



Minutes from the March 17, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

Call to Order Chair Debra Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Members Present:

Al Moline
Marcia Stromgren
Debra Taylor
John Tollgaard

Others Present:

R.C. Boheim, SWCD Staff
Julie Venhuizen, SWCD Staff
Allison Praet, NRCS Staff
Brandon Silgjord, Brian Mirsch, Christopher Ellian

Agenda The Board reviewed the agenda. Motion by Moline, seconded by Tollgaard to approve the Agenda.

Affirmative: Moline, Stromgren, Taylor, Tollgaard,
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

Approval of minutes Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Stromgren seconded by Moline to approve the Minutes with a minor correction.

Affirmative: Moline, Stromgren, Taylor, Tollgaard
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

District 4 Supervisor The Board discussed the process for completing the interviews of the three candidates. Motion by Moline seconded by Tollgaard for Taylor to ask all the prepared questions.

Affirmative: Moline, Taylor, Tollgaard
Opposed: Stromgren ***Motion Carried***

The Board interviewed three candidates. Motion by Moline seconded by Tollgaard to appoint Brandon Silgjord District 4 Supervisor.

Affirmative: Moline, Stromgren, Taylor, Tollgaard
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

Financial and Administrative Reports

Financial Reports The Board reviewed the financial reports. Total fund balance as of February 28, 2021 was \$588,322.24. Motion by Moline, seconded by Tollgaard to approve the financial report.

Affirmative: Moline, Stromgren, Taylor, Tollgaard
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

Treasurer's Report Moline reported he reviewed material yesterday and everything checked out. Motion by Tollgaard, seconded by Taylor to approve the report.

Affirmative: Moline, Stromgren, Taylor, Tollgaard
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

Add Conservation Specialist Position Boheim discussed the need to add a Conservation specialist, and reminded the Board the approved 2021 Budget included up to \$50,000/year salary for the position. The primary roles for this position will be to deliver conservation assistance to land occupiers, deliver

information and education programs, and to complete conservation related technical activities to support SWCD projects. Motion by Stromgren, seconded by Moline to authorize the District Manager to add the position.

Affirmative: Moline, Stromgren, Taylor, Tollgaard
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

COVID-19 response Boheim reported that there are no updates. Staff continue working from home primarily per the Governor's Executive Orders.

State Cost-share Program

Agar Buffer Pike Lake The proposed project is a native buffer enhancement on Pike Lake. The cost estimate is \$4,000. Motion by Moline, seconded by Tollgaard to approve a cost-share contract using BWSR buffer funds for the project for 75% of approved costs, or \$3,000 whichever is less. The project must be completed by September 30, 2021

Affirmative: Moline, Stromgren, Taylor, Tollgaard
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

Grant Agreements

DNR Coastal Program - \$10,000 Boheim reviewed the project. It's a grant to determine how the Minnesota Stream Quantification Tool and Debit Calculator will work on North Shore streams. Motion by Moline, seconded by Tollgaard to approve the grant agreement with DNR.

Affirmative: Moline, Taylor, Tollgaard
Opposed: Stromgren ***Motion Carried***

Project Presentations None.

District Conservationist's Report Praet reported on staff additions and NRCS Program. She also reviewed the SWCD/NRCS MOU. Motion by Moline, seconded by Tollgaard to approve signing the MOU.

Affirmative: Moline, Stromgren Taylor, Tollgaard
Opposed: ***Motion Carried***

Committee and Board Membership Reports

Area III SWCD Technical Service Area (Nonpoint Engineering Assistance) Meets next week.

SWCD Forestry Association Meets next week.

Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development Meets next week.

MASWCD Northeast Area 3 No report

St. Louis River 1W1P Policy Committee Meets next week.

Supervisor Reports and Concerns

Taylor stated she judged for Science Fair. Our winner is a 9th grader from Cloquet that did a project about Buckthorn.

Stromgren asked about our building. Boheim reported staff have prepared criteria and are communicating with professionals. One potential location is a possibility in the Airpark.

Stromgren told the Board some other SWCDs have more materials in their Board packets. Carlton SWCD provides iPads for Board Members.

Stromgren Asked about the tree sale and had questions about a gravel pit in Fredenberg Township.

Other Business None

Supervisor Expenses Taylor reminded Supervisors to send in expense reports.

Adjourn Motion by Moline to adjourn the meeting.

Affirmative: Moline, Stromgren, Taylor, Tollgaard
Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.