



**PENNINGTON SWCD BOARD MEETING**  
**(Held at the Red Lake Watershed District**  
**Meeting Room and Via Zoom Video**  
**Conferencing)**  
**December 15, 2022**  
**9:00 A.M.**

**Supervisors Present:**

Ricky Peterson, Chair  
Linda Hanson, Vice Chair (via Zoom)  
ADawn Nelson, Secretary (via Zoom)  
Greg Hilgeman, Treasurer (via Zoom)  
Kevin Wilde, PR

**Staff Present:**

Peter Nelson, District Manager  
Barb Molskness, District Coordinator  
Larissa Fitzgerald, District Technician  
Bryanna Grefthen, Water Resource Specialist  
Erika Olson, Resource Technician (via Zoom)  
Donna Christianson, Outreach Coordinator  
Nico Bennett, NRCS

**Guest:**

Grant Nelson, Ag Services Coordinator  
Logan Handyside, TSA Engineer (via Zoom)  
Representative Debra Kiel (via Zoom)  
Representative John Burkel (via Zoom)

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 9:12 a.m. Ricky completed a roll call of all supervisors and staff and welcomed guests.

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

**Linda made a motion, seconded by ADawn to approve the November 17, 2022, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Barb reviewed the November 2022 Financial Report. Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the November 2022 Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.**

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

<b>Sjoberg's</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>66.95</b>
<b>Pennington County</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>92.00</b>
<b>Marco Technologies</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>88.82</b>
<b>Chase Card Services</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,088.10</b>
<b>Verizon</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>75.52</b>
<b>Lakes Country Service Coop</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>329.45</b>
<b>The Times</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>48.51</b>
<b>Innovative</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>50.21</b>
<b>Area 1 MASWCD</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>300.00</b>
<b>Peterson Company Ltd</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,150.00</b>
<b>Houston Engineering</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>440.00</b>
<b>Houston Engineering</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,704.00</b>

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**ADawn made a motion, seconded by Kevin to pay the following percent-based State Cost-Share contract for a well sealing:**

**FY22-05 \$350.00**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**ADawn made a motion, seconded by Linda to cancel the 2018 outstanding Buffer Cost-Share contracts. All in favor, motion carried.**

**ADawn made a motion, seconded by Kevin to return the expired 2018 Buffer Cost-Share grant funds (P18-6451) in the amount of \$14,313.89 to BWSR. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Linda made a motion, seconded by ADawn authorizing the District Manager to sign the FY2023 State of Minnesota BWSR Clean Water Fund SWCD Capacity Program (P23-2497) and Buffer Law Implementation Program (P23-2587) Grant Agreement totaling \$146,886.00. The grant agreement expires on December 31, 2025. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn approving the FY2023 State of Minnesota BWSR Soil Health Cost-Share Grants Agreement (P23-2718) totaling \$14,175.00. The grant agreement expires on December 31, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**

Larissa presented a revised SSTS Upgrade Grant Income Limits table for 2023 that meets the requirements for both the MPCA Upgrade and BWSR Grants. **Linda made a motion, seconded by ADawn approving the 2023 SWCD SSTS Upgrade Grant Income Limits. All in favor, motion carried.**

Representatives Debra Kiel and John Burkel joined the meeting. Some of the topics discussed included:

- Making sure proper land boundaries are observed using GPS.
- Taking care of our water resources for the area.
- The damage flooding caused and the limited recovery resources available to private landowners. No federal FEMA funding available.
- The recommendation to buy out four properties in the Hartz Park area just below the dam due to streambank failure.
- Local capacity funding currently coming from Clean Water Fund. Districts would like to see this funding come from the general fund, which would provide more stable funding for SWCDs.
- The huge benefit Watershed Based Implementation Funding has been to SWCDs to implement projects.
- How successful the AgBMP Program is, funding \$3 million in revolving loans for this area in 2022. The representatives were asked to support this program.
- Four septic systems were funded through the SSTS Upgrade Grants this past year. With system costs continuing to rise, this money is very much appreciated by the residents in the area.
- Pennington County is a delegated feedlot county so owners must register every four years with the MPCA. Registration numbers have been declining.

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

Peter stated the Executive Committee met with Jeff Haverland. The full RRVCSA Board met right after. Agreements for the north pod have been approved, except for Mahnomen's approval on the Agreement for Engineering Services and Jeff Haverland signing his initial offer of employment agreement. Mahnomen stated they weren't going to sign if Jeff didn't sign. Jeff said he wasn't going to sign the offer for initial employment. The RRVCSA Board set a deadline date of 12/16/22 for Jeff to sign his initial employment agreement. Jeff's termination date is 12/31/22 with the RRVCSA. Pennington's offer of employment also terminates on 12/31/22. The north pod agreed to

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move ahead with 8 districts if Mahnomen did not sign the agreement. **Greg made a motion, seconded by ADawn to proceed with the eight districts that have approved the north pod agreement if Mahnomen does not sign. If Mahnomen does sign, this motion is null and void. All in favor, motion carried.**

The Engineer and Engineering Technician job descriptions were reviewed. **Linda made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the Pennington Soil and Water Conservation District Engineer job description. All in favor, motion carried. ADawn made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the Pennington Soil and Water Conservation District Engineering Technician job description. All in favor, motion carried.**

The Personnel Committee presented their 2023 wage recommendation to the Board. **ADawn made a motion, seconded by Kevin to approve the Personnel Committee's wage increase recommendations as stated below:**

**District Manger - \$3.90**

**District Coordinator - \$1.44**

**Water Resource Specialist - \$2.00**

**District Technician - \$1.50**

**Resource Technician - \$1.00**

**Outreach Coordinator - \$1.50**

**Seasonal Technician - \$1.00**

**Engineering staff increases will be based on approved offer for initial employment. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Kevin made a motion, seconded by Linda to apply for a Clean Water Fund Grant to hire a conservation crew this summer to remove buckthorn on 17 acres of the Pennington County Sportmen's Club land. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Linda made a motion, seconded by Greg to sponsor two campers at a cost of \$495.00 each to attend the Long Lake Conservation Camp in July. All in favor, motion carried.**

**ADawn made a motion, seconded by Linda to sponsor a Science Museum water assembly at Challenger Elementary School a cost of \$671.00. All in favor, motion carried.**

Staff did not attend the MASWCD State Convention due to weather.

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Due to the unavailability of venues for February 9<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Meeting will now be held on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Red Lake Watershed District meeting room from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The 2023 Pennington SWCD Board Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. until August when the date/time could change.

Employee reports were reviewed.

NRCS report was reviewed.

Logan Handyside, TSA Engineer, reported on the projects the TSA Engineering Staff is currently working on.

Grant Nelson reported on his current activities.

Correspondence:

- An article about Bryan Malone chosen as the MASWCD Employee of the Year was shown.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, in the Red Lake Watershed District Meeting Room at 9:00 a.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

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ADawn Nelson, Secretary