

**COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
AUGUST 27, 2020**

The Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the District Office, Windom, MN on August 27, 2020 through WebEx (video communications) . The meeting was called to order by Chairman Daryl Tasler at 8:41 a.m.

Cottonwood County Attorney Nick Anderson as attorney/chief legal counsel for the board, I am determining that requiring all supervisors to participate in person at board meetings is not practical or prudent. I have made that determination based on the WHO's determination that the COVID 19 outbreak is a health pandemic.

Members Present in Office or
Media (WebEx): Chairman, Daryl Tasler (In Office)
 Vice Chairman, Tom Muller (In Office)
 Secretary, Jeremy Nerem (In Office)
 Treasurer, Cody Duroe (By WebEx)
 PR&I, Clark Lingbeek (In Office)

Others Present: District Administrator, Kay Gross
 District Technician, Dave Bucklin
 Kari Clouse, Administrative Program Assistant
 MN Iowa Conservation Corp, Ashley Broussard

Others Present by Media: Tom Appel, Cottonwood County Commissioner

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

AGENDA: Motion by Muller, second by Nerem to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Harvey Buller and Dustin Harrold well sealing contracts.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Muller, second by Tasler to approve the July 23, 2020 Board Meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion by Muller, second by Nerem to approve the August Financial Report as presented and submit for audit.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Motion by Duroe, second by Muller to approve and pay August accounts payable totaling \$8,328.91.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2017 and 2018, 2019 AUDIT UPDATE

RCRCA: Lingbeek

GBERBA: Lingbeek, Bucklin and Gross

WATONWAN 1W1P: Lingbeek, Appel, Bucklin and Gross

DES MOINES 1W1P: Bucklin and Gross

SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TSA: Muller and Gross

SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TSA VOUCHERS and FINANCIAL REPORT:

Motion by Nerem, second by Duroe to approve the Southwest Prairie August Vouchers, Monthly Financials and Administrative Report.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe - Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

FY2021 BWSR NONPOINT ENGINEERING and ENHANCED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

Motion by Tasler, second by Muller to approve the BWSR FY2021 Nonpoint Engineering and Enhanced Technical Assistance Grant Agreement totaling \$390,000.00.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACT AGREEMENT – GREEN GARDEN PLACE LLC

Motion by Tasler, second by Muller to approve the Independent Contract Agreement with Green Garden Place LLC for September 1, 2020 to August 30, 2022 for 1,000 hours per year at \$54.00/hour.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

MASWCD and AREA V: Lingbeek

COTTONWOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Commissioner Tom Appel

Covid-19 Costs – Applying for CARES Grant

Rent – 2021 – No increase in rent – one year.

Ditch – Reviewing land splits

County Budget

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Kay Gross

STATE COST-SHARE CONTRACT APPROVAL

Motion by Muller, second by Nerem to approve the State Cost-Share contract for Steven Geis (19-06) totaling \$10,000.00.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried

LAWNS TO LEGUMES COST-SHARE CONTRACT FINAL PAYMENT

Motion by Duroe, second by Tasler to approve the Lawns to Legumes Cost-Share contract final payments for Kelly Woizeschke (L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-07) \$264.52 and Robyn Galer (L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-08) \$168.33.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

WELL SEALING COST-SHARE CONTRACT APPROVAL

Motion by Nerem, second by Duroe to approve the Well Sealing Cost-Share contracts for Janice Pomerence 2020-11 (\$525.00); Harvey Buller 2020-12 (\$525.00) and Dustin Harrold (2 wells) 2020-13 (\$1,050.00).

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

BWSR PROFESSIONAL and TECHNICAL MASTER JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

Motion by Muller, second by Tasler to approve the BWSR Professional and Technical Master Joint Powers Agreement from August 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025 (this is an overarching agreement for BWSR work orders).

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

BWSR FY2021 MN CREP OUTREACH and IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT

Motion by Muller, second by Duroe to approve the BWSR FY2021 MN CREP Outreach and Implementation Program Grant Agreement from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 totaling \$51,819.00.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

BWSR FUNDING FY2021

MNDOT ADOPT A HIGHWAY AGREEMENT

Motion by Muller, second by Tasler to approve the MNDOT Adopt A Highway Agreement from August 27, 2020 to August 27, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

PAY EQUITY – Submission of Non-Compliance Notice and Response – Non-Compliance Status reversed by State.

COTTONWOOD COUNTY BUDGET

Motion by Tasler, second by Nerem to approve the 2021 Cottonwood County Budget for Contracted Services as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

WATONWAN RIVER COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Motion by Muller, second by Tasler to approve the DRAFT Watonwan River Comprehensive Watershed Management and request a joint Public Hearing with Cottonwood County Commissioners, with the understanding that the Plan will be approved by the County Commissioners and moved for a hearing. Further the Cottonwood SWCD will allow the DRAFT Plan as approved after the completion of the Public Hearing and all comments included to be moved on to State approval through the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES

SUPERVISOR MEETINGS – ALL MEETINGS SUBJECT TO CONFERENCE CALLING OR WEBEX

September 1 – Commissioner Meeting – Windom; September 2 – Southwest Prairie TSA Review – Windom; September 3 – RCRC/ Area II Meeting – WebEx; September 9 – Southwest Prairie TSA Meeting – WebEx; September 11 – GBERBA Policy Meeting – WebEx; September 15 – Public Hearing Watonwan Watershed Plan – Windom; September 24 - Cottonwood SWCD Board – WebEx; September 29 – GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement Meeting - WebEx.

SWCD EMPLOYEE MEETINGS

September 1 – Commissioner Meeting – Windom; September 2 – Southwest Prairie TSA Review – Windom; September 9 – Southwest Prairie TSA Meeting – WebEx; September 10-11 – Soil Health Training – Marshall; September 11 – GBERBA Policy Meeting – WebEx; September 15 – Public Hearing Watonwan Watershed Plan – Windom; September 23 – GBERBA Technical Meeting – WebEx; September 24 - Cottonwood SWCD Board – WebEx; September 29 – GBERBA Joint Powers Agreement Meeting – WebEx; September 29 - TSA State Manager’s Meeting - WebEx.

Motion by Tasler, second by Duroe to approve the Supervisor and Employee meetings and expenses for the month of September 2020.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST – Karen Boysen

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN USDA NRCS and COTTONWOOD SWCD

Motion by Nerem, second by Muller to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between USDA NRCS and Cottonwood SWCD.

Roll Call Vote: Tasler – Yes Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek - Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

SENIOR TECHNICIAN – Dave Bucklin – Written Report
FARM BILL/PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – Becky Buchholz – Written Report
RESOURCE TECHNICIAN – Hannah Herzfeld – Written Report
AREA 6 CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST – Herman Bartsch – Written Report
AREA 5 CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST – Danielle Evers – Written Report
PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – Lee Tapper – Written Report
MN CONSERVATION CORP MEMBER – Ashley Broussard – Written Report
PLANNING and ZONING TECHNICIAN – Alex Schultz – Written Report

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned by the Chairman at 10:43 a.m.

Next Meeting will be on THURSDAY, September 24, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office (by WebEx).

District Supervisor

District Administrator