



PENNINGTON SWCD BOARD MEETING
(Held Via Zoom Video Conferencing
Due to Covid-19 and Governor's
Peacetime Emergency Stay Safe Order)
May 27, 2020
9 A.M.

Supervisors Present:

Brenda Szymanski, Chair
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
Donna Christianson, Outreach Coordinator
Bryanna Grefthen, District Technician
Matthew Sorvig, Resource Technician
Jill Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist
Nico Bennett, NRCS

The meeting was held via Zoom Video Conferencing and called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Brenda Szymanski, Chair.

Brenda completed a roll call of all supervisors and staff and asked if there were any visitors joining the meeting. All supervisors, except for Grant who would be joining the meeting shortly, and staff present. No visitors present.

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

Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky to approve the April 21, 2020, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

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

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

Roseau SWCD	\$	900.00
Roseau SWCD	\$	240.25
Bailey Nursery	\$	1,051.00
TRF Times/Watch	\$	102.00
Chase Card Service	\$	198.60
Alpha Nurseries	\$	220.00
Schumacher's Nursery	\$	9,542.25
TRF Radio	\$	73.00
Verizon	\$	50.16
Office of MN IT Services	\$	57.48
MARCO	\$	24.06
East Polk SWCD	\$	50.50
NEC Cloud Communications	\$	66.28
Wade Joppru	\$	300.00
April Ballard	\$	250.00

All in favor, motion carried.

The CD that matured in May ending in #5743 at Northern State Bank was renewed for 12 months at 1%.

Rates were reviewed for the maturing CD at Border State Bank. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky to renew the CD ending in #3595 as a flex CD (the current rate can be changed once during the term for a better rate) for 24 months at 0.75%. All in favor, motion carried.**

Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky to approve the following percent-based State cost-share application for decommissioning two wells:

FY16-02 Tim McCorkle \$500.00

All in favor, motion carried.

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

FY16-03 Evadell Tangquist \$250.00

All in favor, motion carried.

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Ricky made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve the following percent-based State cost-share application for well sealing:

FY16-04 George Feragen \$250.00

All in favor, motion carried.

Linda made a motion, seconded by Greg to cancel the following percent-based Buffer cost-share contract:

BFY18-35 Harlow Johnson

All in favor, motion carried.

Ricky made a motion, seconded by Greg to make a partial payment on the following percent-based Clean Water Fund (CD96-21-16) cost-share contract for the installation of 11 SWI's:

CWF16-01 Pennington County \$26,702.93

All in favor, motion carried.

Bryan explained the Erosion Control & Water Management Program Policy has an option to utilize Conservation Cost-Share (CCS) allocations for technical assistance instead of practices (with Board Conservationist approval), when requested within the first year of funding, if:

1. Other non-state funds will be leveraged and the SWCD couldn't do the project otherwise; or
2. Funds are used on a project that is CCS Program or EQIP eligible and their most recent financial report indicates less than an 18-month fund balance.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to request the use of FY2020 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.

Grant joined the video conference at 9:30 a.m.

Barb stated the SWCD Annual Banquet and awards presentation had to be canceled this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the 2019 Rural Beautification winners, the 2019 Outstanding Conservationists, and the 2020 Poster Contest winners have not been honored for their accomplishments. Barb brought forth the idea of presenting the awards to these winners during the 2021 Annual Banquet next year. The Board felt this was a good option.

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Donna informed the Board she had been working on coordinating a summer project tour for this year. However, because of the uncertainty of the COVID-19 outbreak, she recommended canceling the tour for this year and rescheduling in 2021. The Board agreed.

Linda made a motion, seconded by Grant to approve Bryan Malone's Ecological Sciences Job Approval Authority. All in favor, motion carried.

Bryanna asked the Board about their preference for the wrap on the North Country Outdoors Radio (NCOR) Jeep. The proposed wrap by NCOR had a bobber on it and the logo on the hood of the vehicle or we could use the billboard photo from Hwy 32 and put the logo on the spare tire as the billboard sign has our logo on it. After a bit of discussion, the Board decided to go with the NCOR proposal and putting the SWCD logo on the hood of the car. Bryanna will inform Curt Quesnell of the decision.

Bryan explained the resolution process will begin shortly. Any changes that the Board would like to see made should be incorporated into a resolution for the June Board Meeting. District resolutions will be submitted to Paul Krabbenhoft by July 1st. He will compile the list and send it out to the Districts to vote on in July. Results need to be returned to him by August 1st. The Board would like to see State cost-share money available for use on farmstead windbreak practices. Bryan and Barb will work on preparing the resolution for the next meeting.

The Thief River Falls Area Food Shelf requested a donation of 200 feet of weed barrier fabric for a tree planting in the community garden. Bryan informed the Board a bunch of 20-foot scrap pieces that were not being used were given to the Food Shelf for this project. The Board supported the donation.

A draft resolution supporting the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed 1W1P project was presented to the Board for review. **Grant made a motion, seconded by Ricky to sign the Pennington SWCD Resolution after amending the last paragraph to read, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pennington SWCD supports an application to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for a planning grant to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan and supports participation on the advisory committee to collaborate with stakeholders on this effort, pending selection as a recipient of a planning grant." All in favor, motion carried.**

Ricky Peterson, Vice-Chair, took over the meeting at this time as Brenda had to leave.

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Employee reports were reviewed.

NRCS report was reviewed.

Barb reminded the Board there are three supervisor positions up for election this year. Anyone interested in running for supervisor of the Pennington Soil and Water Conservation District must file with the County Auditor's office by June 2nd.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16th, at 9 a.m. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the June meeting could also be a Zoom Video Conference meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Linda Hanson, Secretary