



**PENNINGTON SWCD BOARD MEETING
(Held Via Zoom Video Conferencing
Due to Covid-19 and Governor's
Peacetime Emergency Stay-At Home Order)
April 21, 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 9:04 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 and staff present, no visitors present.

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

Linda made a motion, seconded by Ricky to approve the March 19, 2020, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

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

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

Pennington County	\$	508.61
Verizon	\$	50.16
Chase	\$	130.48
MN IT Services	\$	78.01
Marco	\$	56.10
School Specialty	\$	128.09

All in favor, motion carried.

Barb reported the CD ending in #5743 at Northern State Bank is maturing May 12th. Greg will advise Barb and Bryan with the reinvesting options.

Peter stated the Thief River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan has now been approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and adopted by Pennington County. **Grant made a motion, seconded by Greg to adopt and implement the Thief River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. All in favor, motion carried.**

Peter explained local units of government within the Clearwater River Watershed are proposing to move into the planning stage of the 1W1P. The Clearwater SWCD is taking the lead for the application to BWSR and development of the plan. Each LGU that would like to participate is asked to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for the Clearwater River Planning Partnership and appoint a member to serve on the Policy Committee. Greg volunteered to serve as Pennington SWCD's Policy Committee member. There was a call for an alternate. Hearing no other volunteers, that request was deferred. **Linda made a motion, seconded by Ricky to approve the Clearwater MOA with Greg as the representative from the SWCD. All in favor, motion carried.**

Bryan received a call from a landowner asking if the District has a service to remove tree tubes and weed barrier fabric from their planting completed 7 years ago. Removal of fabric is needed so the trees don't become girdled. **Motion by Greg, seconded by Ricky to provide the service of removing the fabric from the planting at a cost of \$1.00 per tree but to keep track of the costs incurred so that the fee charged can be adjusted to a more accurate rate on future requests. All in favor, motion carried.**

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It is proposed by the Red Lake River Planning Work Group that producers be eligible for two different MAWQCP incentive payments funded through the Red Lake River watershed-based funding. Eligibility would require at least 10% of the land assessed located in priority areas identified in the Red Lake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Payments for the two incentives would be as follows:

- \$300 upon completion of a whole farm assessment.
- \$200 upon certification through MAWQCP.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve the MAWQCP Incentive Payment Policy. All in favor, motion carried.

Linda made a motion, seconded by Ricky to rent a booth at the 2020 Pennington County Fair. Total cost will be \$176.00. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Employee reports were reviewed.

Nico Bennett, NRCS, talked about the deadline dates for EQIP and CSP. He also reported there is an emergency animal mortality sign up through EQIP for folks that must euthanize stock due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Deadline date for the signup is May 1st.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Linda Hanson, Secretary