

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 7, 2017 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting of the Itasca County Soil & Water Conservation District was held in the ICSWCD Conference Room, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, February 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Lovdahl 9: 00 a.m.

Members Present: Chair, Ted Lovdahl
Secretary, Chris Reed
Vice Chair, Calvin Saari

Absent: Treasurer, Donald C. Simons

Others Present: District Manager- Andy Arens
Office Administrator- Kathleen Cone
NRCS District Conservationist- Marge Sella
AIS Coordinator- Bill Grantges

The Pledge of Allegiance took place.

Agenda: Motion by Saari, second by Reed to approve the agenda with additions under Treasurer's Report: Consent Agenda: Pay Equity, Grantges/SWCD Agreement Approval. Addition under Wetlands, Paul Butler Formalization of Offer. Addition under Forestry, Tim Frits Formalization of Offer. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion by Saari, second by Reed to approve the minutes from the regular Board Meeting of January 10, 2017. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bills Paid/Payable: A motion by Saari, second by Reed to approve the bills paid/payable. The Treasurer reviewed the finances and everything is in order. The approved AIS charge accounts are L&M Supply, Coles, Cenex, RC's Silver Spur, and Minit Mart. The BWSR Weed Management Grant was reviewed, funding was deposited in August of 2014. This grant will be researched to find out how to close it out. The NSBI grant funding was deposited in July of 2009 and it will also be looked at to see how it can be closed out. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

- 1.) Pay Equity
- 2.) Grantges/SWCD Agreement Approval

A motion by Saari, second by Reed to approve the Consent Agenda. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

WETLANDS

Co. Hwy 238 Bridge Replacement: A motion by Saari, second by Reed to approve the County Hwy 238 Bridge Replacement with 1.32 acres of wetland impact. The TAC approved this project. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Paul Butler Formalization of Offer: A motion by Saari, second by Reed to accept Paul Butler as the new Wetland Specialist at a rate of \$16.50 an hour. He will start on February 27, 2017. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

EIP Banking Credit Release: A motion by Reed, second by Saari to approve EIP Banking Plan Credit Release with TEP approved conditions: 1). Rounding error for type 7 Hardwood credits be corrected and that approval is for 39.292 acres and correction of .002 to credits. 2.) Supports discontinuation of pressure transducers for hydrologic monitoring at the site, with the condition that the right must be reserved by BWSR to have monitoring wells re-instated if deemed necessary. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

AIS

County Contract Amendment: A motion by Saari, second by Reed to approve the contract with the County to administer the Aquatic Invasive Species program. After review of the MCIT insurance everything is approved and will cost \$1000 more to the District. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Grantges Report: Bill reported he attended a State Water Craft Inspection meeting. He plans to write a one page AIS newsletter. There is an AIS TECH Committee meeting on February 20 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Harris Township Hall. There was discussion on what is protocol on vehicle break downs and he would like to see an account set up for using TJ towing. Supervisor Saari would like to be notified of any meetings or trainings useful to supervisors learning more about AIS. Bill is working on some AIS video's and showed some Van Wrap marketing ideas.

COST SHARE/SPECIAL PROJECTS

WATER PLAN

WPIC Meeting, February 14, 9:00 a.m. The next Water Plan Implementation Committee meeting will be held here at the Itasca SWCD conference room. Supervisor Cal Saari will attend.

FORESTRY/SHORELAND

Tullibee FS Extension: A motion by Reed, second by Saari to approve the extension of the Tullibee FS grant to June 30, 2017. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

EDUCATION

Youth Water Summit 2016 Report: Cone summarized the 2016 Youth Water Summit and gave out copies of the report.

ADMINISTRATION

2017 Work Plan: The staff will have a meeting to work on the 2017 Work Plan and look at staff hours more closely.

2017 Local Capacity Work Plan: For 2017 the District will receive \$100,000 and the county will get \$14,500. The county will use the funding for a project on the River Road on the Mississippi River discharge pipe to stabilize a steep bluff.

NE Grassland Council Meeting: On February 2, 2017 Saari and Arens attended the NE Grassland Council Meeting in Floodwood.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS: Sella reported conservation applications has seen the installation of 7 financial assistance practices worth \$24,153.31 for Fiscal Year 2017.

EQIP applications are now being ranked by fund pool.

CSP certifications and payments are continuing for 2016 contract items.

Planning was done with landowners and contractors to complete winter timber harvest on EQIP contracts.

Next meeting date is Tuesday, March 7, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Executive Session: A motion by Saari, second by Reed to enter executive session at 10:34 a.m. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Reed moved to adjourn at 10:50 a.m.

Secretary