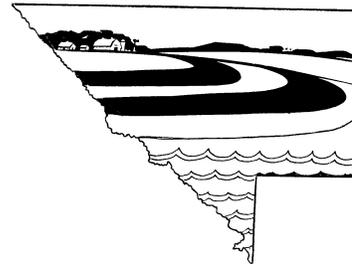


CHIPPEWA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

629 NORTH 11TH STREET
COURTHOUSE
MONTEVIDEO, MINNESOTA 56265

Telephone 320-269-2139



Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Board Meeting July 6th, 2015

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

Meeting was **called to order** by Chairman Steve Sunderland at 3:00 p.m.

Members **present**: Schuler, Sunderland, Eisenlohr, Kittelson, Roelofs

Others **present**: SWCD staff: Tom Warner, Zach Bothun Desirae Sharp; NRCS staff: Mike Timmerman; Jason Beckler, BWSR Board Conservationist; Grant Pearson, MN Ag WQCP

M/S/P Kittelson, Schuler approve the agenda/with additions.

M/S/P Schuler, Roelofs 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.

Jason Beckler introduced himself to the staff and board, he is the new BWSR Board Conservationist. He is replacing Dave Sill. He also spoke about buffers and funding.

Grant Pearson joined us and introduced himself as the new Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program Specialist. He gave a presentation about MN Ag WQCP and their successes and goals.

Staff reports

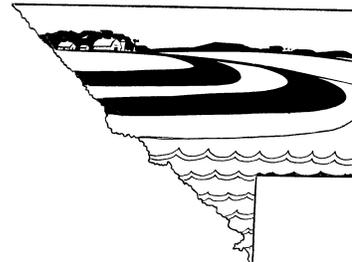
Tom reported:

- Tom presented a 1 year renewal for observation well ground water level monitoring agreement for the DNR for 2016 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016).
 - M/S/P Schuler, Roelofs move to approve renewal of the agreement.
- Tom presented the 2016 Farmbill Assistance Grant for 50% FTE amounting to \$22,500.
 - M/S/P Kittelson, Eisenlohr move to approve acceptance of the 2016 Farmbill grant and approve for Tom Warner to sign the grant when received.
- Tom reported that trees were all planted in May, any leftover trees were sold, and a couple of fabric jobs were finished in June. Chippewa did a fabric job in Lac qui Parle county due to staff changes at the LQP SWCD.
- Tom has figured up all tree bills for Desirae to invoice.
- Tom and Zach moved equipment and cleaned up at the tree building.
- Tom looked at a site that has trees dying, sent the info to an NRCS forester.

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- Tom met on site with BWSR engineer, BWSR technician, and neighboring landowners of a CREP wetland restoration site to discuss options for water leaving the easement area.
- Tom talked with a landowner about installation of a Flexamat crossing through wet swale on his CREP easement for maintenance purposes.
- Tom and Zach are starting RIM site inspections from the list sent out by BWSR.
- Tom has been working on tile drain requests & 1026's.
- Tom's WCA hours have been calculate through June and are ready for invoicing.
- Tom signed application for withdrawal of wetland credits for the Fiesta City Solar Project.
- Tom received application for wetland boundary for the Montevideo Farmer's Co-op Elevator railroad spurline.
- Tom has a hydrologic indicators training on July 13 at the U of M in Lamberton.

Desirae reported:

- Desirae discussed a Quickbooks training as well as Governance 101 and BWSR Academy.
 - M/S/P Schuler, Roelofs move to approve Tom, Zach, Desirae and any supervisors that wish to attend, permission to attend Quickbooks training, Governance 101 and BWSR Academy.
- Desirae discussed Long Term Disability and Work Comp. Records that were found indicate that LTD has been provided since 1996 and possibly earlier. Board requested and outline of benefits by what is paid by employee and what is paid by employer.

Zach Reported:

- Zach has been busy seeding CRP, buffers, & food plots. Roughly 40 acres grass planted, 12 acres foot plots, and 30+ acres left to seed.
- Zach has been doing mowing & roto-tilling jobs.
- Zach has been preparing RIM/CREP spot check forms, ownership changes, etc.
- Zach noted that the WLI projects have been completed and paid out to landowners.
- Zach had submitted a RIM wellhead easement application but it was sent back.
- Zach noted the tree removal on Doug Kraay CREP Easement-included in LQp LTT's NAWCA Grant.
- Zach noted the Area II meeting in Glenwood was hosted by us on June 10th. Everything went well.
- Zach has had an influx of landowners calling about RIM funding due to Outdoor News article.
- Zach has been working on RIM and CRP contacts.
- Zach will be attending a Groundwater Workshop in Marshall on July 15.

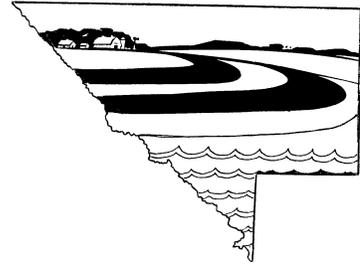
Shantel's Report (Given by Mike Timmerman in Shantel's absence):

- Shantel has completed field verifications for preapproved CSP contracts.
- They have finished CSP plans and contracting.
- They are working on CRP plan writing for October start date, some re-enrollment and some new.
- Shantel has been doing CRP site visits for eligibility.
- They have flagged a few wetland boundaries that were requested.

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- They have investigated several erosion sites with potential for EQIP applications in 2016.
- The women's field day was a success with 34 people attending. Bernard gave a lot of great information and although the river was high people were able to search for mussels.
- Shantel is continuing to work on 1026's, numbers are still low.
- Shantel is getting ready for 2015 CSP payments.
- We have been working on fair display ideas.
- Shantel has been working on a CTA plan for buckthorn removal on land surrounding the Lac qui Parle Mission, operated by the Chippewa County Historical Society.

OTHER:

- Board and staff openly discussed funding and buffers and what that means for the SWCD.

Meeting adjourned.

***Next Meeting: August 3, 2015 3:00 p.m. @ Courthouse
LWG Meeting to be held at 2:00 p.m. please plan to attend**