

**BIG STONE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**SUPERVISORS' MEETING – July 11, 2023**  
**USDA Service Center, Ortonville MN**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morrill at 1:18 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

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

Others present: Brett Baldwin, Tammy Neubauer, Dustin Hieserich – SWCD staff; Wade Athey, Big Stone County Commissioner

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

**Secretary's Minutes** – motion Reisdorph, second Holker, to approve the minutes of June 7, 2023, meeting. Passed unanimously.

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

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

- Buffer Compliance Update – Tammy Neubauer plans to reach out to the County Attorney to find out where the buffer non-compliance landowners are at in the legal process. She will also be in contact with Darren Wilke to see what landowners he has for non-compliance that need to go to the Attorney's office. Dustin Hieserich will be involved with the buffer compliance and seeding. Not anything new to report – Tammy hasn't contacted the County attorney or Darren Wilke yet.
- UMRWD 1WIP – meetings were held in June and July with staff and the Policy Committee to approve the full draft plan and establish a Water Management District to the draft plan. Upcoming timeline was discussed. Staff agree that a Joint Powers Collaboration would be the fit for the planning group and ask that the UMRWD be the fiscal agent. Amber Doschadis will work on governance structure and planning implementation in the coming months.

**OLD BUSINESS** - none

**NEW BUSINESS**

- District Planting between Properties at Shop – Artie Arndt, owner of the Econolodge, adjacent to the SWCD shop, asked if the District would want to plant trees on their property, for privacy, and Artie not wanting to give up any more of his property to plant any more trees. The board responded that they would not be in favor of the District planting any trees on our side of the property.
- The board discussed implementing policy that landowners requesting tree planting projects will be required to pay a portion (50% ?) down/before trees are ordered, since many landowners have backed out of their plantings, leaving the District with many trees left to try to sell, to recoup their costs.
- 5 Mile Creek Berm Moved – Tammy Neubauer discussed that the contractor on the 5 Mile Creek/Marsh Lake Improvements project, Ag Tech, had moved a berm on Richard Guse's land that was placed incorrectly. Brad with Ag Tech had talked with Tammy about the berm being moved and was to the landowner and the engineers' satisfaction. Brad figured the cost to be billed for this work to be \$2000. Tammy told Brad to send the bill to the District, and then sort out who is responsible to pay the bill. Engineers claim landowner responsibility and landowner claims the engineers and contractor are responsible.
- Big Stone County Fair Booth – the District will set up a booth at the fair and offer a drawing for a framed print.

- Harlon Pansch CRP Seeding – staff discussed with the board that they had used a driveway without permission to gain access to Harlon’s field to be planted. Jon Pansch is the land manager in Harlon’s absence; Jon could not be reached by phone to ask for an alternate place to bring the equipment to the field. The owner of the driveway is Ray Pansch, who presented a bill for \$500 to the District for trespassing and destruction of crop. Lon Moen has the bill and made an attempt to get in touch with Ray to discuss the situation.
- Wage Increases – after board discussion, motion Reisdorph, second Moen to approve wage increases to Brett Baldwin - \$2.00 per hour and Dustin Hieserich - \$2.25 per hour, beginning with payroll number 16, according to their added responsibilities and job performances. Passed unanimously.

**Big Stone County Commissioners’ Report** – Wade Athey, BSC Commissioner, was present to report on recent county happenings. The County Attorney has requested to be part time in the County so she can assist in her husband’s law practice. The County Commissioners are in wage talks with the unions. Wade requests that the District present their 2024 budget to the Commissioners as soon as possible, to aid in creating their budget for 2024.

**NRCS Report** – none

**SWCD Technician’s Report** – Dustin Hieserich presented the District Technician’s Report here.

**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 3:22 p.m.

Sincerely,

*Tammy Neubauer*  
District Manager