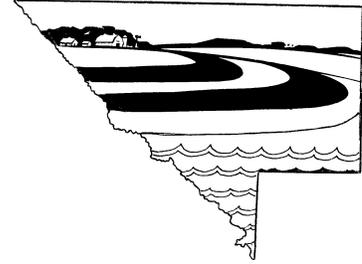


CHIPPEWA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

629 NORTH 11TH STREET
COURTHOUSE
MONTEVIDEO, MINNESOTA 56265

Telephone 320-269-2139



Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Board Meeting July 11, 2016

Minutes of the Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District, Courthouse, NRCS/SWCD office, Montevideo, MN 56265.

- Meeting was **called to order** by Chairman Calin Eisenlohr at 3 p.m.
- Members **present**: Schuler, Eisenlohr, Sunderland, Kittelson
- Others **present**: SWCD staff: Tom Warner, Desirae Sharp, Zach Bothun; NRCS: Shantel Lozinski, Mark Kulig; County Commissioners: Jeff Lopez

- M/S/P Kittelson, Schuler approve the agenda/with additions.
- M/S/P Sunderland, Schuler approve the June minutes.

- The Treasurer gave the **Treasurer's report** and the supervisors placed it on file subject to audit and authorized payment of the bills as presented.

- Mark Kulig, NRCS AC met with the board and gave them updates from NRCS. He mentioned that NRCS has hired an archaeologist and that all DC spots have been filled in his area. Mark discussed NRCS' client gateway program. He also discussed that there is a work group working on an agreement/MOU concerning space issues and network computer seats, however computer seats will remain limited. They hope to have updates by the next calendar year. He noted that computer seats are approximately \$4100 per year. There are already approximately 250-275 computer seats held by SWCD employees. They are looking into the possibility of a reimbursable agreement. He opened for questions/discussion and was asked about his expectations of a full-time farm bill technician. He stated that the duties assigned would be made on the local level of the SWCD as it is their employee and that he didn't have any set expectations on what the farm bill position contributed to NRCS.

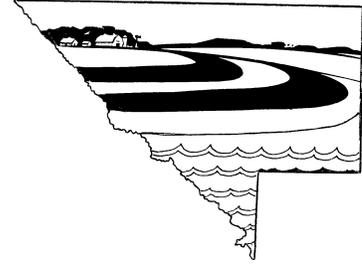
Old Business:

- Desirae presented the position announcement and application for the full time Farmbill Technician position. Desirae discussed the timeline for hiring. It was decided that the job would be advertised immediately on the SWCD website as well as sent out via MASWCD, posted on MASWCD website, as well as in the Montevideo American News and the Star Advisor from July 14-July 30 with an application deadline of 1:00 p.m. August 1. It was decided that the applications would be reviewed at the next board meeting and those selected for interviews will be contacted. A list of interview questions will be decided at the next board meeting.
 - M/S/P Sunderland, Schuler approve hiring, position announcement and application.

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New Business:

- Desirae, Tom and Zach presented an office cubicle schematic. With the limited space within the office and the need for updated furniture and privacy the staff felt cubicles were a necessary option. Board would like another bid and will review at next board meeting.
- Desirae noted that the Chippewa County fair will be July 27-31. We will have a booth at the fair.

Tom reported:

- Tom presented the observation well agreement for 2016-2017.
 - M/S/P Sunderland, Kittelson approve observation well agreement.
- Tom discussed an idea that was brought to us by a county commissioner. The staff would like to host a conservation tour, either in the fall or spring, to show the district supervisors, county commissioners, and in office staff different conservation projects and sites. Board would like us to go ahead with planning a route.
- Tom presented cost share payments for M.B., M. P., and D.E.
 - M/S/P Kittelson, Sunderland approve payments as presented.
- Tom also presented a cost share cancellation for B.N.
 - M/S/P Sunderland, Kittelson approve cancellation.
- Tom reported that he worked on tile drain requests, had a TEP meeting for Sonstegard Ag Bank site, wrote up TEP findings and wrote up Notice of Decision.
- Tom reported that he received 2 applications for solar projects. Did a slide review of sites and reviewed applications, wrote up and sent out Notice of Application.
- Tom attended a meeting on JD ditch #9 (Lines Creek).
- Tom looked at streambank erosion sites with Ross Reifenburger and Ethan Jenzen.
- Tom met with 2 landowners about a terrace and state cost-share.
- Tom GPS'd a RIM boundary for installation of a fence to exclude livestock from the easement area.
- Tom met with 3 land owners and an adjuster on their RIM sites that were part of a fire that got out of control.
- Tom entered info into eLink.
- Tom helped set up community center in Pennock for Women's Field Day event.
- Tom helped plant plants in rain garden.
- Tom attended meeting in Marshall, Glenwood, and Olivia.
- Tom did wetland determinations on tax forfeit property for the county.

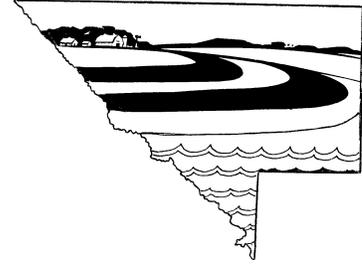
Zach Reported:

- Zach reported that he has finished seeding. He seeded approximately 300 acres spread out across about 30 sites. Had a lot of mobilization and a few breakdowns.
 - Board would like to see a comparison report of seeding/tree programs at next meeting.

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- Zach reported that he has been doing Rim Easement work. Monson easement is finalized and paid out. He has been working on Hollis Weber Wellhead Easement and Jerry Lee DRAP RIM Easement.
- Zach has been busy discussing buffers, CRP, tree plantings and field windbreaks with landowners.
- Zach is working on 80+ seed/seeding acres for fall.
- Zach noted he has the fair, buffer letters for protected waters violations and CREP spot checks (60) coming up.

Shantel's Report:

- Shantel reported that she has been working on some EQIP payments.
- Shantel reported that they have done CRP site visits and worked on CSP mods for CRP buffers.
- Shantel is getting ready for a grazing tour with Don Struxness. It is set for July 26 at 1 p.m.
- Shantel had soil health training in St. Paul from 6/14-6/16.
- Shantel helped with/attended Women's Field Day 6/16.
- Shantel has processed EQIP payments.
- Shantel mentioned EQIP sign up deadline for 2017 is August 19th.
- Shantel is getting ready for 2016 CSP payments.
- Shantel shared a video of Huber project site.

OTHER:

Desirae noted important meeting dates as follows:

- BWSR Leadership Forum
 - July 13 8:30-11:30 Marshall
- BWSR Cost Share Meeting
 - July 12 2-3:30 p.m. Marshall
- Chippewa County Fair July 27-31

Next Meeting: August 1, 2016 3:00 p.m. Chippewa Room, Courthouse