

BIG STONE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS' MEETING – June 7, 2023
USDA Service Center, Ortonville MN

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morrill at 1:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Supervisors present: Morrill, Reisdorph, Moen, Dybdahl

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

Shantel Lozinski, District Conservationist with NRCS, entered the meeting to introduce herself as interim DC until a position in Ortonville can be filled. She also gave an update on the programs and funding that have been approved through NRCS.

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

Secretary's Minutes – motion Moen, second Dybdahl, to approve the minutes of May 2, 2023, meeting. 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 – 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. No new developments since staff have been busy in the field.
- UMRWD 1W1P – Priorities and watershed areas are being discussed. Details of priority BMPs in each area of the watershed are being finalized. The next meeting is June 28th, at the Big Stone County Highway Dept.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval Authority Assigns – motion Reisdorph, second Dybdahl, to approval authority for Walk In Access contracts, to Dustin Hieserich. Passed unanimously.
- Cooperative Agreement Approval with NRCS – after review and discussion, motion Moen, second Reisdorph, to approve and sign the Cooperative Agreement with NRCS. Passed unanimously.
- District CD Renewal – after discussion and presentation of CD rates, motion Moen, second Dybdahl, to renew the current funds in the CD for 9 months at 3.01%. Passed unanimously.
- Big Stone County Agreement for IT Services – after review and discussion of Agreement and costs, motion Moen, second Reisdorph, to approve and sign the Agreement with Big Stone County IT and move forward with computer replacements and costs attached to the Agreement for IT services. Passed unanimously.
- District Responsibility for Flagging/Staking CRP Areas – after discussion of time constraints and liability issues, motion Moen, second Reisdorph, to decline any flagging/staking of CRP contract areas. This flagging/staking of CRP is the responsibility of FSA. Passed unanimously.
- MASWCD Legislative Update on SWCD Aid – Tammy Neubauer and Jason Beckler with BWSR, discussed the recently passed Aid to be distributed to the state's SWCDs, and funds will come directly from the Dept. of Revenue. Jason Beckler explained the process and requirements to receive the Aid.
- July Board meeting – the regular meeting date for July would fall on July 4th. After discussion, the July board meeting date is tentatively scheduled for July 6th.
- Local Capacity Cost Share Contract – Tammy Neubauer discussed the Local Capacity cost share contract she approved due to time constraints of the project to be completed, for #LC21-3 Mike Haukos Shoreline Restoration. Total project costs approved \$14,260.50; total cost share approved \$10,695.37, or 75% maximum cost share allowed.

Big Stone County Commissioners' Report – Wade Athey, BSC Commissioner, was present to report on recent county happenings. The county approved a resolution for Juneteenth to be observed as a holiday for employees. The Commissioners discussed a bounty increase for beavers. The seal coat project bids have been accepted and awarded. The Commissioners are in discussions about purchasing an EV to reduce carbon emissions – a grant application has been submitted to cost share the cost at 80%. The current 5-year plan for equipment maintenance/purchases is set at \$480,000 per year. The retaining wall behind the courthouse needs repair or replacement – the County is in an agreement with the City regarding this.

Wade Athey left the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

NRCS Report – previously shared from Shantel Lozinski, DC

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.

Jason Beckler discussed a few things with the Board – Jason praised the District and Tammy Neubauer for getting the 5 Mile Creek CWF project completed. The highlights and showcasing of the project were a great boost for project exposure in the County. Jason discussed the progress of each 1W1P within the county. He discussed CRP Incentives for landowners in the 1W1P areas that have been approved – the UMRWD 1W1P is not at that stage yet. General fund soil health projects and cost share were discussed; also funding available through the CWF soil health. Jason mentioned the technicians gaining their Job Approval Authority.

Being there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Sincerely,

Tammy Neubauer
District Manager