

# District Regular Board Meeting

Monday, December 23, 2019

4:30 PM

Goodhue SWCD Conference Room  
104 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Goodhue MN 55027

## *Minutes*

### **I. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

*The meeting was called to order by Jeff Beckman at 4:35 pm. A quorum is present.*

*In attendance: Jeff Beckman, Mark Comstock, John Jaeger, Ed McNamara, Don Schliep, Beau Kennedy, Delane Krier.*

*Tom Steger*

*All rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.*

### **II. AGENDA**

*Motioned by Mark Comstock seconded by John Jaeger to approve the agenda as printed. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed*

### **III. CONSENT Agenda**

1. Approve Payment on Mark Heise Cost-Share contract #2016CWF-03; Grade Stabilization Structures @ 90% Cost Share of \$42,291.00.
2. Approve Payment on Robert Lien Cost-Share contract #LCF2018-10; Water & Sediment Control Basin @ 75% Cost Share of \$4603.40
3. Approve Payment on Randy Peine Cost-Share Contract #2018-03; Grass Waterway / Critical Planting @75% Cost Share of \$3107.96.
4. Approve Payment on Flat Rate – Voucher to Glen Mehrkens for \$700.00 Multiple Species Cover Crop 2nd Year Payment on Contract LCF2018-04.
5. Approve Payment on invoices to Barr Engineering Co #23551058.00-6 for \$8,107.90, #23551058.00-7 for \$3,506.00 as approved by the Zumbro Watershed 1W1P Policy Committee on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2019.
6. Approve Payment on invoice to Olmsted SWCD – Invoice # 2180\_Revised for \$6,683.73 as approved by the Zumbro Watershed 1W1P Policy Committee on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2019.
7. Approve Payment on invoices to Winona County SWCD #2019-21 for \$3,516.48 (Technical Assistance) and Invoice #2019-20 for \$15,000.00 (Cost-Share) under the SE MN Small Feedlot VII Grant.

*Motioned by John Jaeger seconded by Don Schliep to approve the consent agenda. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed.*

### **IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

1. Approve November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 District Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

*Motioned by Mark Comstock seconded by Don Schliep to approve the November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 District Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed*

### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minute limit)**

*There were no Public Comments at this time.*

## VI. ACTION ITEMS

1. Review 2020 SWCD Budget.

*Staff reviewed the 2020 proposed budget with Supervisors. No action taken.*

2. Action on Personnel Committee Recommendations.

*Chairman Jeff Beckman requested a close-door session of Supervisors @ 4:50 pm. Motioned by Mark Comstock seconded by John Jaeger to close-door session.*

*Vice Chair invited Staff to rejoin the Board Meeting @ 5:40 pm.*

*Motioned by Ed McNamara seconded by John Jaeger to approve the Personnel Committee Recommendations with changes as presented to Beau Kennedy. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed.*

3. Action on 2020 Budget Including Personnel Cost of Living and Wage Scale Step Adjustment.

*Motioned by Ed McNamara seconded by Mark Comstock to approve the 2020 Budget Including Changes of Personnel Cost of Living and Wage Scale Step Adjustment. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed.*

4. Action on Pay Equity Report to the State of Minnesota

*Motioned by Ed McNamara seconded by John Jaeger to approve the Pay Equity Report to the State of Minnesota. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed.*

5. Action on 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Driftless Area Symposium (Tuesday February 4<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

*Motioned by Ed McNamara seconded by Don Schliep to approve the attendance of Beau Kennedy at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Driftless Area Symposium. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed*

## VII. REPORTS

1. NRCS Report

*The NRCS report was distributed by Tom Steger and reviewed. (See attached report for details)*

2. District Manger's Report

3. Supervisors Activity Report

MASWCD Convention

Review Board Meeting Schedule

Review Annual Recertification for Board Members

*Jeff Beckman: Cannon Water Shed, Personnel Meeting Reviews*

*Mark Comstock: Zumbro Water Shed, Personnel Meeting Reviews*

*Joh Jaeger: Tour DeForage, MASWCD Convention*

*Ed McNamara: Tour DeForge, MASWCD Convention*

4. Other -

a. 2020 SWCD Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Time

*Motioned by Mark Comstock seconded by John Jaeger to approve the Board Meetings for December 2019 thru March 2020 to start at 4:30 pm. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed*

b. Board Members Retreat in Jan-Feb

c. 2020 Drone Review

d. SWCD Database/Tracking Update

e. Manure Spreader Scale Repair

## VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT / PAYABLES

### 1. Approve November 2019 Financial Report

*Motioned by Ed McNamara seconded by Don Schliep to approve the November 2019 Financial Report. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed.*

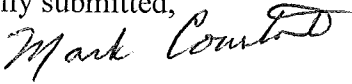
### 2. Approve December 2019 Accounts Payable

*Motioned by Mark Comstock seconded by Don Schliep to approve the November 2019 Financial Report. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed.*

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Motioned by Ed McNamara seconded by John Jaeger to adjourn the meeting. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Don Schliep, Secretary

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Eve ½ Day & Christmas Day Holidays  
New Year's Eve ½ Day & New Year's Day Holidays  
January 2020 Goodhue Co. SWCD Regular Meeting

December 24-25  
Dec. 31, 2019-Jan. 1 2020  
Jan. 27, 2020 – 4:30 p.m.

**USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Goodhue Field Office**

**Accomplishments Report  
November 26, 2017 thru December 23, 2019**

**PREPARED BY:** Thomas Steger, NRCS District Conservationist

**I. Field Office Management and Program Summaries:**

**Staffing:**

SC position has not yet been filled  
DC position will be vacant as of 1/3/2020  
Short term, a Soil Conservationist will be assigned here for a 120 day period while the process goes forward for a permanent staff person.  
Additional help from neighboring offices will be made available as needed.  
Michael Muzzy, DC in Rochester will be Acting Tribal Liaison to Prairie Island Indian Community for the interim.

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):**

All but 3 CSP contracts where a 2019 payment was requested have been processed. The remaining 3 are modifications that may or may not be completed for 2019 funding. There 9 CSP contract awaiting funding so that a payment can be processed – these contract holders requested payment after the first of the year.

We have 6 contract which expired at the end of 2015 that are eligible for renewals; the rest will have to apply new for the program if they wish to continue to participate. Program guidance on the process and ranking procedures is still pending.

Application cutoff for 2018 has not yet been announced.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):**

At present we have 27 applications for EQIP financial assistance. At least that many more have expressed interest and will likely apply.

As with the CSP, we have not been notified of a deadline, nor do we have ranking details.

We are working to complete conservation planning on the one where they have applied.

RCPPEQIP; the local programs, (Ag Certainty, Habitat for Wild and Rare and SEMN Feedlots), no information has been received.

**Other:**

CRP: At the present, FSA is doing preliminary work with those who have expressed interest in the opportunities. We will be assisting with site reviews and plan development as guidelines become more available.

## **II. Client Assistance (incl. HEL, wetland items and general conservation assistance)**

Requests to help with conservation planning and various resource concerns are being addressed as time allows.

We have completed annual Status Reviews with most of the active contract holders in the various programs—there were few “issues” identified regarding the implementation status. These are being addressed.

Working with the Prairie Island Indian Community on continuing grazing and vegetative establishment concerns. Also on erosion and vegetative concerns at their new property south of Oronoco.

We are still receiving a few requests to review drainage work and some for sodbusting. We are handling the N/HEL determinations locally; wetlands are forwarded to our wetlands team for completion. At this time the oldest pending request for review is 4 months old.

## **III. Programs, tours, training & meetings attended by NRCS FO staff:**

Belle Creek Watershed Inspection Tour: Tom  
MASWCD Convention and DC State meeting: Tom

*One last note:*

*This being my final report as your District Conservationist, I wanted to take the chance to thank you all for the positive and cooperative mindset that you have helped maintain in the county.*

*To know that when a producer contacts the office here with a resource problem, that the first concern is not “is this a federal project or a local issue” it’s “okay what can we do to help you?” has made working here most rewarding.*

*The old saw about doing what you love means not working a day in your life certainly applies here. Time has flown, but the time is now for a change.*

*Thank you and Merry Christmas.*