



PENNINGTON SWCD BOARD MEETING
(Held at the American Legion
and Via Zoom Video Conferencing
Due to Covid-19)
May 20, 2021
9:00 A.M.

Supervisors Present:

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

Staff Present:

Peter Nelson, District Manager
Barb Molskness, District Coordinator
Larissa Fitzgerald, District Technician
Matthew Sorvig, Resource Technician
Donna Christianson, Outreach Coordinator
Jill Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist
Nico Bennett, NRCS
Patrice Delany, Conservation Corps Apprentice

Absent:

Bryanna Grefthen, Water Resource Specialist

The meeting was held at the American Legion and via Zoom Video Conferencing. Ricky Peterson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:12 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. All staff present except for Bryanna Grefthen and Jill Fejszes who joined the meeting late. No guests present.

Introductions were made. The Board welcomed our new District Technician, Larissa Fitzgerald, and Conservation Corps Apprentice, Patrice Delany.

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

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Linda made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the April 15, 2021, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Barb reviewed the April 2021 Financial Report and reported the matured CD was renewed at a rate of .70%. **ADawn made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve the April 2021 Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.**

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

Sjoberg's	\$ 66.95
Marco Technologies	\$ 31.84
Quick Print	\$ 228.00
Speeds	\$ 284.24
Becker SWCD	\$ 27.60
East Polk SWCD	\$ 40.50
Marshall SWCD	\$ 52.50
Chase Card Service	\$ 807.09
Verizon	\$ 50.16
Becker SWCD	\$ 65.39
Schumacher's Nursery	\$12,714.75
North Dakota Forest Service	\$ 192.00
Roseau SWCD	\$ 1,032.00
Houston Engineering	\$11,132.38
ODC	\$ 707.40
Innovative Office Solutions	\$ 25.97
MN IT Services	\$ 67.36
Agassiz Seed	\$ 2,325.00

All in favor, motion carried.

Linda made a motion, seconded by ADawn authorizing the District Manager to sign an amendment extending the expiration date on the FY19 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Program for the Thief River Falls Streambank Stabilization Projects (#C19-1500) from 12/31/21 to 12/31/22. All in favor, motion carried.

A proposal for County Ditch 96 slope repair for a 0.5-mile section west of Minnesota State Highway 32 was received from HDR Engineering. The proposal includes project management, survey and planning, field coordination, geotechnical analysis, and construction plans. The total cost of services came to \$30,862.00. This amount does not include the cost of soil borings, well installation, lab testing, well monitoring, and construction inspection which will be conducted by the Pennington County Highway Department. Initial estimate for that work is \$14,000.00. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve HDR's proposal in the amount of \$30,862.00 noting another estimated \$14,000.00 for soil borings, well installation, lab testing, well monitoring,**

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and construction inspection by the Pennington County Highway Department is not included in this proposal. All in favor, motion carried.

After updates on the Clearwater One Watershed One Plan, **Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn to appoint Joel Stolaas and Kelly Lundeen to the Clearwater One Watershed One Plan Advisory Committee. All in favor, motion carried.**

Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn to resubmit the following Pennington SWCD resolutions to Randy Schellack before the NW Area 1 SWCD Summer Meeting on June 15th:

“Increased State Cost-share for Unused Well Sealing” is a Pennington SWCD and Red Lake County SWCD joint resolution requesting a change to the BWSR Erosion Control and Management Program (State Cost Share) policy, allowing 75% cost-sharing for unused well sealing.

“State Cost-share for Septic System Replacement” is a Pennington SWCD and Red Lake County SWCD joint resolution requesting a change to the BWSR Erosion Control and Water Management Program (State Cost Share) policy, allowing up to 75% cost-sharing for septic system replacements.

All in favor, motion carried.

ADawn proposed a resolution to replace contaminated old wells. A draft resolution will be prepared and presented to the Board. Once approved, it will be sent to Randy Schellack by the June deadline.

Barb talked about planning a summer SWCD event that would include honoring our award winners from the last two years. She will check to see if we can find a venue, caterer, and live music now that COVID restrictions are being lifted. The event would be planned for the end of June for approximately 100 people.

Linda made a motion, seconded by ADawn approving the Pennington County Fair contract and authorizing Donna to sign the ST-19 Operator Certificate of Compliance form. All in favor, motion carried.

Samples of clothing that could be embroidered with the district’s logo were shown to the Board. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to purchase up to two articles of clothing for supervisors and staff imprinted with the district’s logo. All in favor, motion carried.**

ADawn made a motion, seconded by Greg to purchase a four-drawer lateral file cabinet of \$1,000.00 or less for the office. All in favor, motion carried.

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The TSA Executive Committee met and discussed ways to increase engineering capacity for the area. Housing an engineer in either Detroit Lakes or Moorhead could increase the chances of filling the position.

Five potential TSA reorganizational budgets were reviewed with the Board:

1. GIS staff, no techs or engineer, no dues, funds dispersed
2. Three staff, engineer at 15% and contracted engineer, dues paid to RRVCSA
3. Three staff, contracted engineer only, in-kind match
4. GIS staff, no techs or engineer, dues paid to RRVCSA, funds dispersed
5. Four staff with engineer, dues paid to RRVCSA

Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn endorsing TSA reorganizational budget #5 (four staff with engineer, dues paid to RRVCSA) as Pennington SWCD's formal recommendation. All in favor, motion carried.

Donna showed a tree planting video she had created with clips taken of staff planting trees. The goal is to produce educational videos and attract more people to our Facebook page, website, and outreach events through the incorporation of videos.

Employee reports were reviewed.

NRCS report was reviewed.

The local workgroup summarized and ranked resource concerns for the county. It will now be submitted to NRCS.

Correspondence reviewed:

- Brenda Szymanski's resignation letter as Supervisor of District III.
- The NW Area 1 SWCD Summer Meeting will be held on June 15th, from 9 a.m. – 2:15 p.m., at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen.

A Board picture was taken.

The next Board meeting will be held at the American Legion on Thursday, June 17th, at 9 a.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

ADawn Nelson, Secretary