employee reports were reviewed.

Luther Newton reviewed the NRCS report with the Board.

Peter reported the cost of the new pickup will increase by \$200.00 because of the added accessories and color option.

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, April 15th, at 10 a.m. Venue to be determined.

Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

ADawn Nelson, Secretary