

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 25, 2019

7:30 P.M.

Goodhue County SWCD Office

MINUTES

ATTENDED BY: Jeff Beckman, Mark Comstock, John Jaeger, Ed McNamara, Don Schliep, Beau Kennedy, Glen Roberson, Thomas Steger

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Beckman at 7:32 p.m. A quorum is present. Those present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. AGENDA

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

III. CONSENT AGENDA

There were no consent agenda items at this time.

IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motioned by Ed McNamara seconded by Mark Comstock to approve the February 25, 2019 District Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no Public Comments at this time.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

1. Action to Cancel State Cost Share Contract LCF2016-07, Tim Mack, \$5,175.00 Water and Sediment Control Basins at Owner's Request.

Motioned by Mark Comstock seconded by Ed McNamara to approve the cancellation of State Cost Share Contract LCF2016-07, Tim Mack in the amount of \$5,175.00 for a Water and Sediment Control Basin. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed .

2. Action on State Cost Share Contract Application #2015CWF-16, David Betcher, Grade Stabilization Structure, \$17,869.50 (\$13,647.89 from FY15 funds, \$4,221.61 from FY16 funds)

Motioned by Ed McNamara seconded by Don Schliep to approve David Betcher's State Cost Share application for a Grade Stabilization Structure in the amount of \$17,869.50 (\$13,647.89 from FY15 funds and \$4,221.61 from FY16 funds) Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

3. Action on State Cost Share Application #2016CWF-01, Circle K Family Farms, Grade Stabilization Structure, \$8,685.00

Motioned by John Jaeger seconded by Don Schliep to approve Circle K Family Farms State Cost Share Application #2016CWF-01 for a grade stabilization structure, in the amount of \$8,685.00. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

4. Action on State Cost Share Application #2016CWF-02, Circle K Family Farms, Grade Stabilization Structure, \$10,971.00

Motioned by John Jaeger seconded by Ed McNamara to approve Circle K Family Farms State Cost Share application #2016CWF-02 for a grade stabilization structure in the amount of \$10,971.00. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

5. Action on State Cost Share Application #2016CWF-03, Mark Heise, Grade Stabilization Structures \$44,820.00

Motioned by John Jaeger seconded by Mark Comstock to approve Mark Heise's State Cost Share application #2016CWF-03 for Grade Stabilization Structures in the amount of \$44,820.00. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

6. Action on State Cost Share Application #2018-02, James Arndt, Grassed Waterway, \$5,253.75

Motioned by Mark Comstock seconded by John Jaeger to approve James Arndt's State Cost Share Contract #2018-02 for a grassed waterway in the amount of \$5,253.75. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

7. Action on Non Structural Land Management Practices Implementation Plan for FY2019 Conservation Cost Share Base Grant Cover Crop Cost Share

Motioned by Ed McNamara seconded by John Jaeger to approve the Non Structural Land Management Practices Implementation Plan for FY 2019 Conservation Cost Share Base Grant: Cover Crop Cost Share. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

8. Update and Action on Drone Purchase From Local Capacity Fund

Motioned by Ed McNamara seconded by Don Schliep to approve the Drone Purchase from the Local Capacity Funds. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

9. Action on Request to Cancel SE Minnesota Water Resources Board Sub-Agreement for Zumbro 1WIP data aggregation

Motioned by Ed McNamara seconded by John Jaeger to accept the termination of the SE Minnesota Water Resources Board Sub agreement for Zumbro 1WIP data aggregation. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

10. Authorization to start hiring process of a summer intern.

Motioned by Mark Comstock seconded by Don Schliep authorizing the hiring process of a summer intern to begin. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

11. Action on 2018 Year End Financial Reports

Motioned by John Jaeger seconded by Don Schliep to approve the 2018 Year End Financial Reports as presented. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

VII. REPORTS

1. NRCS Report

The NRCS Report was presented by Thomas Steger. (See attached for details)

2. District Manager's Report

The District Manager's Report was presented by Glen Roberson. (See attached for details)

3. Supervisor Activity Report

Ed McNamara reported that he attended the Cannon 1W1P Open house in Faribault, MN

John Jaeger reported that he attended the Legislative Day at the Capitol in St Paul. He also reported he attended the GIS meeting at the St James with the MPCA in Red Wing, MN

Jeff Beckman reported that he attended the Cannon 1W1P Policy Committee meeting

4. Other

There were no other reports at this time.

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT/PAYABLES

1. Approve February 2019 Financial Reports

Motioned by Ed McNamara seconded by Mark Comstock to approve the February 2019 Financial Reports as printed. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

2. Approve March 2019 Accounts Payable

Motioned by Mark Comstock seconded by Don Schliep to approve the March 2019 Accounts Payable to include Supervisor compensation payment. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by John Jaeger seconded by Donald Schliep to adjourn the meeting. Voting affirmative: Beckman, Comstock, Jaeger, McNamara, Schliep. Opposed: None. Motion passed

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Schliep
Secretary

ATTACH: NRCS Report

District Manager's Report



April 22, 2019

**USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
Goodhue Field Office
Accomplishments Report
February 26 thru March 25, 2019**

PREPARED BY: Thomas Steger, NRCS District Conservationist

I. Field Office Management and Program Summaries:

EQIP – Approval process for FY19 EQIP continues. Round 1 is for applications received as of January 18th; we completed needs and planning work for 18 of 33 by the March 1 deadline. Looks like 12 of these may be approved in the first funding cycle. Hopefully to get to more for the second round, April 19th deadline for those applications. Working now on paperwork toward obligating first round EQIP contracts.

For the RCPP-EQIP we have 1 applications in the SE Feedlot pool and 1 in the Ag Certainty pool. We are working on the planning and design work required to move these forward. Deadline for that is May 17th.

We will need to complete Local Work Group meetings for the County and for Prairie Island before the 1st of May. County wide meeting is to be on April 22nd. The PIIC one is tentatively on the 15th of April – waiting on confirmation.

CRP – this program, administered by the FSA, continues to bring in interested landowners. FSA is not accepting applications for contracts – waiting on direction related to the new Farm Bill.

Conservation Stewardship Program – we have 5 applications on hand for new (2019) contracts, another has expressed strong interest but application forms are being updated and are not presently available. Working to update the conservation plans with these folks in preparation for CSP possibilities. No announced deadlines yet for applications.

Reminder letters were sent out for EQIP and CSP participants relative to their current year obligations. Also an additional one for Nutrient Management where the producer is behind schedule.

Duties related to assigned management of the area Sharepoint site began this month. I updated it to the new 4 area format; with luck it will only be maintenance now and not a heavy time drag.

Assignment by supervisor to attend Congressional Listening session on March 15th and report back was completed. Was also able to connect with various Ag interest groups and staff for Congresswoman Craig also.

Staffing – As of today I am still the only NRCS employee for Goodhue county. Dr. John Beck is working out of our office two days a week as an ACES employee for the state office. John Benjamin was hired on as a Soil Conservationist, full time at the Rochester Field Office. He will be helping out in Goodhue (and Wabasha) on occasion as part of our Conservation Delivery Team.

We lost our contracted clerical position here effect March 1 but we do get some help from the clerk in Rochester.

Effective April 15th the Soil Conservation Technician position here will be filled by Jim Straskowski – transferring up from the Hampton IA Field Office.

Reports - Various monthly and quarterly agency reports were completed and submitted. This included our quarterly ROOT audit of program contracts that are flagged for various reasons. We had one requiring some “clean-up” also 5 others that have various changes/problems which require modifications. The first of the season weekly crop status reports for Nat’l Ag Statistics Service was submitted this week.

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

The backlog of AD-1026 forms requesting determinations for planned sodbusting (0) or tiling activities (11) now dates back only a few months. The older ones need field checks when conditions allow, otherwise are within 3 months.

We have been doing a few site evaluations and trying to get some survey work done for potential new projects. But most has been related to completing the application packets for those who applied for EQIP.

Received a report of an apparent failure in one of our grade stabilization structure – dams this past week. Working with engineering staff to investigate and develop alternatives. It is not a high hazard dam site.

Conservation planning and the promotion of cover crops as a viable and useful addition to cropping systems has been included in most all assistance discussions with producers.

Conservation plan reviews and updates have been on-going but are lagging due to staff shortages.

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

Team 20 Leader meeting: Tom

Congressional Listening session: Tom

March 2019 Monthly Summary: Glen Roberson

SWCD:

- Tree sales & lining up delivery day
- Order & receive Tree shelters 60". Coordinate order with Steele & Wabasha.
- Manager meeting 3/4/2019 in Rochester: discuss SE Water Resource Board future, training, common issues.
- Attended Day at Capitol with John Jaeger March 6 2019
- Work with Alan Krause on wide row corn cover crop grant implementation plan. Meeting set for March 26th at 6 PM.
- Draft Farm Bill Promotion grant Statement of Interest for 2020 grant.

Cannon 1W1P:

- Open House held for February 28th at the College in Faribault, 6 PM. Was set for 2/20/2019 and postponed due to winter storm.
- Policy Committee met March 13th in Faribault. Preparing for 'Implementation' phase and formation of a JPB.
- .

Zumbro 1W1P:

- Meeting on 3/5/2019 on Request for Proposals to Consultants to write the 1w1p. 5 proposals received, reviewed and scored. Meeting set for March 25th 9:30 AM to rank & set up interviews on March 28th.
- .

SE SWCD Tech Support JPB:

- Work on NRCS Soil Health grant report with 15% funded by BWSR TSA funds. Fillmore invoice & fixes due to mileage rate reduced by \$0.25 per mile depreciation (State funded truck).
- Elink corrections at BWSR request: Personnel Activity Report rate changes for 1st half of 2018.
- Updated web site as required by BWSR for grant reporting.
- Contact Executive Committee on SE WRB disbanding & options for taking on some of their Grants. Call by Gebhardt to review.
- .

SE Water Resources Board:

Calls with Bridgette Timm on future of JPB: voted to disband at their March 11th meeting. Work with partners on plans to move existing grants to other LGU's & TSA. Water Plan Coordinators will meet and develop recommendation to their Board.

Upcoming Events:

Goodhue SWCD Board meeting:

April 22 2019 @ 7:30 PM