



MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 16, 2022 BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lyle Dittmann at 7:31 a.m.

Members Present:

Chairperson: Lyle Dittmann
Vice Chairperson: Steve Inwards
Secretary: Terry Greenwaldt
Treasurer: Dennis Reynolds

Others Present:

County Commissioner: Dan Bucholz
NRCS District Conservationist: Troy Baumgart
District Manager: Darren Newville
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas
Irrigation/Nutrient Mgmt Specialist: Nathan Wiese
Admin, Ed, & Outreach Asst: Kristi Rorah

Members Absent:

Public Relations: Wayne Enger

Agenda: Add MASWCD local aid request to New Business after item number 16 on the agenda. Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to adopt the Agenda with additions. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Approve Board Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the previous month Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Dennis Reynolds, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, subject to audit. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Bills Paid & Bills Payable: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt, to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Cost Share policy: Cost share policy has been updated with additions to irrigation practices. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Steve Inwards to adopt the additions to cost share policy as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried.

** 7:55 a.m. Chantal left the meeting*



COST SHARE

C21-3238-04; Phyllis Bernhauer Trust c/o Tom Breher; Authorization to approve payment for a Forest Stewardship Plan, with total cost of \$ 1,082.00, cost share payment not to exceed \$ 811.50 or 75%, whichever is less in section 12 of Elmo Township. Motion to approve made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Steve Inwards. Opposed: none, motion carried.

C21-3238-06; Jacob Hendrickx; Butler Township; is requesting approval of a flat rate cost share contract for Cover Crop practices. This is a three-year contract for a total flat rate in the amount of \$ 9,600.00. Motion to approve made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt. Opposed: none, motion carried.

C21-3238-07; Mike and Colleen Grant; Oak Valley Township, section 18; are requesting approval of cost share assistance contract for their tree planting practice. The total estimated cost of the project is \$ 2350.50, with cost sharing of \$ 1,762.88 or 75% whichever is less. Motion to approve made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Steve Inwards. Opposed: none, motion carried.

C21-3238-08; CT Farms LLC; Woodside Township, section 31; is requesting approval of cost share assistance contract for their irrigation sprinkler system. The total estimated cost of the project is \$ 33,300.00, with cost sharing of \$15,120.00 or 45.4% whichever is less. Motion to approve made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt. Opposed: none, motion carried.

PL9/LP; Scott & Tali Neumann; Gorman Township, section 25; is requesting approval of cost share assistance contract for their shoreline buffer. The total estimated cost of the project is \$ 1981.16, with cost sharing of \$ 1,485.87 or 75% whichever is less. Motion to approve made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Edwards. Opposed: none, motion carried.

PL10/LP; Kelly Karsnia; Gorman Township, section 25; is requesting approval of cost share assistance contract for their tree planting and critical area planting. The total estimated cost of the project is \$ 2,812.54, with cost sharing of \$ 2,109.41 or 75% whichever is less. Motion to approve made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt. Opposed: none, motion carried.

C21-9235-01; Mike Dombeck; is requesting partial payment. Total cost to date of practice is \$ 3,111.59. Payment requested is \$ 2,333.69 (75%). Motion to approve made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt. Opposed: none, motion carried.

C21-9235-04; Silver Dust Farm LLC; Rush Lake Township, section 33; is requesting approval of a cost share contract for irrigation technology/soil moisture sensor. Total estimated project cost is \$ 3,333.33, with cost sharing of \$ 2,500.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion to approve made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Steve Inwards. Opposed: none, motion carried.

C21-9235-05; Todd & Melissa Larson; Perham Township, section 18; are requesting approval of a cost share contract for irrigation technology/soil moisture sensor. Total estimated project cost is \$ 3333.33, with cost sharing of \$ 2500.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion to approve made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt. Opposed: none, motion carried.



C21-9235-06; Roberts Dairy; Butler Township, section 17; is requesting approval of a cost share contract for irrigation technology/soil moisture sensor. Total estimated project cost is \$ 3333.33, with cost sharing of \$ 2500.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion to approve made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Steve Inwards. Opposed: none, motion carried.

C21-9235-07; Leaderbrand Brothers; Newton Township, section 36; is requesting approval of a cost share contract for irrigation technology/soil moisture sensor. Total estimated project cost is \$ 3333.33, with cost sharing of \$ 2500.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion to approve made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Steve Inwards. Opposed: none, motion carried.

C21-9235-08; Austin Hovius; Thomastown Township, section 31; is requesting approval of a cost share contract for irrigation technology/soil moisture sensor. Total estimated project cost is \$ 3,333.33, with cost sharing of \$ 2,500.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion to approve made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Reynolds. Opposed: none, motion carried.

C21-9235-09; Olson and Sons; Parkers Prairie Township, section 23; is requesting approval of a cost share contract for irrigation technology/soil moisture sensor. Total estimated project cost is \$ 3333.33, with cost sharing of \$ 2500.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion to approve made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Dennis Reynolds. Opposed: none, motion carried.

C21-9235-10; DJM Farms; Perham Township, section 18; is requesting approval of a cost share contract for irrigation technology/soil moisture sensor. Total estimated project cost is \$ 3,333.33, with cost sharing of \$ 2,500.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion to approve made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Steve Inwards. Opposed: none, motion carried.

CC19; Huebsch Family Farms; Pine Lake Township, section 30; is requesting cost share payment for a cover crop demonstration plot. Payment requested is \$ 1000.00, at \$500.00/acre. Motion to approve made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt. Opposed: none, motion carried.

P20-7507-01; Forrest Briard; Perham Township, section 32; is requesting approval of cost share assistance contract for irrigation sprinkler system. The total estimated cost of the project is \$ 50,250.00, with cost sharing of \$20,200.00 or 40.2% whichever is less. Motion to approve made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt. Opposed: none, motion carried.

CC18; Steve Inwards; is requesting cost share payment for a cover crop demonstration plot. Payment requested is \$ 500.00, at \$500.00/acre. Motion to approve made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Reynolds. Steve Inwards abstained. Opposed: none, motion carried.

C21-9235-11; Steve Inwards; is requesting approval of a cost share contract for irrigation technology/soil moisture sensor. Total estimated project cost is \$ 3,333.33, with cost sharing of \$ 2,500.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion to approve made by Lyle Dittmann, seconded by Dennis Reynolds. Steve Inwards abstained. Opposed: none, motion carried.



District Manager's Report: written and presented by Darren Newville, see attached.

District Conservationist's Report: report by Troy Baumgart

- See attached

County Commissioner's Report: presented by Dan Bucholz

- Discussed ditch 17 at commissioners meeting, some ditches aren't marked
- Phelps Mill – owned by the county, DNR wants to take out and replace the dam. Dan and Betty are not in favor of removal of the dam, however the commissioners plan to initiate a study.

Other Agency Reports: none

Old Business

Water Plan/Watershed Plan update: Otter Tail watershed update presented by Darren Newville, with maps showing impairments, land use, and priorities.

* 9:00 a.m. Chantal entered the meeting

Department of Ag update:

- Verndale local advisory team, 3rd meeting coming up – majority already doing BMPs
- Continuing to work on RCPP, what practices, payment rates, developing a screening tool to determine priority, other administrative. BWSR and Dept. of Ag have committed \$410,000 combined in cash for projects – need to work out how to manage that, EOT SWCD may act as the fiscal agent providing funding back to the other SWCDs.
- Priority projects: wellhead protection areas, farm business management program

TSA Update: last meeting held two weeks ago

- Reviewed report from Houston Engineering – estimated that TSA would need 2 engineers and 3 technicians to cover the area
- Looked at staff that have JAA within the 16 SWCDs, only 28% of the staff have job approval authority
- Split into two groups, north and south, to work together to pool resources. A few SWCDs have chosen to be on their own. EOT SWCD already has agreement in place with Becker and West Otter Tail. Others may choose to join.



New Business

2022 Elections Information: 2022 Elections Guide

- Filing dates are May 17-31, 2022
- Wayne and Lyle's positions are up for election this year. News releases will go out in March.

Meetings and Training:

- Legislative Days is March 9
- Area Meeting is March 15

Education and Outreach: Staff has been working on education and outreach ideas and planning.

- 5 committees: café talks/open house for shoreland, café talks/workshop meeting for agriculture, women's wildflower arrangement event for urban gardens/shoreland, greenhouse booth/table, social media (board and staff profiles, photo contest, developing videos for promotional use), appreciation dinner
- Discussed appreciation dinner proposal, will discuss further at the March meeting.
- Discussed need for equipment for photo/video for social media, website, other outreach. Motion to approve spending up to \$2000.00 for camera/video equipment made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt. Opposed: none, motion carried.

SWCD Local Aid: MASWCD is asking legislators to support a statutory appropriation for SWCDs through the Dept. of Revenue at \$22 million per year. This would create a permanent funding source.

Need to approve personnel attending legislative briefing and area meeting. Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve SWCD personnel attending the legislative briefing and the Area 1 meeting. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Public Comments: none

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.