



# **PENNINGTON SWCD BOARD MEETING**

## **December 17, 2019**

### **9 A.M.**

#### **Supervisors Present:**

Ricky Peterson, Vice-Chair  
Linda Hanson, Secretary  
Greg Hilgeman, Treasurer  
Grant Nelson, PR&I

#### **Staff Present:**

Bryan Malone, District Manager  
Barb Molskness, District Coordinator  
Peter Nelson, Water Plan Coordinator  
Donna Christianson, Outreach Coordinator  
Bryanna Grefthen, District Technician  
Matthew Sorvig, Resource Technician

#### **Absent:**

Brenda Szymanski, Chair  
Jill Fejszes, Farm Bill Biologist

#### **Guests:**

Debra Kiel, State Representative  
Dan Fabian, State Representative  
Mark Johnson, State Senator

The meeting was held in the USDA/SWCD Conference Room and called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Ricky Peterson, Vice-Chair.

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve the revised agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Linda made a motion, seconded by Grant to approve the November 18, 2019, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

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Barb reviewed the November 2019 Financial Report. **Grant made a motion, seconded by Greg to approve the November 2019 Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.**

The final audit for 2018 has been received and is ready for the treasurer's review.

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve payment for the following bills:**

Innovative	\$	251.39
Verizon	\$	50.16
Chase	\$	4,435.21
Peterson Company LTD	\$	2,750.00
Outlaw Fabrication	\$	100.00

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Linda made a motion, seconded by Grant to approve payment to NCTC in the amount of \$81,332.00 for drone services rendered during the period of July – November. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Grant to reimburse the Outstanding Conservationists, Scott and Kris Mostrom, \$400.00 to cover their MASWCD State Convention travel costs. All in favor, motion carried.**

Rates were reviewed for the maturing CD at Border State Bank. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to renew the CD ending in #4097 for 13 months at 2%. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Greg made a motion, seconded by Grant to amend Warren Hermreck's flat-rate cost-share contract BFY 18-01 from \$200.00 to \$400.00 for an additional acre of buffer to be installed. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Linda made a motion, seconded by Grant to approve payment for the following Buffer flat-rate cost-share contract:**

BFY 18-01	Warren Hermreck	\$	400.00
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**All in favor, motion carried.**

The Personnel Committee presented their wage recommendations for 2020 to the Board. **Linda made a motion, seconded by Grant to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendations of a 3% wage increase for the District Manager and District Coordinator, and a \$1.00/hour wage increase for the Water Plan Coordinator, the District Technician, the Resource Technician, and the Outreach Coordinator. All in favor, motion carried.**

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We were very pleased to have Representatives Debra Kiel and Dan Fabian, and Senator Mark Johnson join us for an informal Q & A discussion. Topics included: stable funding for SWCDs, 1W1P projects and funding, stabilization of the three streambanks in Thief River Falls, source reduction, mechanisms for surface runoff, the Geologic Atlas, the Buffer Law, and the AgBMP Program. Bryan thanked them for listening to our concerns and sharing their thoughts with us.

Peter provided an overview of the Thief River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to the Board. The Thief River Watershed encompasses approximately 1,048 square miles (671,024 acres) and includes the cities of Goodridge, Grygla, Holt, and Thief River Falls. The plan is prioritized according to resource categories and tiers. It establishes measurable short-term (10 year) and long-term goals for the life span of the plan with the implementation approach of structural and management practices categorized according to region, tier, and action level. The 60-day review for public comment has been completed so the plan is now ready to be reviewed by BWSR. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Grant to submit the Thief River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR for review. All in favor, motion carried.**

The Thief River Planning Group is looking to implement the Thief River 1W1P through a collaborative Memorandum of Agreement by the current LGU's, not a new entity. The Watershed has agreed to act as the fiscal agent, but a coordinator is still needed. **Greg made a motion, seconded by Linda to approve the Thief River Planning Group Memorandum of Agreement. All in favor, motion carried.**

Bryan, Peter, Matt, and our Outstanding Conservationists (the Mostrom's) attended the MASWCD State Convention this year. Donna was not able to attend. The keynote speaker did an excellent job and the break out sessions were very informative. Auction items totaled \$7,700.00.

The 2020 Planning Meeting is scheduled to take place on February 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Red Lake Watershed District's Meeting Room. Some possible ideas for the 2020 Planning Meeting are: Pennington County - Weed Inspector role as Bill Craig is retiring, office space for the District, and staffing for the Thief River and Red Lake River 1W1P.

Donna requested a new camera be purchased with a higher megapixel capability as the pictures taken with the old camera appear spotty on Facebook and the website. **Motion by Greg, seconded by Linda authorizing the purchase of a new camera with a \$400.00 maximum cost. All in favor, motion carried.**

Employee reports were included in the Board packet for review.

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Matt demonstrated the maneuverability of the drone recently purchased by the District. The drone will be a valuable tool when working on hard to reach areas.

Dan Haig, NRCS CSP Soil Conservationist, will be retiring at the end of the year. An open house will be held in his honor on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, from 1-4 p.m.

Bryan purchased a \$200.00 LaserJet Pro M404n printer at Best Buy for use by the staff.

The next Board meeting will be held on January 21st, at 9 a.m.

Ricky adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

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Linda Hanson, Secretary