



NICOLLET SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MINNESOTA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District, 424 South Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter, Minnesota, March 1, 2017.

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair – Kral at 8:35 A.M.

Members Present: Chair, Robby Gieseke - Absent
Treasurer, Tim Braun
Member, Bruce Hulke
Vice Chair, John Kral -
Secretary, Pat Pehrson - Absent

Others Present:

District Manager, Kevin Ostermann
District Watershed Technician, Eric Miller
Administrative Assistant, Melissa Lancaster
District Technician, Blake Honetschlager
Farmbill Technician, Max Rykhus
NRCS, April Sullivan
County Commissioner, John Lupke – Absent
Water Planner - Amy Linnerooth
Property Services – Mandy Landkamer
Seven Mile Creek – Steve Hockett
BWSR – Dale Krystosek

Upon a motion by Hulke and seconded by Braun it was moved to approve the agenda. Ayes Kral, Braun, Hulke. Carried

Upon a motion by Hulke and seconded by Braun, it was moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2016 meeting. Ayes Braun, Kral, Hulke. Carried

Upon a motion by Braun and seconded by Hulke it was moved to approve 36 paid bills for February 2017 totaling \$64,600.69 (Checking Account). No bills were paid from the Grants Account for the month of February. Ayes Braun, Hulke, Kral. Carried

Upon a motion by Braun and seconded by Hulke, it was moved to approve the March 2017 Treasurer's Reports subject to audit. Ayes Braun, Hulke, Kral. Carried

Old Business: None

New Business:

BWSR PRAP Report: Dale Krystosek was here from BWSR to review the PRAP report with the Board and Staff. Recommendations were presented and discussed with the Board and staff based on survey results. The District Manager agreed to write up a draft letter with an action plan for BWSR and present it at the April meeting for Board to review.

MASWCD Legislative Days: Upon a motion by Hulke and seconded by Braun it was moved to approve all Supervisors and staff to attend the MASWCD Legislative Days at the State Capitol March 20-21st. Ayes Braun, Hulke, Kral. Carried

Seven Mile Creek Watershed Partnership Program Policy: Upon a motion by Hulke and seconded by Braun it was moved to approved a Cover Crop Incentive Policy Partnership with Seven Mile Creek Watershed. Ayes Braun, Hulke, Kral. Carried

Seven Mile Creek Watershed Partnership Program Policy on Cover Crop Incentives

Nicollet SWCD will provide assistance to landowners in the Seven Mile Creek watershed wishing to incorporate cover crops into their farming practices. Landowners are encouraged to also seek financial assistance from NRCS. Enrollment in SWCD Incentive Program is limited only to acres where the practice has not been previously applied or must be an enhanced mixture. Cover crop practices must adhere to accepted NRCS technical specifications unless otherwise agreed upon by landowner and SWCD technical assistance provider. Nicollet SWCD encourages participating landowners to:

- Choose cover crop varieties that over-winter to generate maximum benefit for water quality,
- Select diverse cover crop mixes to generate maximum soil health benefits,
- Use cover crop N credits (when applicable) when planning future applications of organic and inorganic fertilizers.

Incentive Structure:

- If applicant enrolls acres into EQIP cover crops programs:
 - Nicollet SWCD will provide an additional incentive payment of \$10/acre/year on the EQIP contract acres for the life of the EQIP contract. (Applicant must declare acres and number of years in contract prior to SWCD contract initiation.)
- If applicant does not enroll in EQIP Cover crops program:
 - Nicollet SWCD will provide payment of \$30.00/ac/yr. (Applicant must declare acres and number of years in contract prior to SWCD contract initiation.)

The applicant is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the practice applied under this program. And must ensure that the conservation objectives of the practice are met. Enrollment in Incentive Program is a 3-year commitment according to BWSR FY13 CWF Policy, Section 3.2.2. Should the applicant fail to maintain the practice during its effective life, the applicant is liable to the Nicollet SWCD for 150% of the amount of financial assistance received to install and establish the practice.

Payments will be made after the practice has been certified the first year.

Annual Practice Certifications will be completed by a SWCD technical assistance provider and documented for the life of the contract.

Cover crops incentive payments are contingent upon available funding.

Date Approved, Robby Gieseke SWCD Board Chair

Jennifer Ann Maxwell-Johnson, BWSR Board Conservationist Feb 2, 2017
Date Approved, Board of Soil and Water Resources, Title

NRCS Boot Camp: Upon a motion by Hulke and seconded by Braun it was moved to approve Max Rykhus to attend the NRCS boot camp training which will be held March 28-April 13th in Lincoln Nebraska. Reimbursement for this training and hotel will be provided by NACD. The District will pay for Rykhus's time. Ayes: Braun, Hulke, Kral, Carried

GIS Training: Upon a motion by Braun and seconded by Hulke it was moved to approve Eric Miller to attend a 3-day training with District vehicle through NRCS/USDA Ag Research Service in Indiana March 14-16, 2017. Ayes Braun, Hulke, Kral. Carried

Space Discussion: It was brought to the attention of the Board that USDA /NRCS will be moving out of their current building in Gaylord. Discussion on the Sibley SWCD and options for Nicollet County SWCD were presented by the District Manager to the Board. Further discussion on this topic will continue at a later date.

Cost Share:

Grade Stabilization Structure Repair, Water and Sediment Control Basin Installation, and Vegetative Erosion Control Work for Cost-Share Contract CWF 9(13) for Charlie Vogel is complete. Landowner is requesting final payment in the amount of \$21,161.06. Upon a motion by Hulke and seconded by Braun it was moved to approve the final payment in the amount of \$21,161.06 for Cost- Share Contract CWF 9(13) for Charlie Vogel Ayes Braun, Hulke, Kral. Carried

Water and Sediment Control Basin Installation for Cost-Share Contract CWF 11(13) for RRG Properties is complete. Landowner is requesting final payment in the amount of \$7,660.66. Upon a motion by Hulke and seconded by Braun it was moved to approve the final payment amount of \$7,660.66 for CWF 11(13) for RRG Properties. Ayes Braun, Hulke, Kral. Carried.

A request was presented to the Board to enter into Cost-Share Contract with Nick Peters TW 13(15) for Cover Crop incentive on his property. Total estimated cost of the project is \$75,960.00 Upon a motion by Braun and seconded by Hulke it was move to approve Cost-Share Contract TW 13(15) for Nick Peters. Ayes Braun, Hulke, Kral. Carried

NRCS Report: Report was given by April Sullivan

Supervisor & Staff Report: Braun reported on the Chair meeting he had attended on February 14th in New Ulm. District staff reported on projects they are working on and trainings they have attended; see attached.

Other Business: Buffer meetings will be held on March 22nd in Winthrop by the Sibley SWCD with assistance from Nicollet staff; and on March 30th in Courtland by Nicollet SWCD with assistance from Sibley staff. Postcards will be mailed out to notify landowners of the events.

Next Meeting: April 5, 2017 at 8:30 A.M.

Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

Approved: April 5, 2017

Secretary _____