



Minutes from the August 16, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

Call to Order Treasurer Al Moline 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

Members Absent:

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

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

Approval of minutes Minutes from the June Meeting were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Moline, seconded by Stromgren to approve the Minutes.

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 July 31, 2023 was \$440,685.87. Motion by Tollgaard, seconded by Stromgren to approve the financial report.

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

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

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

SWCD Aid Resolution Motion by Moline, seconded by Tollgaard to approve the following Resolution:
State SWCD Aid payments will be used by the district board and staff to carry out the following duties as outlined in Minn. Stat. § 103C.332, subd. 1:

- (1) respond to and provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to maintain and improve the quality, quantity, distribution, and sustainability of natural resources, including surface water, groundwater, soil, and ecological resources;
- (2) provide technical assistance in implementing the soil erosion law under sections [103F.401](#) to [103F.48](#);
- (3) arrange for employees to serve on technical evaluation panels to implement the wetland laws as required under section [103G.2242](#);
- (4) locally administer the reinvest in Minnesota reserve program under section [103F.515](#) and rules adopted thereunder, using knowledge of local resources to manage each easement to maximize environmental benefits;
- (5) participate in administering the Wetland Conservation Act as provided under sections [103G.221](#) to [103G.2375](#), either in an advisory capacity or as the designated local government unit administering the program;
- (6) participate in the local water management program under chapter 103B, either in an advisory capacity or as the designated local government unit administering the program;

- (7) participate, as appropriate, in the comprehensive watershed management planning program under section [103B.801](#);
- (8) participate in disaster response efforts as provided in chapter 12A;
- (9) provide technical recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources on general permit applications under section [103G.301](#);
- (10) provide technical assistance and local administration of the agricultural water quality certification program under sections [17.9891](#) to [17.993](#);
- (11) provide technical assistance for the agricultural land preservation program under chapter 40A, where applicable;
- (12) maintain compliance with section [15.99](#) for deadlines for agency action;
- (13) coordinate with appropriate county officials on matters related to electing soil and water conservation district supervisors; and
- (14) cooperate to the extent possible with federal, state, and local agencies and with private organizations to avoid duplicating and to enhance implementing public and private conservation initiatives within the jurisdiction of the district.

In carrying out the above duties, the district board and staff will use state aid payments to deliver the following services as outlined in Minn. Stat. § 103C.332, subd. 2:

- (1) performing administrative services, including comprehensive and annual work planning, administering grants, leveraging outside funding, establishing fiscal accountability measures, reporting accomplishments, human resources management, and staff and supervisor development;
- (2) entering into cooperative agreements with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other United States Department of Agriculture agencies to leverage federal technical and financial assistance;
- (3) providing technical expertise, including knowledge of local resources, performing technical evaluations and certifications, assessing concerns, and providing oversight in surveying, designing, and constructing conservation practices;
- (4) providing information and education outreach, including increasing landowner awareness and knowledge of soil and water conservation program opportunities to protect soil and water resources and publicizing the benefits of soil and water conservation to the general public;
- (5) facilitating regulatory processes for impacted landowners and providing technical review and comment on regulatory permits and development plans for regulations relating to soil and water conservation;
- (6) administering projects and programs, including but not limited to the nonpoint source pollution abatement program; reinvest in Minnesota reserve conservation easements program; disaster response; local water management and comprehensive watershed management planning programs; and projects related to floodplains, lakes, streams and ditches, wetlands, upland resources, and groundwater resources, to maintain and improve the quality, quantity, distribution, and sustainability of natural resources, including surface water, groundwater, soil, and ecological resources;
- (7) monitoring and inventorying to collect data that provide a baseline understanding of resource conditions and changes to the resources over time and analyzing and interpreting the data to support program implementation; and
- (8) maintaining a modern technology infrastructure that facilitates planning and projects, including geographic information systems, modeling software, mobile workstations, survey and design equipment and software, and other technology for linking landowners with conservation plans.

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

Conservation Specialist Positions Kyle Hildebrandt began work in July. Also, Mary O’Neill resigned in July.

District 4 Supervisor Position Interviews were completed in July for the four applicants. Motion by Moline, seconded by Tollgaard to appoint Paul Fish District 4 Supervisor to complete the remainder of the two-year term.

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

Admin Computer Purchase: Motion by Moline, seconded by Tollgaard to approve the purchase of a new computer system for \$1,742.

Affirmative: Moline, Stromgren, Taylor, Tollgaard

Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

District Conservationist’s Report No report.

State Cost-share Program None

Grant Agreements None

Committee and Board Membership Reports

Area III SWCD Technical Service Area (Nonpoint Engineering Assistance) The last meeting was June 28th. The FY2024 Budget was approved, including salary increases.

SWCD Forestry Association The last meeting was July 20th and RIM Programming and easements were discussed.

Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development The last meeting was July 24th and the Carbon Credit Program was discussed.

MASWCD Northeast Area 3 The Area 3 Fall Meeting 9/21-9/22 in Carlton. Moline and Stromgren will attend.

St. Louis River 1W1P Process/Policy Committee Meets August 31st to consider and updated budget.

Supervisor Reports and Concerns

Stromgren asked about NRCS Forestry programs and the Rice Lake Road culvert replacement.

Other Business None

Supervisor Expenses Moline reviewed expense reports with the Board. Motion by Tollgaard, seconded by Moline to approve the reports.

Affirmative: Moline, Stromgren, Taylor, Tollgaard

Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

Adjourn Motion by Moline to adjourn the meeting.

Affirmative: Moline, Stromgren, Taylor, Tollgaard

Opposed: None ***Motion Carried***

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.