



629 NORTH 11TH STREET
COURTHOUSE SUITE 7
MONTEVIDEO, MN 56265

PHONE: 320-269-2696

**Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting
March 4, 2024**

Minutes of the Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District, Courthouse, Suite 7, Montevideo, MN 56265.

1. Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Calin Eisenlohr at 3:00 p.m.
 1. Members present: Michelle Overholser, Calin Eisenlohr, Aaron Ahrenholz
 2. Other present: SWCD Staff-Desirae Jarett, Zach Bothun, Tom Sletta; County Commissioner-Matt Gilbertson; NRCS DC-Shantel Lozinski
2. M/S/P Overholser, Ahrenholz approve the agenda with additions. All in favor.
3. M/S/P Ahrenholz, Overholser approve the January meeting minutes. All in favor.
4. Bills were presented for ratification and payment.
5. NRCS Update: Shantel discussed NRCS quarterly activities that included but are not limited to: finished CSP mods and payments for 2023; finished EQIP planning for 2024 signup; moving forward with assessing CSP applications that have been selected to move forward; sent out practice reminder letters for EQIP/CSP; attended ArcPro-GIS training; and pulling tracts for compliance reviews. Shantel also noted that seeding standard changes were made in January that will affect CRP seedings going forward; CRP acreage cap is getting close, contracts this year (including re-enrollments) will be batched; and Local Work Group bulletin came out on Friday—must be completed by July 12th with 2 weeks notice given and posted to NRCS website.
6. **New Business**
 1. Zach and Desirae presented a fund balance policy. After discussion, board members felt the policy wasn't necessary at this time and tabled the policy.
 2. Desirae and Zach requested a clothing allowance to place another clothing order with Outlaw Graphix.
 - M/S/P Overholser, Ahrenholz approve \$175 per board and staff for clothing allowance. All in favor.
 3. Zach discussed a request to look at erosion at the Big Bend Cemetery. Mark Greve with the WCTSA observed the area in question and felt this site would be very difficult and expensive to fix. There also isn't enough room for equipment due to the proximity of burial plots adjacent to the unstable cliff. WCTSA and SWCD staff are also unsure if this is a resource concern for the SWCD as the toe of the slope is already stable due a large rip-rap project done in 2006. Zach will contact Ross Reiffenberger or Mark Greve for a letter with their findings and any possible suggestions to send to the cemetery board.
7. **Staff Reports**
 1. District Manager: Monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: attended WCA Virtual Training Feb. 5-6; Soil Health RFP completed—we applied to fund a partnership with Kanati Land Management for soil health/program and funding outreach and education for crop consultants, agronomists, co-ops, landowners and partners; Streamline website set up—demo with Streamline staff and worked with Des to finish setup; attended a "Healthy Soils in Beets" meeting in Renville on Feb. 26—a panel of farmers shared their experiences and resources on utilizing cover crops and reduced tillage methods in sugar beet rotations; attended a lead contacts meeting for managers on Feb. 22; completed a contract checklist based off the non-structural contract training that was held in Chippewa County in January and reviewed folder checklists for partners to use and

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discussed JAA requirements with NRCS ARCs; worked on tree plans; worked on seed/seeding plans; assisted landowners with cover crop cost share inquiries; signed an updated Walk-in-Access JPA; applied for Conservation Cooperative for Working Lands Grant offered through Pheasants Forever in partnership with BWSR and funded by LCCMR—this \$30,000 grant could be used on staff time promoting, implementing, and inspecting CRP, CREP, RIM, and any other habitat related work that the district already does; attended Virtual Leadership Session on February 22; met with a CRWA subcommittee to review working agreements and discuss possible cost share policy outlines; attended CRWA TAC meeting to review and discuss tracking, scoring, ranking tools, pros, and cons, etc.; attended CMRWP TC meeting to review and work through work plans for FY22 supplemental funding, FY24-25 WBIF's, cost share policy changes, and scoring and tracking tool updates; attended a CMRWP JPB meeting on February 27; held/attended WCA TEP meeting to comment responses on the Hawk Creek Wetland Bank Mitigation Plan; corresponded with BWSR Wetland Specialist Dilan Christiansen on projects for Duinick – rescheduled TEP meeting for this week on two gravel pit sites; processed drainage requests; completed WCA reporting and filing.

2. District Technician: Monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: met with BWSR Easement & Programs Coordinator Kevin Roth and brought him to different easement sites in the county; attended Hawk Creek Appreciation Meeting and Soil Health Meeting in Renville; held meeting with landowner regarding their project—landowner wants to move forward with project; for raingarden project in the works, SWCD will be working with the landowner to develop a planting plan; worked on annual report articles; completed tree site visits, tree plans, tree orders, tree cancellations, and tree inventory; and attended WIA meeting.
8. Desirae noted important upcoming dates for the WCMASWCD Area II meeting to be held on March 6 and the MASWCD Legislative Days to be held March 12-13.
9. Adjourn.
 1. M/S/P Overholser, Ahrenholz approve adjournment of meeting. All in favor.

NEXT MEETING: April 1, 2024—Commissioner's Room, Courthouse 3:00 P.M.
PLEASE LET OFFICE STAFF KNOW A.S.A.P. IF YOU WILL NOT MAKE IT TO THE MEETING