

**COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
June 23, 2022**

The Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the District Office, Windom, MN on June 23, 2022 (WebEx available). The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeremy Nerem at 8:34 a.m.

Members Present in Office or

Media (WebEx): Chairman, Jeremy Nerem (Office)
Secretary, Clark Lingbeek (Office)
Treasurer, Daryl Tasler (Office)
PR&I, Tom Muller (Office)

Others Present:

District Administrator, Kay Gross (Office)
Kari Clouse, Administrative Program Assistant (Office)
Jake Gross, Watershed Technician (Office)
Breanna Wagner, Program Technician (Office)
Nathan Harder, Program Technician (Office)
Tom Appel, Cottonwood County Commissioner (Office)
Karen Boysen, NRCS Lead District Conservationist (Office)
Austin Suderman, NRCS Soil Conservationist (Office)
John Shea, BWSR Board Conservationist (Office)

Absent:

Vice Chairman, Cody Duroe

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

AGENDA: Motion by Muller, second by Lingbeek to approve the agenda as presented with additions.

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Lingbeek, second by Muller to approve the May 26, 2022 Board Meeting minutes.

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Motion by Nerem, second by Lingbeek to approve and pay June accounts payable totaling \$42,628.30.

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

SECOND QUARTER SUPERVISOR COMPENSATION and EXPENSES

April 7 – RCRC/ Area II Meeting – Marshall - \$125.00; April 21 – Des Moines Policy Meeting – Windom - \$125.00; April 22 – RCRC/ Area Dredging Kick-Off – Redwood Falls - \$125.00; April 25 – Southwest Prairie TSA (Special) Meeting – WebEx/Office - \$125.00; April 27 – GBERBA Executive Meeting – WebEx/Office - \$125.00; April 28 – SWCD Board Meeting – WebEx/Office - \$125.00;.

May 5 – RCRC/ Area II Meeting – Marshall - \$125.00; May 13 - GBERBA Policy Board Meeting – WebEx/Office - \$125.00;

May 19 – Des Moines Policy Meeting – Slayton - \$125.00; May 20 – SWCD Program Technician Interviews – Office - \$125.00; May 26 – SWCD Board Meeting – WebEx/Office - \$125.00.

June 1 – Southwest Prairie TSA Meeting – Marshall - \$125.00; June 2 – RCRC/ Area II Meeting – Redwood Falls - \$125.00;

June 16 – Area V Meeting – Redwood Falls - \$125.00; June 17 – Des Moines Policy Meeting – Windom - \$125.00; June 17 – GBERBA Executive Meeting – WebEx/Office - \$125.00; June 23 – SWCD Board Meeting – WebEx/Office - \$125.00.

Motion by Muller, second by Lingbeek to approve the Second Quarter SWCD Supervisors Compensation and Expenses with additions.

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

RCRCA: Lingbeek

GBERBA: Lingbeek, Bucklin and Gross

DES MOINES 1W1P: Muller and Gross

Joint Powers Entity and Fiscal/Administration of WBIF

SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TSA: Muller and Gross

SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TSA VOUCHERS and FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion by Tasler, second by Lingbeek to approve the Southwest Prairie May Monthly Financials, June vouchers and June Administrative Report.

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

MASWCD: Lingbeek

BWSR: John Shea

NRCS: Karen Boysen

COTTONWOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Commissioner Tom Appel

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Kay Gross

FY2020 Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant (C20-8893) Cost-Share Contract Partial Payment

Carol Hartman L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-20 Great Bend 25 Pollinator Project Cost \$342.00 C-S \$307.80

Motion by Tasler, second by Lingbeek to approve the FY2020 Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant (C20-8893) Cost-Share contract partial payment for Hartman L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-20 (\$307.80).

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

FY2020 Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant (C20-8893) Cost-Share Contract Final Payments

David Koep L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-19 Great Bend 25 Pollinator Project Cost \$180.00 C-S \$162.00

Diane Noyes L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-21 Great Bend 26 Pollinator Project Cost \$202.21 C-S \$181.99

JoAnn Sandbo L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-41 Great Bend 22 Pollinator Project Cost \$203.22 C-S \$182.90

Jill Wolff L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-44 Great Bend 26 Pollinator Project Cost \$190.98 C-S \$171.88

Motion by Muller, second by Lingbeek to approve the FY2020 Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant (C20-8893) Cost-Share contract final payments for Koep L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-19 (\$162.00); Noyes L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-21 (\$181.99); Sandbo L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-41 (\$182.90) and Wolff L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-44 (\$171.88).

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried

RESIGNATION OF WATERSHED TECHNICIAN

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Tasler to accept the resignation of Jacob Gross, Watershed Technician with final day of work July 1, 2022. Per the District Employee Handbook sick leave will be paid out at 25% (0-5 years) and 100% of annual leave totaling \$3,053.79.

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried

COTTONWOOD SWCD PHASED RETIREMENT OPTION (PRO) BENEFITS AGREEMENT

Motion by Tasler, second by Lingbeek to approve the Phased Retirement Option (PRO) Benefits Agreement with David Bucklin initiated on July 1, 2020 with the third year agreement starting July 1, 2022 and ending on June 30, 2023 (with option to renew at Board discretion) with included benefit language, as stated in the agreement, including but not limited to reduction in hours to half-time (1,044 hours) and in health insurance and other benefits as agreed to in the agreement signed by David Bucklin.

Stipulations no compensation for Mountain Lake Lake Association Meetings, or watering of property owner trees (once we have planted the only care we will allow is occasional pruning through our tree program). Tree Commission meetings are allowed.

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried

BWSR FY2023 MN CREP OUTREACH AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM CONTINUATION GRANT AGREEMENT

Motion by Tasler, second by Muller to approve the BWSR FY2023 Outreach and Implementation Program Continuation Grant Agreement starting July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 totaling \$57,250.00.

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

BWSR – STATE OF MN – PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES WORK ORDER CONTRACT 17-21-W099

Motion by Nerem, second by Lingbeek to approve the BWSR Professional and Technical Work Order Contract 17-W-099 starting June 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 totaling \$11,450.00.

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

DNR – STATE OF MN – PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICE CONTRACT

Motion by Muller, second by Tasler to approve the DNR – Professional and Technical Service Contract for Observation Wells starting June 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 totaling \$1,680.00.

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

**JUNE MEETING DATES
SUPERVISOR MEETINGS**

July 7 - RCRCA/Area II Meetings – Marshall; July 15 - GBERBA Policy/Technical Meeting – Waseca; July 21 - Des Moines Policy Meeting – Windom; July 28 - SWCD Board Meeting – Office/WebEx.

SWCD EMPLOYEE MEETINGS

June 28 - Soils Dos and Don'ts – Webinar; June 28-30 - Administrative Training – Brainerd; June 30 - MN County Feedlot Officers Meeting – Marshall; July 8 - Soil Training – Zoom; July 12 - Peterson Company Audit – In Office; July 13 - Des Moines Steering Team Meeting – Windom; July 14 - Soil Training – Grand Rapids; July 15 - GBERBA Policy/Technical Meeting – Waseca; July 18-20 - Ag Inspector Training – Morton; July 21 - Des Moines Policy Meeting – Windom; July 28 - SWCD Board Meeting – Office/WebEx; July 28 - Basic Hydrology Training – Glencoe.

Motion by Tasler, second by Lingbeek to approve the Supervisor and Employee meetings and expenses for the month of July 2022.

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

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

SENIOR TECHNICIAN – Dave Bucklin – Written Report
FARM BILL/PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – Becky Buchholz – Written Report
AREA 6 CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST – Herman Bartsch – Written Report
AREA 5 CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST – Danielle Evers – Written Report
WATERSHED TECHNICIAN – Jake Gross – Written Report
PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – Breanna Wagner – Written Report
PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – Nathan Harder – Written Report
MN CONSERVATION CORP MEMBER – Position Open
PLANNING and ZONING TECHNICIAN – Alex Schultz – Written Report

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned by the Chairman at 10:15 a.m.

Next Meeting will be on THURSDAY, July 28, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office (by WebEx).

COTTONWOOD COUNTY LOCAL WORK GROUP LISTENING SESSION
Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District
Thursday, June 23, 2022 – WebEx by Phone, Computer or In Person

Daryl Tasler, Cottonwood SWCD Supervisor
Tom Appel, Cottonwood County Commissioner
Becky Buchholz, Farm Bill/Program Technician
Breanna Wagner, Program Technician
Jake Gross, Watershed Technician
Jonathan Matz, FO State Conservationist
Wes Kroecker, Local Farmer

Karen Boysen, NRCS Team Lead
Austin Suderman, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Kay Gross, District Administrator
Nathan Harder, Program Technician
John Shea, BWSR Board Conservationist
Tom Appel, County Commissioner
Matt Lund, Local Farmer

Called to order by SWCD Supervisor Daryl Tasler at 11:00 a.m.

Introductions and Overview of Meeting – Becky Buchholz

Review of Meeting Guidelines
Review of Local Work Group Purpose

Review of Previous Year EQIP Priority Concerns

Soil Erosion – Sheet & Rill
Water Quality Degradation – Nutrient Transport (fertilizer)
Soil Quality – Organic Matter Depletion

FY2023 Survey Results

Survey Responses – 32 received
Erosion Control (25)
Water Resource Protection (25)
Soil Quality (21)
Wildlife Habitat Improvement (10)
Air Quality (4)
Forest Management and Livestock (3 each)

Identifying FY2023 Priority Resource Concerns

Resource Concern Survey Responses
Identify Cottonwood County Resources Concerns

Interactive Game

Erosion Control
Classic Gully
Ephemeral Gully 14 (Second)
Bank Erosion
Sheet & Rill 15 (First)
Wind Erosion 12 (Third)

Water Resource Protection

Nutrient Transport (fertilizer)
Pathogen/Chemical Transport (manure)
Sediment Transport 25 (First)
Pesticide Transport

Soil Quality

Aggregated Instability
Compaction
Organic Matter Depletion 21 (First)

Review of Other Survey Results

Road Block Survey Totals

Lack of Funding (9)

Red Tape and Complicated Programs (3 each)

Lack of reward or punishment; large farmers do not care (2)

Lack of incentives to try new practices; Willingness of landowners to take land out of production for water retention and buffers; Low cost-share rates; Requiring multiple practices to qualify; Program flexibility due to uncontrollable circumstances (weather); Better explanation of programs; Open avenues for producers to grow their own cover crops for programs; Less paperwork, especially on base plans; Traditions and beliefs; Education (each received 1)

What can NRCS/SWCD Do Better to Serve Landowners?

Field Days, Trainings, Meetings, Demonstrations (7)

More staffing for NRCS (office short staffed) (3)

Contractors for CREP easement construction; More consistent funding; Push for freedom honeysuckle to be allowed (each received 1)

Other Survey Comments

Erosion control need to include wind erosion, becoming a problem

Advertise better

More trees planted

Oversight of CRP rules

Store more water

More wetland restorations

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.