



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

Todd County
• MINNESOTA • EST. 1855 •

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

215 1st Avenue South, Suite 104

Long Prairie, MN 56347

Phone: 320-732-2644 Fax: 320-732-4803

Minutes from the June 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Chairperson Buchholz called the Thursday, June 13, 2024 meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was held in person at the Historic Courthouse at 215 1st Ave S, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Call for Introductions.

Board members present in person were: Leland Buchholz, Wayne Wendel, Dale Katterhagen, Barb James and Tom Williamson.

Others present in person were: Adam Ossefoort, Division Director, Sarah Katterhagen, Program Coordinator, Josh Votruba, Conservation Technician, Kasen Christiansen, Conservation Technician, Luke Thoma, NRCS, Barb Becker, Todd County Commissioner, and Randy Neumann, Todd County Commissioner.

Online: Deja Anton, District Manager.

Buchholz asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. Wendel made a motion, seconded by Williamson to accept the revised agenda for the regular June 13, 2024 meeting.

- 2.11 Add- AREA II meeting update.
- 2.12 Add- WCTSA meeting update.
- 3.2 Add- Contract #2024.06.13-3.2, encumbering request for Helle for cost share funds in the amount \$3,750 for cattle crossing project.
- 4.4 Remove – Contract #2024.05.03-3.12, payment request from Kaminsky in the amount \$750 for Forest Stewardship Plan.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Motion Carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by James to approve minutes as disbursed from the May 9, 2024 board meeting. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Motion Carried.

Buchholz asked the board to review May's 2024 Treasurer's Report. James made a motion, seconded by Williamson to accept May's 2024 Treasurer's Report with receipts totaling \$22,902.12 and disbursements totaling \$50,247.87. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Motion Carried.

Buchholz called for conflict of interest. No conflict of interest reported.

Reports:

Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Becker reported the Historic Courthouse wall project is scheduled to start in July and the Solid Waste project is in the middle of construction. County will start reviewing budgets

soon. Also, the County will have to develop a cannabis ordinance, and also there is a proposal of a new childcare bill, that will put on more restrictions on daycares.

Commissioner Neumann reported he received a report of a dead calf in Miller's Bay, and that needs to be addressed.

Director Update: Ossefoort reported he met with Big Swan Lake regarding a grant application proposal. The Planning Commission requests have been standard requests and for this month there has been no applications for the Board of Adjustment. The Feedlot Ordinance changes were approved by the County Commissioners. Ossefoort reported he will start working on the Cannabis Ordinance, and there should be a template coming from the State soon.

Anton joined the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

SWCD Manger's Report: See PowerPoint presentation. The presentation includes highlights from Trek through Todd County. Supervisors requested to receive a copy of the PowerPoint, which was mailed out following the meeting.

Staff Reports: Ossefoort reported Pratt has been attending trainings and has taken on the lead role for setting up things in the tree barn.

Ossefoort reported Ebnet has been working with landowners on their Ag Water Certification and working on Nutrient Management Plans.

Ossefoort reported Votruba assisted with packing trees during tree week and completed two WCA Notice of Decisions.

Ossefoort reported Christiansen has been working with Fish and Wildlife on Wetland Restoration projects, working with landowners to resolve their WCA violations, working with landowners on cleaning ditches and also did a mailing for the LCCMR grant.

Ossefoort reported S. Katterhagen sent out the Save the Dates for Enviro Fest to the schools, assisted during tree week and processing grant applications for income-based landowners for the septic grant program.

NRCS Report: Thoma reported two additional ag waste projects were approved in Todd County. Thomas handed out information regarding the Local Work Meeting and if Supervisors have any comments they are due back to Thoma or Anton. Verbally the board expressed concerns with the poplar fields, solar gardens and want to make sure prime farmland is protected.

1W1P SRWD Report: Williamson reported Sauk River Round #2 funding was approved by BWSR. The partnership is working together to develop a tracking tool for projects located in the Sauk River Watershed.

1W1P Red Eye Report: No report.

1W1P Long Prairie Report: No report.



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1W1P Crow Wing Report: Wendel reported there will be a meeting in July to review plan and there will be public hearing will be coming up for the plan.

1W1P Mississippi Brainerd Report: No Report.

BWSR Report: No BWSR report.

West Central Technical Service Area Report: Williamson reported things have been good for West Central Technical Services Engineers.

AREA II Meeting Report: Buchholz reported the Soil Health funds are available for District's to submitted their requests. Buchholz recommended following up with Jared House from BWSR on when the grant agreements will be executed.

Decisions Needed for Projects:

James made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve encumbering FY24 Riparian cost share funds for Gabriel and Barbara Gieske, C#2024.06.13-3.1, in the amount of \$4,000 for a wetland restoration project located in the Sauk River Watershed. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve encumbering FY24 Riparian cost share funds for Michael Helle, C#2024.06.13-3.2 in the amount of \$3,750 for a repair to cattle crossing project located in the Crow Wing Watershed. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Motion Carried.

Decisions Needed for Payment

Payment request from Myron Kaminsky was removed, as payment request form was not received from the landowner in order to review the payment request.

Decisions Needed for Operations:

James made a motion seconded by Katterhagen to approve letter of support for the third round of the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape RCPP Grant that included match fund.

Discussion: The match amount from Todd SWCD will be \$1,000.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by James to approve letter of support for Kanati Land Management applying for HELP grant application through BWSR wildlife habitat enhancement.

Discussion: No financial support from Todd SWCD is required.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Motion Carried.



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Wendel made a motion, seconded by James to approve the revised cost-share policy to now cost-share all projects including the sealing of wells, establishment of shelterbelts, habitat projects and fuel containment projects at 75%.

Discussion: All requests for cost-share are approved or denied at the discretion of the SWCD Board based on relevance to the Board's mission statement. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve revised policy for establishing cost-share contract protocols and rates for Forest Stewardship Plans assigning a contracted project life span of 10 years with a spot check allowance based on SWCD workload and capacity. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Motion Carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve a resolution establishing procedures for records retention. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Motion Carried.

James made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve the updated Cover Crop Policy with current SWCD formatting and 2024 revisions. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Motion Carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by James to accept changes to the now combined and revised Tennesen Warning and Quality Assurance forms. Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Motion Carried.

Votruba and Christiansen left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Discussion:

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by James to approve Supervisors attending the Governance 101 Training on July 16-17, 2024.

Discussion: Supervisors will inform the office if they decide to attend.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Wendel, Katterhagen, James and Williamson. Motion Carried.

The Board of Supervisors reviewed the draft agreement between Todd County and Pheasants Forever, INC. This position is neither a County or SWCD employee. The contract is a request for continued support from the County for the Farm Biologist position. This position was vacated when Luke Thoma took a position with NRCS and needs to be filled. It was learned in the Commissioner Work Session that this position has zero involvement in the purchase or resale of farmland. This is a technical project and practices position much needed in Todd County and the Central Minnesota region to establish native buffers and plantings, pollinators, CRP and grazing habitat on marginal lands per request of Todd County landowners. This position is a huge support to the local NRCS office. Though the contract is with Todd County and undersigned by Adam Ossefoort, the monies will come from the Todd SWCD budget (County Allocation) similar to prior years. Additional match will be sought from local organizations. The contract has undergone extensive review, with lawful language modifications, by the County Attorney to reach the best interest of the County. Commissioner Becker and Neumann wanted this information brought to the SWCD Board prior to the June 18, 2024 Commissioners Board Meeting.



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Informational:

Katterhagen submitted a draft article for the newspapers to the office about the recent Local Work Group Tour.

Todd SWCD will have having free nitrate clinic during specific hours on June 27, 28, 29 at the Todd County Fair. See advertisement for specific times.

Todd SWCD will be participating at the Breakfast Farm event at Dale and Marie Katterhagen's farm on July 13, 2024. Staff are working on coming up with an activity for the visitors to participate in.

Anton mentioned that Ossefoort created a brochure about living in rural Todd County. Ossefoort will provide copies for the board to review and to provide input.

The Annual Enviro Fest will be Thursday, September 19, 2024 at Dale and Marie Katterhagen farm. Supervisor Katterhagen will be attending a Long Prairie Lions Club meeting to ask for a donation for the event. S. Katterhagen noted the rest of the donation requests will go out after 4th of July.

The annual MASWCD Annual Convention will be at the DoubleTree Bloomington – December 2-4, 2024.

The grant work plan for Soil Health grant was approved. The Soil Health position is now being advertised and the SWCD will also do their own advertisement. Anton requested the board's help with spreading the word about the open position.

A Legislative update was in the board folders.

The Farm Bill NACD letter was in the board folders.

Chairperson Buchholz adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.


Sarah Katterhagen, Minute Prepare

7-11-2024
Date


Deja Anton, SWCD District Manager

7-11-2024
Date


Dale Katterhagen, Secretary

7-11-2024
Date