

## **DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, December 12

8:30 A.M.

Conservation Building

912 Houston Street

Preston, MN 55965

### ***Minutes***

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Gossman, Brian Hazel, Bob Pickett, Kathy Tesmer, Travis Willford

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Laura Christensen, Sue Wiegrefe, Duane Bakke (County Commissioner)

Gossman called the meeting to order at 8:43 a.m. A quorum is present.

#### **I. AGENDA**

Motioned by Tesmer and seconded by Willford to approve the agenda. Affirmative: Tesmer, Pickett, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

#### **II. TREASURER'S REPORT**

**A.** Motioned by Pickett and seconded by Tesmer to re-approve the October Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. Affirmative: Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**B.** Motioned by Willford and seconded by Pickett to approve the November Treasurer's Report, subject to audit, with adjustment of \$87.82 to be made at a later date. Affirmative: Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

#### **III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motioned by Willford and seconded by Tesmer to approve the consent agenda, with item B removed for individual consideration:

**A.** Secretary's Report – November 22, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**B.** Secretary's Report – November 7, 2019 Special Board Meeting Minutes

**C.** Approve payment of State Cost Share contract FY17-02, Eric Kammer, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$6,000.00

**D.** Approve payment of Local Capacity contract LC17-07, Dan Hanson, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$8,166.76 (\$5,986.30 from Local Capacity FY2017 and \$2,180.46 from State Cost Share FY19)

**E.** Approve payment of Local Capacity contract LC18-01, Wayne Pfremmer, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$333.04

- F. Approve payment of State Cost Share contract FY19-02, Rob Wagner, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$8,603.00
- G. Approve payment of FY18-19 Root River 1W1P Watershed Based Implementation Funding contract RR1W1P 19-01, Gerald Peter, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$2,886.24
- H. Approve payment of FY18-19 Root River 1W1P Watershed Based Implementation Funding contract RR1W1P 19-04, Dan McKenna, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$3,757.34
- I. Approve payment of FY18-19 Root River 1W1P Watershed Based Implementation Funding contract RR1W1P 19-05, Pat Troendle, Grade Stabilization Structure, in the amount of \$2,818.66

Affirmative: Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

B. Approve Secretary's Report from November 7 Special Board Meeting.

Motioned by Willford and seconded by Tesmer to approve the Secretary's Report for November 7, 2019 Special Board Meeting with the following clarification to Item V.A.: *HSA contributions will be made in 52 essentially equal payments (except for annual adjustments).*

**IV. REPORTS**

A. Supervisor's activity reports

Willford – present for statement opening and check detail. Reported new form was an improvement

Hazel – attended special Board meeting

Gossman – attended special Board Meeting and Personnel Committee Meeting

Pickett – had nothing to report

Tesmer – Attended the RC&D meeting where the main discussion was whether the group would continue to exist. Question will be decided at beginning of coming year. Attended MASWCD Convention where the Fillmore SWCD-sponsored resolution on Nitrogen specifications passed. Also attended Personnel Committee Meeting.

B. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

C. Administrator's report

1. MASWCD Convention – further expounded on resolutions balloting. Only 3 resolutions came up for discussion and only the one - requesting a sales tax increase dedicated to soil and water conservation issues, failed to pass.

D. NRCS – No representative was present but a written report was provided

E. County – 6 resolutions were discussed at recent Association of Minnesota Counties Natural Resources Committee: 1) would change laws so counties could access 1W1P funds to pay for wetlands banking. 2) proposed change of wording in complex waiver of property taxes on designated wetlands including terminology of rebate to exempt status. 3) 4) resolve differences in high water mark determinations between DNR and other entities 5) proposed allowing county staff to carry and discharge firearms to eliminate nuisance animals (e.g. beavers destroying grade stabilization structures), and 6) (later withdrawn) proposal to require a deposit on recyclable beverage containers.

Bakke raised the topic of the open Feedlot Officer position as of May 2020.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Consider 2020 Fillmore SWCD Budget

Motioned by Tesmer and seconded by Pickett to approve the budget as presented at this time

A1 Consider COLA increase for the 2020 calendar year

Motioned by Hazel and seconded by Tesmer to approve a 2% Cost Of Living Allowance (COLA) in addition to the wage changes implemented as a result of the Compensation Study for the 2020 calendar year also effective January 1, 2020.

Voting on the entire motion. Affirmative: Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel, Gossman.  
Opposed: none. Motion carried.

B. Consider cancellation of State Cost Share Contract FY18-05 Todd Vagts, Grassed Waterways, in the amount of \$5,397.60 (\$1503.00 from FY18 and \$3894.60 from FY19)

Motioned by Willford and seconded by Hazel to approve the cancelation of State Cost Share Contract FY18-05 Todd Vagts, Grassed Waterways, in the amount of \$5,397.60.  
Affirmative: Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Consider COLA increase for the 2020 calendar year (See above V.A1)

B. Consider Fillmore SWCD Board meeting schedule for the 2020 calendar year

Motioned by Willford and seconded by Hazel to schedule the next regular meeting on Thursday, January 16 at 4:30 p.m. and a special planning meeting January 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Affirmative: Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Wiegrefe was tasked with bringing information on bill due dates to determine if accommodations would need to be made for timely bill payment if the Board were to meet the third Thursday of each month.

C. Consider amendment to the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District Operational Policy Handbook, Nutrient and Manure Management Assistance section

Proposed deletions indicated by throughstrike and amendments by italics in the following paragraph.

**Nutrient and Manure Management Assistance**

Technical Assistance is available to producers to develop and update Nutrient and Manure Management Plans which utilize livestock manure as a fertilizer source. Costs to develop and/or update existing Nutrient Management Plans will be determined by NRCS guidelines. Costs to develop a new Manure Management Plan will be charged at a rate of \$0.50/acre. Costs to update an existing Manure Management Plan will be charged at a rate of \$0.35/acre, ~~with priority given to producers with less than 300 animal units. A \$500.00 assistance payment is available from the County Feedlot Program to a livestock producer to complete a new nutrient management plan if they are not receiving financial assistance from a federal program.~~ The feedlot owner must provide a copy of:

- Soil tests;
- Manure tests;
- Current nutrient management plan, if available

*(added) Funds are limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis.*

Manure spreader calibrations are provided free of charge to the producer.

Motioned by Willford and seconded by Hazel to approve the proposed amendment to the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District Operational Policy Handbook, Nutrient and Manure Management Assistance section.

Affirmative: Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

D. Consider Annual Recognition Meal (see VI.D above)

E. Consider payment to collaborators for participation in the MDA Southeast Minnesota Nitrogen BMP Outreach Program plot trials

Bruce Dornink	\$800.00
Wayne DeWall	\$800.00
Richard Pagel	\$800.00
Chris Reiter	\$800.00

Motioned by Hazel and seconded by Willford to approve payment of the amounts stated to collaborators in the MDA Southeast Minnesota Nitrogen BMP Outreach Program plot trials. Affirmative: Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

F. Consider Contractual Agreement between Fillmore SWCD and Jess Stevens from December 23, 2019 to January 17, 2020, not to exceed 144 hours, in the amount of \$2,160.00

Motioned by Tesmer and seconded by Pickett to approve the contract between Fillmore SWCD and Jess Stevens from December 23, 2019 to January 17, 2020, not to exceed 144 hours, in the amount of \$2,160.00.

Affirmative: Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

G. Consider upgrade of water monitoring meter, not to exceed \$7,500.00

Motioned by Tesmer and seconded by Willford to approve the upgrading of the current water sampling equipment, not to exceed \$7,500.00, pending available funding.

Affirmative: Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

H. Consider approval of Contract between Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District and Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District for Wetland Conservation Act Technical Assistance, January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2019, not to exceed \$8,778.00 per year

Motioned by Willford and seconded by Hazel to approve a contract between Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District and Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District for Wetland Conservation Act Technical Assistance, January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2019, not to exceed \$8,778.00 per year.

Affirmative: Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

## **VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Motioned by Hazel and seconded by Willford to approve the December, 2019 payables.  
Affirmative: Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Wiegrefe asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on January 2.  
Pickett volunteered.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motioned by Willford and seconded by Tesmer to adjourn the meeting.  
Affirmative: Pickett, Tesmer, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Pickett

