

BIG STONE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS' MEETING – December 5, 2023
USDA Service Center, Ortonville MN

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morrill at 1:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Supervisors present: Morrill, Moen, Reisdorph, Holker, Dybdahl

Others present: Brett Baldwin, Tammy Neubauer, Dustin Hieserich – SWCD staff; Darren Wilke, BSC Environmental Office

Approval of Agenda: motion Dybdahl, second Holker, to approve the agenda, as presented. Passed unanimously.

Secretary's Minutes – motion Moen, second Dybdahl, to approve the minutes of November 14, 2023. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – motion Moen, second Reisdorph, to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay all bills presented. Passed unanimously.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

- **Buffer Compliance Update** – Darren Wilke, BSC Environmental Office Director, was present to discuss the issues of buffer law non-compliant landowners and the status of the landowners who have been issued Corrective Action Notices from county enforcement. Darren and Dustin Hieserich have been working on the unresolved issues of the continuously rising water in a few areas. Notices of Non-Compliance had been sent to the landowners with issues of high and rising water. Darren has 9 Corrective Action Notices to landowners that need follow-up. He had not followed up with these last year and takes ownership of the failure to do so. As of June 2021, the list of 55 non-compliant parcels; 28 of these were because of high and rising water. Most of these landowners had buffers installed but these are now underwater, and the water on these parcels continues to rise. There was a discussion opened from Lon Moen to Darren about the money the County receives from the Dept. of Revenue for enforcement, and the county has not taken any action toward enforcing the buffer law. Darren says that some of the money goes toward the aerial imagery flights that the SWCD and Environmental office use for checking compliance. Moen states that the County has not moved forward with any enforcement action and after the required timeline, no CANs have been delivered to the county attorney for action. After a lengthy discussion regarding the status of the parcels with high and rising water, motion Dybdahl, second Holker, to postpone sending any Notices of Non-Compliance to these landowners until spring of 2024, and until re-assessment of the water levels on these parcels and making an informed decision as to the Notices of Non-Compliance. Passed unanimously.

Darren Wilke left the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

- **UMRWD 1W1P** – Tammy Neubauer and Dustin Hieserich gave an update on the UMR 1W1P meeting they attended on November 17th, at the UMR Watershed Office. The group discussed consistency and preferences on contracts, tracking, etc. Houston Engineering gave a presentation on MS4Front and BEAST, that are created and maintained by Houston Engineering and are available for purchase from HEI. Amber Doschadis discussed submitting an application for Climate Resiliency Grant, which would survey soils, and water tables and levels, which would help with decision making for projects in the future of the 1W1P.

OLD BUSINESS – none

The Supervisors closed the meeting to discuss personnel reviews at 2:06 p.m.

The supervisors re-opened the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

• Personnel Reviews – motion Dybdahl, second Holker, to increase the following wages in 2024:

Brett Baldwin - \$1.50 per hour

Dustin Hieserich - \$1.50 per hour

Tammy Neubauer - \$1.00 per hour

Passed unanimously.

- District Electronic Footprint – the Board discussed with staff the need for a newsletter, updated website, articles for newspaper submission, and finding a way to log in to the District Facebook page. The Board gave several examples of the things they would like to see on the website and newsletter. Motion Holker, second Dybdahl, to have staff reclaim the District Facebook page and to update. Passed unanimously.

Big Stone County Commissioners' Report – none

NRCS Report – Tammy Neubauer read a report provided by Shantel Lozinski, acting DC for Big Stone.

SWCD Technician's Report – Dustin Hieserich presented the District Technician's Report.

Programs Technician's Report – Brett Baldwin presented the District Programs Technician's Report.

District Manager's Report – Tammy Neubauer presented the District Manager's Report.

Being there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Sincerely,

Tammy Neubauer

District Manager