



PENNINGTON SWCD BOARD MEETING
(Held Via Zoom Video Conferencing
Due to Covid-19 and Governor's
Peacetime Emergency Stay Safe Order)
July 21, 2020
9 A.M.

Supervisors Present:

Ricky Peterson, Vice-Chair
Greg Hilgeman, Treasurer
Linda Hanson, Secretary
Grant Nelson, PR&I

Staff Present:

Bryan Malone, District Manager
Barb Molskness, District Coordinator
Peter Nelson, Water Plan Coordinator
Matthew Sorvig, Resource Technician
Donna Christianson, Outreach Coordinator
Jill Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist
Nico Bennett, NRCS

Absent:

Brenda Szymanski, Chair
Bryanna Grefthen, District Technician

The meeting was held via Zoom Video Conferencing and called to order at 9:14 a.m. by Ricky Peterson, Vice-Chair.

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 and Grant Nelson, who joined the video conference a few minutes late. All staff present, except for Bryanna Grefthen. No visitors present.

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

Linda made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve the June 16, 2020, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

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Barb reviewed the June 2020 Financial Report. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve the June 2020 Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.**

Grant joined the video conference at 9:38 a.m.

Linda made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve payment of the following bills:

Chase Card Service	\$ 922.82
RMB Lab	\$ 1,026.00
Marco	\$ 38.41
Verizon	\$ 50.16
MN IT Services	\$ 57.48
MN Volunteer	\$ 50.00

All in favor, motion carried.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve the following percent-based State Cost-share application for well decommissioning:

FY18-03	Gary Holmgren	\$250.00
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All in favor, motion carried.

Linda made a motion, seconded by Greg to pay the following flat rate Buffer Cost-share payments:

BFY18-15	Gerald Zblewski	\$200.00
BFY18-88	Lanette Osbjornson	\$800.00
BFY18-81	Ryan Brang	\$200.00
BFY18-13	Tom Wold	\$400.00

All in favor, motion carried.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve the project bid of \$940.00 from Paul Reiersen with verification that the bid includes all the dirt, leveling, and seeding work required to complete the John Zins Project. All in favor, motion carried.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve the following SSTS Upgrade Grant application:

FY18-003	Wayne and Dian Johnson	\$ 9,342.17
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All in favor, motion carried.

Linda made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve the following SSTS Upgrade Grant application:

FY20-01	Corey and Elizabeth Larson	\$ 10,341.10
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All in favor, motion carried.

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The District's lease expires the end of July. A new lease with DNT Holdings LLC running from 8/1/20 until 7/31/21 at a cost of \$685.29/month has been drafted and is ready for signature. **Motion by Linda, seconded by Greg to sign the new office space lease. All in favor, motion carried.**

A well water testing clinic is being scheduled for the end of August. Sample bottles will be available from August 24th - 26th with water sample collection and drop off scheduled for August 27th before 4:30 p.m. The cost for testing is \$25.00. Curbside protocol will be drafted for bottle pick-up and drop-off. **Motion by Greg, seconded by Linda to charge \$12.00 for the test with the District cost-sharing the remaining \$13.00. All in favor, motion carried.**

A Pennington County resident asked about buying a rain gauge from the District. Currently we do not sell rain gauges. After some discussion about purchasing a few rain gauges that could either be sold or used as prizes at events and reviewing some pricing information, the Board decided to table the conversation until next spring.

This year Numedal, Sanders, Bray, Black River, and Polk Center township officials were asked to submit names of candidates for the Rural Beautification Award. Only one couple from the names submitted was interested in participating, Randy and Jennifer Knott from Sanders Township. Staff will be viewing their property on July 28th. It was noted that interest in this event has been dwindling over the past few years. An idea to get more folks to participate by changing the boundary areas from 5 down to 3 was suggested. More discussion will be needed on this in the future.

The following resolutions were reviewed:

Discussion took place regarding the "Sustainable Grazing Incentive Act" resolution submitted by Becker SWCD asking for an annual incentive to keep areas in grass. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda approving the "Sustainable Grazing Incentive Act" resolution. All in favor, motion carried.** The approved resolution will be sent to Paul Krabbenhoft.

Discussion took place regarding the "Leveraging NRCS Federal Program Funding to Implement 1W1Ps, Not Supplanting them with State Watershed Implementation Funds" resolution submitted by East Ottertail SWCD asking MASWCD and BWSR to work with NRCS to streamline the NRCS process as a way to obtain the maximum amount of federal funding available instead of using state funding for similar practices/projects identified in the 1W1Ps. **Linda made a motion, seconded by Grant to approve the "Leveraging NRCS Federal Program Funding to Implement 1W1Ps, Not Supplanting them with State Watershed Implementation Funds" resolution. All in favor, motion carried.** The approved resolution will be sent to Paul Krabbenhoft.

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Discussion took place regarding the “Maintaining or Restoring Co-mingling of NRCS and SWCD Staff Within Field Offices” by Grant SWCD asking to keep NRCS and SWCD staff co-located thus providing the best customer service to landowners available. **Motion by Greg, seconded by Linda to approve the “Maintaining or Restoring Commingling of NRCS and SWCD Staff Within Field Offices” resolution. All in favor, motion carried.** The approved resolution will be sent to Paul Krabbenhoft.

Discussion took place regarding the “Pollinator Habitat on Public Land” resolution submitted by Clay SWCD, which encourages other government agencies to install pollinator habitat on their property. **Grant made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve the “Pollinator Habitat on Public Land” resolution. All in favor, motion carried.** The approved resolution will be sent to Paul Krabbenhoft.

The Farm Bill Technician position is funded through an agreement with Pheasants Forever (PF). PF contributes 45% of the funding, another 45% comes from a PF contribution agreement with NRCS, and the remaining 10% comes from local match. Local match requirement is \$6,500. That amount is split between Marshall SWCD, West Polk SWCD, and Pennington SWCD. **Motion by Grant, seconded by Linda to renew the Local Partners Agreement with Pheasants Forever starting July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. All in favor, motion carried.**

Several different draft nondiscrimination statements were written and approved by the County Attorney prior to presenting them to the Board for review. **Linda made a motion, seconded by Grant to adopt the following proclamation as the Pennington SWCD Nondiscrimination Statement: “The Pennington SWCD does not and shall not discriminate in any of its activities or operations. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for anyone participating in our programs.” All in favor, motion carried.**

Donna provided a little history about the Media Practices Policy. She also stated the County Attorney had approved the draft document prior to presenting it to the Board for their review. She then discussed the contents of the document with them. **Grant made a motion, seconded by Linda to adopt the Pennington SWCD Media Practices Policy. All in favor, motion carried.**

Bryan informed the Board that the tablet that was purchased for use on the culvert inventory did not work as it didn’t have data access capabilities. It has been returned. A new tablet with data accessibility along with a keyboard, stylus, and case has been ordered. Total for the new tablet with accessories is \$1,050.00. **Grant made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve the purchase of the new tablet, keyboard, stylus, and case in the amount of \$1,050.00. All in favor, motion carried.**

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Bryan presented the Board with the estimate for four laptop mobile computer stations that are GIS compatible. Total for the four stations came to \$7,939.28. The purchase will allow the entire staff the ability to work together through one SWCD network and the flexibility for computer use whenever and wherever needed. The District will keep the current USDA computer seats for now. **Grant made a motion, seconded by Linda approving the purchase of four laptop mobile computer stations in the amount of \$7,939.28. All in favor, motion carried.**

Employee reports were reviewed.

NRCS report was reviewed.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 18, at 9 a.m. Venue to be determined.

Grant made a motion, seconded by Linda to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Linda Hanson, Secretary