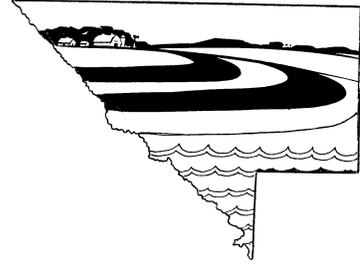


CHIPPEWA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

629 NORTH 11TH STREET
COURTHOUSE
MONTEVIDEO, MINNESOTA 56265

Telephone 320-269-2139



Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Board Meeting August 3, 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, Kittelson, Roelofs

Others **present**: SWCD staff: Tom Warner, Zach Bothun, Desirae Sharp; NRCS staff: Mark Kulig (NRCS ASC), Shantel Lozinski; County Commissioner: Jeff Lopez

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

M/S/P Kittelson, Schuler approve the July 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 discussed NRCS hiring Cathee Pullman and other personnel changes. He discussed vacancies in NRCS and possibly a national change coming dealing with administrative duties. Mark discussed EQIP & CSP contracts. There are roughly 140 EQIP contracts and 90 new CSP contracts and 160 renewal CSP contracts.

Staff reports

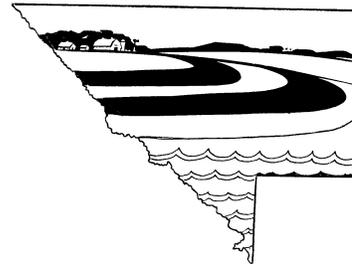
Tom reported:

- Tom has been working on tile drain requests.
- Tom has been working on 1026's through the contribution agreement.
- Tom attended a hydrology indicators training in Lamberton on 7/13 as part of ongoing training for WCA.
- Tom met with consultant, BWSR, Army Corp, and DNR on several sites for possible wetland mitigation/banking sites.
- Tom wrote and sent out WCA Notice of Decision on wetland boundary/type concurrence on the delineation for the railroad spur line.
- Tom noted that we are in Phase 2 of the DRAP (Disaster Recovery Assistance Program). Chippewa County received a target allocation for \$186,000. The SWCD put together a spreadsheet of requests totaling \$201,355. This amount includes the project estimate along with technical and engineering dollars. The requests had to be into Jason Beckler by July 24th. I received an email from Beckler that he approved the Chippewa request and forwarded it to Wayne Zellmer. August 14 proposed allocations submitted to executive directors for approval. August 15, begin grant process.

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- Board needs to set DRAP cost share policies.
- Tom noted that we will have brochures and a sign at the fair advertising the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program. A MAWQCP open house will be in the assembly room on August 20th from 1-2:30. Grant Pearson along with William Fitzgerald from the MDA will be presenting at the meeting.
- Tom noted that the Chippewa River Watershed Project applied for a Clean Water Partnership Fund through the MN Pollution Control Agency .The grant is called “Chippewa River Watershed Protection”. The total grant amount that they received was \$296,965. Of that amount \$67,940 is designated for the stream bank stabilization project on Dry Weather Creek and County Road 35.
- Tom discussed the buffer initiative and what we know and what will be beginning.

Desirae reported:

- Desirae noted that Julie Krebs and Jason Beckler would be coming out on August 11th for a BWSR Audit review.
- Desirae brought up Conservationist of the Year. Board discussed. No conservationist chosen for 2015.
- Desirae noted that we set up and manned a booth at the Chippewa County fair. Seemed to be reasonable amount of traffic coming through our building’s new location.
- Desirae noted that Governance 101 will be held September 16-17 and registrations are being mailed in.
- Desirae requested for permission to change MCIT to direct deposit (per their request).
 - M/S/P Kittelson, Schuler approve to change MCIT to direct deposit for all payments.

Zach Reported:

- Zach is working on the ongoing CREP spot checks for compliance
- Zach finished seeding spring plantings. Approximately 50 acres of grass and 12 acres of food plots.
- Zach completed more mowing/roto-tilling jobs.
- Zach attended a groundwater workshop in Marshall on July 15th. The workshop covered groundwater science, future training and efforts for protection, etc.
- Zach had a Dry Weather Creek/Cty Rd 35 project meeting with Kubista, Enevoldsen, CRWP about timeline etc. Request for engineering assistance was sent to WCTSA engineers for re-surveying site in October for construction next fall.
- Zach helped set up and manned the booth at the Chippewa County fair.
- Zach worked on DRAP project site visits with Tom.
- Zach submitted a grant for tree removal on CREP site for Kraay on Cty Rd 16. Site is full of Siberian Elm and Cottonwood.

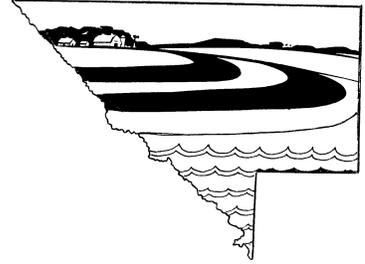
Shantel’s Report:

- Shantel met with June from the Chippewa Historical Society for a buckthorn project and reviewed a plan for the Lac qui Parle Mission location.
- Shantel has been working on reporting.

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- Shantel has been working on CSP-checking reports for loss of land preparing for fall payments.
- Shantel has been working on CRP plan writing-almost done, less than 10 to do.
- Shantel has been working on 1026's.
- Shantel sent out SAM's registration reminder letters.
- Shantel helped set up and man the booth at the Chippewa County fair.
- Shantel has been working on CRP status reviews.
- Shantel finished a CSP mod for 2.85 acres to CRP.
- Shantel attended a Joint Ditch info meeting on 7/23.
- Shantel is working with a landowner on wetland banking/site specific mitigation.

OTHER:

Meeting adjourned.

***Next Meeting: September 1, 2015 3:00 p.m. @ Courthouse
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING @ 2:30**