



PENNINGTON SWCD BOARD MEETING
(Held at Pennington County Government Center
and Via Zoom Video Conferencing)

July 15, 2021

9:00 A.M.

Supervisors Present:

Ricky Peterson, Chair
Greg Hilgeman, Treasurer
Kevin Wilde, PR

Staff Present:

Peter Nelson, District Manager
Barb Molskness, District Coordinator
Matthew Sorvig, Resource Technician
Larissa Fitzgerald, District Technician
Bryanna Grefthen, Water Resource Specialist
Jill Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist
Nico Bennett, NRCS
Patrice Delaney, Conservation Corps Apprentice

Guest:

Matt Fischer, Board Conservationist, BWSR

Absent:

Linda Hanson, Vice-Chair
ADawn Nelson, Secretary
Donna Christianson, Outreach Coordinator

The meeting was held in Meeting Room A of the Pennington County Government Center and via Zoom Video Conferencing. Ricky Peterson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. Ricky completed a roll call of all supervisors and staff and asked if there were any visitors joining the meeting.

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

Kevin made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve the June 17, 2021, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

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

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

Sjoberg's	\$ 66.95
Marco Technologies	\$ 58.52
School Specialty	\$ 541.61
Westside Motors	\$ 6,712.02
Speed's	\$ 47.77
Stacy Hutchinson	\$ 19.94
Chase Card Service	\$ 1,999.53
Verizon	\$ 96.65
Barb Molskness	\$ 52.28
Westside Motors	\$ 2,451.33
Conservation Corps	\$ 2,200.00
Hall's Floral	\$ 64.00
HDR Engineering	\$ 1,816.08
RMB Labs	\$ 1,303.00

All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion took place regarding the new maximum SWCD per diem rate. The legislators approved the rate of \$125 per day, (up from \$75 per day) effective August 1, 2021, if approved by the SWCD. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to set the supervisor per diem rate at \$125 per day effective August 1, 2021. All in favor, motion carried.**

Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to renew the lease with DNT Holdings, LLC for the period August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022 at \$685.29 per month. All in favor, motion carried.

Bryanna reported on the Well Water Testing clinic to take place August 23-26. The cost is \$25 per sample, testing for Nitrates, E. coli, and Total Coliform Bacteria. The District has previously aided in the sample costs. **Kevin made a motion, seconded by Greg to charge \$10 per water sample with the district paying the remaining \$15 during the 2021 Well Water Testing Clinic. All in favor, motion carried.**

Barb gave an update of the 2021 Rural Beautification Award. We have received two nominations: Mike and Kami Spears from Rocksbury, and Danica and Bill Robson from Silverton. North and Numedal Townships chose not to nominate anyone. The selection will take place on July 28th.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to renew the \$6,500 Local Partners Agreement with Pheasants Forever starting July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022 splitting the cost between Pennington, West Polk, and Marshall SWCDs. All in favor, motion carried.

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Peter discussed the CD 96 Outlet MOA between the District and Pennington County to stabilize the outlet of County Ditch 96 west of State Hwy 32. The County is responsible for the local grant match. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Kevin to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between Pennington SWCD and Pennington County for the County Ditch 96 Outlet Phase 2 Stabilization Project. All in favor, motion carried.**

Kevin made a motion seconded by Greg to sign Peter's Job approval Authority for Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, Mulching, and Tree/Shrub Site Preparation and Tree/Shrub Establishment. All in favor, motion carried.

Matt Fischer:

- **Clean Water Grants**
 - August 17th application deadline
- **TSA**
 - They are moving forward with the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP).
 - Working with Bryan Malone and Doug Thomas
- **Supervisor Training**
 - Location sites were Thief River Falls and Fergus Falls.
 - Three Pennington SWCD supervisors attended the training in Thief River Falls and stated it was very beneficial.
- **Co-op Weed Management**
 - The Request for Proposal (RFP) will be coming out later this summer (August) to apply for next year's funding.
- **Legislative Update**
 - General fund grant appropriations such as District Program and Operations and NRBG grants remain the same.
 - New grants include money for soil health and cover crops, water storage and treatment and septic system improvements.

District employee reports were reviewed.

Pheasants Forever report was reviewed.

NRCS report was reviewed.

Announcements:

- The SWCD newsletter is being sent to cooperators this week. A copy was passed around for review.
- Greg had positive comments about the Summer Celebration.
- Peter reported on the Soil Health Field Day.
- Peter announced that Zach will be leaving the TSA and starting a job with NRCS.

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- Patrice showed her district logo draft and asked the board for input.

The next Board meeting will be held August 19th, 9 a.m. with location to be determined.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

ADawn Nelson, Secretary