



PENNINGTON SWCD BOARD MEETING
(Held at the Red Lake Watershed District
Meeting Room and Via Zoom Video
Conferencing)
December 16, 2021
1:00 P.M.

Supervisors Present:

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

Staff Present:

Peter Nelson, District Manager
Barb Molskness, District Coordinator
Larissa Fitzgerald, District Technician
Bryanna Grefthen, Water Resource Specialist
Matthew Sorvig, Resource Technician
Donna Christianson, Outreach Coordinator
Jill Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist
Nico Bennett, NRCS (via Zoom)

Guests Present:

Representative Debra Kiel
Representative John Burkel

The meeting was held at the Red Lake Watershed District Meeting Room and via Zoom Video Conferencing. Ricky Peterson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m. Ricky completed a roll call of all supervisors and staff and asked if there were any visitors joining the meeting.

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

Linda made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve the November 18, 2021, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

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Barb reviewed the November 2021 Financial Report. **Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn to approve the November 2021 Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.**

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

Marco Technologies	\$ 69.85
Sjoberg's	\$ 66.95
Skalsky Electric, Inc	\$ 141.37
Myron Corporation	\$ 380.30
Chase Card Services	\$ 1,419.38
Verizon	\$ 65.24
Houston Engineering	\$ 4,147.00
MN IT Services	\$ 61.09
HDR Engineering	\$ 5,065.74
Frontier Precision	\$ 1,273.50

All in favor, motion carried.

ADawn made a motion, seconded by Greg to make a partial payment on the following percent-based CWF Thief River Grade Stabilization Cost-share contract for 3 SWI's: TRSWI_FY20-04 Joe Hruby \$ 6,731.40

All in favor, motion carried.

Visiting representatives, Debra Kiel and John Burkel, joined the meeting. Some of the topics discussed included:

- COVID and how it's affecting social interaction.
- Increased workload and growth of SWCD's due to Clean Water Funding.
- SWCD's partnering with other agencies through the 1W1P.
- There is a definite need for SSTS grants in Pennington County. BWSR and MPCA both have money available, but the rules and income guidelines are different for each.
- Capacity Funding and what it means to the districts.
- Buffer Law Compliance and the importance of continued funding.
- Cost share money is available for well sealing through the District.
- State Cost Share hasn't changed but the cost of projects has significantly increased. Because of this, other sources of funds are pursued.
- The problem we have in northwest Minnesota finding available engineers to sign off on sizable projects. Engineering firms are being utilized, increasing project cost tremendously.

The Board thanked the representatives for listening and sharing their thoughts with us.

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The Personnel Committee presented their 2022 wage recommendations to the Board.

ADawn made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendations of a 3% wage increase for the District Manager and District Coordinator; a \$1.00/hour wage increase for the Water Resource Specialist, District Technician, Resource Technician, and Outreach Coordinator; and a \$2.00/hour wage increase for the seasonal employee. All in favor, motion carried.

Linda made a motion seconded by ADawn to approve Bryanna Grefthen's Job Approval Authority to Job Class I for side inlet design and inventory & evaluation for net drop and Job Class II for side inlet design and inventory & evaluation for pipe diameter. All in favor, motion carried.

Highlights from the MASWCD State Convention were discussed. Peter, Bryanna, and Larissa attended the convention. Both of Pennington's resolutions were discussed but failed to make it through the voting process.

Plans for the 2022 Planning Meeting were finalized. The meeting will be held at the Red Lake Watershed District Meeting Room on February 3rd, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Rob Sip, Myron Jesme, and Matt Fischer will be our guest speakers. We will also be brainstorming ideas for the District's upcoming 75th anniversary in 2023. Barb will arrange lunch.

Starting in January of 2022, the Pennington SWCD will meet on the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Employee reports were reviewed.

NRCS report was reviewed.

The Board was reminded to recertify their Statement of Economic Interest in January of 2022.

The next Board meeting will be held on January 20th at 9:00 a.m. Venue to be determined.

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

ADawn Nelson, Secretary