

**DOUGLAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT MINUTES**

Monday, February 12, 2024 – 8:00 A.M.

The Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at the Douglas SWCD Conference Room on Monday, February 12, 2024. Chairman Barsness called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Members attending were: Barsness, Dropik, Rutten, and Cleary. Froemming was absent. Also, in attendance were NRCS, Kevin Behrens, Staff attending Haggemiller, Albertsen, Anderson, Arceneau and Olson.

Pledge was recited.

Minutes of the regular January 8, 2024, meeting was discussed. Motion by Cleary to approve, subject to audit, seconded by Rutten Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read. Motion by Cleary to approve, subject to audit, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.

Reports

- A. Coordinator's Report** – Haggemiller reviewed his monthly report.
- B. Pomme de Terre Update** – No report given.
- C. Sauk River Report** – Rutten reported they met on January 15. The Policy Committee will meet on February 15th.
- D. Chippewa River Report** – Cleary mentioned they will meet on February 16th where they will review the 1W1P that is out for review.
- E. Long Prairie Report** – Dropik reported they met on January 18, 2024. Reviewed projects, \$60,000 for outreach. Dropik said Anderson did a great job running the meeting.
- F. Water Quality Legacy Fund** – Cleary mentioned they met on January 17. The next meeting Froemming will attend in April.
- G. Douglas County Commissioner Report**- No report given.
- H. DCLA Report** – No report given.

Old Business

- A. Tree Cooler** – Haggemiller reported the doors and insulation have been installed, just waiting on the electricity.
- B. Strategic Planning with BWSR.** Jason Weirnerman will be here March 11 after the Board Meeting.
- C. Tree Planter.** Rice mentioned that DNR donated \$6,600 for a new tree planter.

New Business

- A. Field Office Update**– Kevin Behrens mentioned 1 high tunnel application was approved for \$40k, Supposed to hear about preapprovals 02/05/2024 if not already notified, 32 EQIP applications were ranked in total for Douglas, An additional 17 more applications are waiting for round 2 or 2025, Total of \$4,720,484 requested for Douglas Co,40 individual practices for Douglas Co. treating 6410 resource collectively concerns on all enrolled land units Rich Geving is retiring on February 29th, DC positions were posted and panelists were selected for interviews.
- B. Area II Meeting**-scheduled for March 6. Barsness, Cleary, Dropik and Rutten will attend.

- C. Audit Engagement Letter** Motion by Rutten to sign the 2023 audit engagement letter, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.
- D. Envirothon Donation** Motion by Rutten to donate \$150 to Envirothon, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.
- E. Contract for Services Stearns SWCD for MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program** Motion by Rutten to sign the contract for services with Stearns SWCD, seconded by Cleary. Motion carried.
- F. Cost Share Payment**–Motion by Rutten to approve \$7,500 flat rate using FY22 Septic Funds, seconded by Cleary. Motion Carried.
- G. Cost Share Application**–Motion by Cleary to approve 5 well sealing with ALP for \$2,457.00, seconded by Dropik. Motion Carried.
- H. Job Approval Authority for Ian Olson**–Motion by Rutten to approve job approval authority for Ian Olson, seconded by Dropik. Motion Carried.
- I. BWSR Buffer Law Grant Agreement** - Motion by Dropik to approve BWSR Buffer Law Grant Agreement, seconded by Dropik. Motion Carried.
- J. Website Update**–Albertsen reviewed changes needed to the Districts Website. Albertsen will get more quotes and bring to the March meeting.
- K. Annual Report**–Albertsen handed out the Annual Report. The Board thanked Albertsen for a great job.
- L. Health Care Savings Plan Renewal**– Motion by Cleary to renew Health Care Savings Plan, seconded by Dropik. Motion Carried.
- M. Soil Health Grant**–Haggenmiller mentioned we submitted a grant for \$608,956.00. We should be notified in a month if we receive it.
- N. Drill Rental Rates** Motion by Rutten to set drill rates to \$8 for Cover Crops, \$10 in County with \$150 Minimum, \$13 out of County with \$150 Minimum and \$150 Deliver Fee, seconded by Dropik. Motion Carried.
- O. Andy Rice 8 Year Review** - The Board appreciates the good work, Motion by Cleary to increase wage by \$1.98 per hour, seconded by Rutten. Motion Carried.

Bills to Pay. During the month of February, the Douglas SWCD issued Checks #11281-11313 for a total of \$112,493.06 including eFile (State Withholding) and EFTP (Federal Withholding). Motion by Cleary to pay the bills, seconded by Rutten Motion carried.

Adjournment. Motion by Barsness to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.

Secretary,

Bill Dropik, Secretary