

WEST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 20th, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 am by Chairman Cournia, at 528 Strander Ave, Crookston, MN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

{Motion #45-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by McWalter to approve the June 17th, 2024, agenda.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Supervisors Present: Chris Cournia, President
Derek Peterson, Vice Chairman
Eric McWalter, Secretary
John Sorenson, PR & I

District Employees Present: Nicole Bernd, District Manager
Aaron Habermehl, District Technician
Morgan Torkelson, District Technician

Others Present:

Absent: Christian Pester, Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

{Motion #46-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve the minutes with corrections from the regular board meeting held May 16th, 2024.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

FINANCIALS REPORT:

{Motion #47-2024} The May financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

TREASURER'S REPORT:

{Motion #48-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by McWalter to approve the May treasurer's report.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

COST SHARE REPORT:

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Area 1 Resolutions

Bernd requests approval for the FY24 BWSR Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Grant Agreement for the Sand Hill River WBIF 2024 in the amount of \$705,267.00.

{Motion #49-2024} Motion by McWalter and seconded by Peterson to approve the FY24 BWSR Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Grant Agreement.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Bernd requests approval for the Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota and West Polk SWCD for the Soil Health Field Day (Hwy 75 Tour) July 9, 2024. Expenses will be reimbursed by the State, not to exceed, \$11,591.00

{Motion #50-2024} Motion by Sorenson and seconded by Peterson to approve the Joint Powers Agreement.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Bernd requests approval for the Joint Implementation Agreement for the Middle-Snake-Tamarac CRP State Incentive Program through the MSTR 1W1P.

{Motion #51-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by McWalter to approve the Joint Implementation Agreement.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

Staff requests approval of the Lakes Country Service Cooperative Services Agreement.

{Motion #52-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve the Cooperative Services Agreement.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

MEETING REPORTS

HOLIDAY, Memorial Day. Office Closed

MACDE State Managers meeting, Baxter

Bernd

Red River Basin Commission Sheyenne River Tour, Fargo

Bernd

MSTR 1W1P Steering Committee meeting, Microsoft Teams (MT)

Bernd

Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative meeting, MT

Bernd

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

MACDE Administration Conference, Baxter

Bernd

Well Aware NW MN Groundwater Initiative meeting, MT

Bernd

Polk County JD 60 meeting, ZOOM

Bernd

HOLIDAY, 4th of July, Office Close

Hwy 75 Soil Health Tour, 7/8-7/12; Crookston 7/9

Staff/Supervisors

Polk County Fair, 7/10-7/14, Fertile

Staff

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE'S REPORTS:

Bernd

1W1P:

- RLR 1W1P - Policy and Advisory Committee meeting June 12th, 2024, at the RLWD; updated planning regions; revised issue statements; project updates
- SHR 1W1P – FY2024 Share Hill River Watershed Based Implementation Fund was awarded 6/11/2024. Next Steering Committee meeting 7/9/2024.
- MSTR 1W1P – FY25 Budget worksheet and workplan;

Other:

- Highway 75 Tour: Soil Health Field Days Joint Powers Agreement, Area Technical Training Team
- BWSR HELP grant application: Agassiz Audubon Society
- BWSR Soil Health Program update

Habermehl

Technician Habermehl Report 06/20/2024

WCA:

RLWD permits (4) RIM resolution Esther 22, Tax Forfeiture (0)

SHWD (1W1P?) Project 17: Houston Eng. to submit Joint App.

Belgium __: WCA inquiry (culvert, pond, etc.)

CCCS/1W1P:

Crookston 18, 24 Michaelson (surveyed), Andover 05 Samuelson (surveyed), Crookston 27 Gasper (survey status inquiry), Bygland 01 Sorenson (sent request for engineering, I&E), Gentilly 14 Langlois (send request for engineering, I&E), Angus 15 Judowsky (request for engineering sent by Marshall SWCD).
Andover 14, 15, 22 Perry (contractor?), Fisher 27, 34, 35 Faugstad (contractor?), Fanny 04 Radi (DNR PW permit required/conversation w/engineer 06/18/2024/discussion), Kertsonville 27 Engelstad (SWCD policy?).

Other:

Engineering/Construction meeting with Lyle Wilkens, MSTRWD buffer monitoring/BufCAT, (2) new RIM inquires Hammond, Huntsville (current CRP-work w/PF employee)-acquire deed for Lowell 29, etc.

Torkelson

Technician Report 6/20/2024

Tree Program:

- Completed all 14 machine plantings (7 miles total)
- 145 hand plant orders - 13,568 trees sold/planted
- Helping landowners diagnose/mitigate “fungus weather” diseases

Soil Health Incentive Program:

- Planning Hwy. 75 Soil Health Tour for July 9th, 2024
 - Lining up vendors/help
 - Met with MN SHC and took soil samples for rainfall simulator 6/5/24

Outreach:

- 5/30/24 Arbor Day presentation for Highland Elementary 4th graders
- 6/21/24 Hwy. 75 Soil Health Tour promo with WDAY Ag Director Bridgette Readel

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST’S REPORT

June 2024 District Conservationist Report

EQIP:

- FY24 Applications Total: 20
 - (New) 8 Funded so far (40%)
- (New) RLWD 1W1P RCPP: all applications from Crookston FO were funded.

CSP:

Classic sign up ended January 12, 2024

- 10 Apps total, 5 will be ranked, two deferred, and two canceled.
 - (NEW) 2 Contract Preapproved
- (No Change) Crookston will have one eligible CSP renewal in FY24.

CRP:

- Continuous sign up is open.
 - Currently operation “batching periods” of three/four-week intervals
- (New) General rankings have been released, 5 of 8 offers will be granted a contract.

Misc.

Nico Bennett is acting team for Crookston CST, he will hold this position for no longer than 120 days.

Submitted by,
Zach Anderson
District Conservationist
Crookston Field Office

Other:

West Polk SWCD SHIP policy/RCPP/rate per acre: Discussion

{Motion #50-2024} Motion by Peterson and seconded by Sorenson to approve board meeting time to 7:00am for the summer months.

Affirmative: Peterson, McWalter and Sorenson

Opposed: None

Motion: Pass

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publications:

Forestry Notes

MCIT

Conservation Brief

Shade Tree Advocate

Conservation Views

Red Lake Watershed District

Crookston Daily Times

Polk County Board of Commissioners

MN Department of Labor

BWSR

Wild Rice Watershed District

Sand Hill Watershed District

The next meeting was scheduled for July 18th, 2024 at 7:30 am.

With no further business, Chairman Cournia adjourned the meeting at 9:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
EM\nb