Rice Soil and Water Conservation District
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RICE S.W.C.D.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY – August 14, 2019 - 9:00 AM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Ludwig, Dick Peterson and Jim Purfeerst.
Others in attendance: Steve Pahs, Travis Hirman, Emmie Peters, Chris Schmidt, Jarett Spitzack, Jeff Docken, Teresa DeMars.

Absent: Dick Cook, Tim Little

Chairman Dick Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. A quorum is present.

MINUTES: Motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the July 10, 2019 minutes. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: June and July program summaries were reviewed. July bills payable reviewed.

Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the June program summary, subject to audit. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Jim Purfeerst. Seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the July program summary and July bills payable, subject to audit. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Leonard Petricka #18C-01, payment of $13,275.00
B. Dakota County SWCD 1W1P invoice #2926, $5,683.94
C. Craig Scheffler – Scott WMO #18-54 payment, $1,732.00
D. Kraig Gregor – Scott WMO #19-08 payment, $1,100.00

A motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the consent agenda items listed above. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

LOW-COST FEEDLOT FIX PROGRAM: SUB-AGREEMENT WITH GOODHUE COUNTY: This was a grant administered by the SE MN Water Resources Board, which has been dissolved. The grants have been re-
distributed and this grant is now being administered by Goodhue County. The original grant was previously approved. Because Goodhue SWCD is administering, a sub-agreement needs to be entered into and approved.

A motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the sub-agreement with Goodhue SWCD for the Low-cost feedlot fix program. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**WORK AGREEMENT WITH FREEBORN SWCD:** Freeborn County SWCD is short-staffed and looking for some technical assistance from our staff. The agreement would reimburse our staff time at $45 per hour up to 250 hours, as well as mileage.

A motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the work agreement with Freeborn SWCD. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**PHILLIP LITTLE COVER CROP CONTRACT #LC18-13, $3,969.00:** three year contract.

A motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the Phillip Little cover crop contract #LC18-13 for $3,969.00. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**FY2020 AND FY2021 PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS GRANT AGREEMENT:**

A motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the FY2020 and FY2021 Programs and Operations Grant Agreement. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**GOVERNANCE 101 CONFERENCE – SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2019, BLOOMINGTON:** if interested in attending, you can register yourself, or contact the office and we will register you.

**FAR-GAZE FARMS, COVER CROP CONTRACT #LC19-01, $8,400.00:** three year contract.

A motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the Far-Gaze Farms cover crop contract #LC19-01 for $8,400.00. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**DEREK SCHRADER COVER CROP CONTRACT #LC18-14 $4945.50:** three year contract.

A motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the Derek Schrader cover crop contract #LC18-14 for $4,945.50. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**ROGER BONGERS COVER CROP CONTRACT #LC19-02 $5,040.00:** three year contract.

A motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the Roger Bongers cover crop contract #LC19-01 for $5,040.00. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**WOLF CREEK AUTOBAHN EAW – DISCUSSION:** This office has received phone calls regarding this project and the concerns about the affects on conservation. Our resource specialist has reviewed the project regarding the Wetlands Conservation Act and reviewed with BWSR. There is a potential for wetlands impact but they are working to reduce those impacts.

**WILLIAM SIREK COST SHARE CONTRACT #19CS-03, $1,575.00:** terraces were built last fall with Scott WMO money. There needs to be a little sediment clean out due to excess rain and some repairs.
A motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the William Sirek cost share contract #19CS-03 for $1,575.00. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**COMPUTER PURCHASE FOR TERESA:** Teresa’s current computer is old and slow and she doesn’t have the appropriate software needed for video editing. Requesting a $1500.00 budget to purchase a computer and additional software for her use.

A motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve $1500.00 for the purchase of a new computer and software for Teresa DeMars. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Discussion: funding for this purchase will come from District or County Funds, not grant money.

**RON AND RENEE MORRIS COST SHARE CONTRACT #19CS-04, $3,000.00:** gully erosion along their driveway due to a tile outlet nearby. Tile outlet would be extended down to road ditch and a grassed waterway will be constructed to control erosion. Estimate is $4000, we would approve 75%.

A motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the Ron & Renee Morris cost share contract #19CS-04 of $3,000.00. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Discussion: this project is not near cropland so is that going to set a precedence? It is still a water quality issue downstream.

**DRINKING WATER PROTECTION GRANT:** grant money available to help protect groundwater resource. Target area is pretty small and district manager feels there wouldn’t be a high demand. Board Supervisors feel it is good to apply for funding, if the need is there. District manager and staff will work together to identify potential need areas and proceed with application if the need is there.

**MAWQCP AMENDMENT TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/PROMOTION FUNDS CONTRACT:** This was a grant administered by the SE MN Water Resources Board, which has been dissolved. The grants have been re-distributed and this grant is now being administered by Wabasha SWCD. The original grant was previously approved. Because Wabasha SWCD is administering, a sub-agreement needs to be entered into and approved.

A motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the MAWQCP Amendment to Technical Assistance/Promotion Funds Contract. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**1W1P RECONCILIATION FINANCIAL REPORT:** a grant reconciliation for the 1W1P grant was performed yesterday. There won’t be another reconciliation done until the final reconciliation when grant is closed.

A motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the 1W1P Financial Report. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS:**

Jim Purfeerst: attended Zumbro 1W1P meeting. They did an overview of 4 communities with flooding issues and possible future fixes. They put together a priority list of fixes the public thinks needs to happen. Will be sending out a survey to landowners to get input on priorities.

Joint Powers Board meeting: engineers are looking at priority projects and reducing funds because there isn’t enough money to go around.
Mike Ludwig: nothing to report.
Dick Peterson: nothing to report.

**DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT:** The Awards program at the Rice County Fair was well attended. Helping to organize an MPCA Field Day for the Rice Creek project on September 16th from 11:45 to 3:00 pm. Rice SWCD will provide a tent and chairs using Tri-Lakes donation. Attended a field day at Ed McNamara’s in Goodhue County. Is part of a collaborative group working on promoting water quality and ways organizations can work together. The Cannon 1W1P is waiting for final approval. In the meantime, the workgroup is working on an implementation plan. Still don’t know if Dakota Cty will be allowed to be a part of the 1W1P. Ditch spraying was delayed due to weather and interseeding but with the help of Travis and Jarett there is only a little bit left. There are a couple of culverts needing to be replaced – plans in progress. Working with Dick Peterson to build a frame for the new sign to be placed on Hwy 60. Attended the field day at Mike Peterson’s farm. Steve suggested that in the future our supervisors might want to take turns hosting the board meeting at their home so they can showcase their crops and conservation practices.

**NRCS REPORT presented by Chris Schmidt, Soil Conservationist:**

**General:**

⇒ Leslie Diaz-Alvarez is on a detail in Puerto Rico, will return mid-September

**Farm Bill Updates:**

**EQIP:**

⇒ 22 applications have been pre-approved, 3 left to obligate
⇒ 3 of 30 cover crop for prevent plant applications were pre-approved

**RCPP-EQIP:**

⇒ 1 of the 2 applications was pre-approved, has been obligated

**CREP:**

⇒ CREP sign-up June 3 through August 23

**CRP:**

⇒ Continuous CRP sign-up June 3 through August 23, limited practice options
⇒ 16 plans to write, Emmie is working on these

**WETLAND/HEL:**

⇒ Rice County has 12 drainage requests awaiting a certified wetland determination from the wetland team

**ACEP (WRP/RIM):**

⇒ Sticha WRP contracts need wetland restoration-planned for summer 2019, prescribed burn and seeding planned for June 2019, working on ownership change and contract transfer

**CSP:**

⇒ 1 application, it has been pre-approved and submitted for QAR

**Upcoming Events/Deadlines:**

⇒ Customer Service Team Training September 9 & 10
STAFF REPORTS:

Emmie Peters: attended Survey training, working on CRP applications, doing site checks. Construction projects will start up when it dries up.

Travis Hirman: Moved the drill a little. Potential for some cool season seeding. Working on cover crop signups and Buffer law annual compliance.

Jarett Spitzack: working on RIM inspections. Has about half of them done. Had a TEP meeting in early August and learned a lot.

Teresa DeMars: County fair is over – weather impacted number of people in attendance. The “soil your undies” display was a big hit generating a lot of questions. Working on a Interseeder video. Finished building the rainfall simulator and almost done with the soils display. Will use both in a week for a demo at the Nature Center along with Colin Williams from NRCS.

Commissioner Jeff Docken: spoke to Randy & Lori Stangler at the fair. They are both extremely honored to receive the Forestry Stewardship award.

Motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to adjourn the meeting. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Time 11:01 am.

Submitted by:

Sue Erpenbach – Admin. Assistant

Richard J. Peterson

Board Member – Richard Peterson