



**PENNINGTON SWCD BOARD MEETING**  
**(Held Via Zoom Video Conferencing**  
**Due to Covid-19 and Governor's**  
**Peacetime Emergency Stay Safe Order)**  
**June 16, 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  
Jill Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist  
Nico Bennett, NRCS

**Absent:**

Matthew Sorvig, Resource Technician

The meeting was held via Zoom Video Conferencing and called to order at 9:20 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 present, except for Grant, who joined the video conference a few minutes late. All staff present, except for Matthew Sorvig and Jill Fejszes (who accessed the video conference later in the meeting). No visitors present.

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

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**Greg made a motion, seconded by Ricky to approve the May 27, 2020, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

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

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

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

<b>Chase Card Service</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,210.36</b>
<b>RMB Lab</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,011.00</b>
<b>Innovative Office</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>27.71</b>
<b>TRF Times</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,972.19</b>
<b>Verizon</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>50.16</b>
<b>ODC</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>589.00</b>

**All in favor, motion carried.**

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

<b>FY18-01</b>	<b>Tom Race</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
<b>FY18-02</b>	<b>Johnson's Riverside, Inc.</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Ricky made a motion, seconded by Grant to pay the following percent-based State Cost-share applications for well sealing:**

<b>FY16-02</b>	<b>Tim McCorkle</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>FY16-03</b>	<b>Evadell Tangquist</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
<b>FY16-04</b>	<b>George Feragen</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Grant made a motion, seconded by Linda to return the following expiring State Cost-share funds to BWSR:**

<b>FY16</b>	<b>\$3,554.44</b>
<b>FY17</b>	<b>\$5,430.40</b>

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Grant to pay the following flat rate Buffer Cost-share payment:**

<b>BFY18-86</b>	<b>Kyle Arveson</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
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**All in favor, motion carried.**

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**Linda made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve the following flat rate Buffer Cost-share contract:**

**BFY18-88 Lanette Osbjornson \$800.00**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Grant made a motion, seconded by Ricky authorizing Bryan to sign the 2021 DNR Groundwater Monitoring Agreement effective July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, not to exceed \$1,680.00. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Grant made a motion, seconded by Linda authorizing Bryan to sign the 2020 DNR SWCD Observation Well Program Payment Invoice for completed observation well monitoring during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, in the amount of \$1,680.00. All in favor, motion carried.**

The following resolutions were reviewed:

“State Cost-share for Farmstead Windbreak and Living Snowfence Establishment” 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 75% cost-sharing on farmstead windbreaks and living snowfence establishment. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda approving the “State Cost-share for Farmstead Windbreak and Living Snowfence Establishment” resolution. All in favor, motion carried.** The approved resolution will be sent to Paul Krabbenhoft by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

“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. **Linda made a motion, seconded by Ricky approving the “Increased State Cost-share for Unused Well Sealing” resolution. All in favor, motion carried.** The approved resolution will be sent to Paul Krabbenhoft by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

“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. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Grant approving the “State Cost-share for Septic System Replacement” resolution. All in favor, motion carried.** The approved resolution will be sent to Paul Krabbenhoft by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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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. The Board felt a clearer conceptual image was warranted. The resolution was tabled pending a request for modification.

Discussion took place regarding the “Pollinator Habitat on Public Land” resolution submitted by Clay SWCD. The Board perceived the language as a bit vague. The resolution was tabled pending a modification request.

“Supervisor Per Diem” is a Clay SWCD resolution asking for legislation to allow SWCD boards to set supervisor per diem rates to a maximum of \$125.00. **Grant made a motion, seconded by Greg approving the “Supervisor Per Diem” resolution. All in favor, motion carried.** The approved resolution will be sent to Paul Krabbenhoft.

Jill joined the video conference at 10:20 a.m.

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

Bryan reviewed the conservation accomplishments of eleven cooperators chosen as nominees for this year’s Outstanding Conservationist Award from the townships of Reiner, Star, Hickory, Goodridge, Highland, Deer Park, and Kratka. After some discussion, **Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to contact Joel Stolaas to accept the 2020 Outstanding Conservationist Award. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Grant made a motion, seconded by Linda approving the purchase of a tablet for use on the culvert inventory in the amount of \$638.36. All in favor, motion carried.**

Bryan talked about purchasing 3-4 laptop computers for the staff. This would 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 would also need to keep one or two USDA computer seats for NRCS projects. Bryan will compile more information regarding number of computers, staff needs, etc., and prepare a cost estimate for the next Board meeting.

Employee reports were reviewed.

NRCS report was reviewed.

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The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, at 9 a.m. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the July meeting could also be a Zoom Video Conference meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

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Linda Hanson, Secretary