

***MINUTES***  
***Board of Supervisors Meeting***  
***June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020***  
***Grant Soil & Water Conservation District***  
***712 Industrial Park Blvd, Elbow Lake, MN 56531***

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 8:00am. Via tele-conference

Members Present: Randy Larson, Chairman  
 Paul Groneberg, Vice-Chairman  
 Odell Christenson, Treasurer  
 Don Dally, Personnel Director  
 Larry Stephens, Member

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Brent Gulbrandson, Jared House, Grant SWCD; Ryan Haspel, NRCS

**Secretary's Report:** Motion was made by Christenson, seconded by Stephens to approve the preliminary May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes that grant signing and account authority to Jared House. Affirmative: Groneberg, Christenson, Dally, Stephens, and Larson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried. The final meeting minutes will be brought to the July meeting for approval.

**Treasurer's Report:** No treasurer's report.

***New Business:***

- 1. Review MASWCD Area 1 Resolutions** – Board reviewed and discussed each resolution. Since, the MASWCD Area 1 meeting was cancelled, each office is reviewing each resolution prior to submission to the full MASWCD board.

<b>District Board Supported Resolutions</b>			
<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Carried</b>
Farm stead windbreak/ Living snow fence	Groneberg	Stephens	Unanimous
Leveraging NRCS federal program funding	Christenson	Dally	Unanimous
Pollinator habitat	Groneberg	Dally	Unanimous

Per diem increase	Dally	Christenson	Unanimous
Sustainable grazing	Groneberg	Stephens	Unanimous
Well sealing cost-share	Stephens	Dally	Unanimous
<b>Resolutions Not Supported by District Board</b>			
Septic system cost-share	Groneberg	Stephens	Unanimous

2. **Pomme de Terre Report** – Groneberg discussed that the Pomme de Terre River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management plan was officially submitted to BWSR for their 90-day review. He also mentioned that there is still \$2,700 available for cover crops through the Federal 319 grant that ends in August of 2021. House reviewed plans for Rollofson’s Soil Health Expo being planned for Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. He asked the board for approval for creating a social media presence for the office and the board verbally agreed that this would be a good idea.
3. **Bois de Sioux/Mustinka Report** – House reviewed the tentative timeline for completing the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Staff hope to have the plan ready for 60-day state agency/public review in Sept.
4. **Timothy Boys – Voucher Approval** - Motion was made by Dally second by Christenson to approve the voucher and payment as presented. Affirmative: Larson, Groneberg, Dally, Stephens, and Christenson. Opposed None. Motion Carried.
5. **Jody Kruize – Voucher Approval**- Motion was made by Christenson second by Stephens to approve the voucher contingent on mowing costs not exceeding approved cost-share allotment. Affirmative: Larson, Groneberg, Dally, Stephens, and Christenson. Opposed None. Motion Carried.
6. **CREP/CRP Update** – Gulbrandson discussed the 100 contracts for CCRP he his working on this summer. Due to the reduced staff in the office Gulbrandson and House requested that the board approve overtime in order complete the contracts by the August deadline. Motion was made by Dally, second by Stephens to approve the use of overtime in the amount of 20 hours a week through July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Affirmative: Larson, Groneberg, Dally, Stephens, and Christenson. Opposed None. Motion Carried. Gulbrandson discussed some issues with not signing the BWSR’s RIM Master Joint Powers Agreement. It was mentioned that a grant county resident is interested in a grazing plan under his RIM contract. Since, the district doesn’t have a signed joint powers agreement we can’t create one of these plans. The board in the past was advised by legal counsel that the Joint Powers Agreement is not in the district’s favor.
7. **Legislative Update** – House reviewed the current action taken by legislatures. The currently executed annual environmental and natural resource trust funds were extended through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This may produce extra CREP funding for this district to work on this program.

- 8. Buffer Update** – House updated the board on Bois de Sioux Watershed District regulated ditches and the buffer law. Jared has been in separate discussions with Jamie Beyer (WD) and Justin Anderson (County Attorney). House discussed a potential implementation plan with Anderson that would result in a collaborative letter that would be sent to landowners on Judicial 12 and 2. This letter would state that the Watershed District has a buffer rule that needs to be followed and that the district is available to assist landowners with seeding suggestions and alternative practice reviews.. This letter would then be signed by a watershed district representative and soil and water representative. House mentioned that Mr. Anderson agreed with this plan. House then went on to say that he discussed this plan with Mrs. Beyer and asked her to bring this to her board’s attention at their buffer committee meeting to see if this would be amenable to them as well. District board verbally agreed with this plan.
  
- 9. Office Update-** House reviewed the district’s covid-19 plan. The district, though the Covid-19 Emergency Plan, previously agreed to follow USDA regulations for reopening the office. Motion was made by Groneberg, second by Stephens to approve the purchase of plexiglass (sneeze guard) and a gate to restrict visitor access to the front counter when USDA approves of opening the service center up to the public. Affirmative: Larson, Groneberg, Dally, Stephens, and Christenson. Opposed None. Motion Carried. House asked for approval to have Peterson Company or neighboring district to assist with training or running financial management of the office for a short-term period. Motion was made by Christenson, second by Dally to approve the hiring Peterson Company or a neighboring soil and water conservation office to assist with the fiscal administration of the office. Affirmative: Larson, Groneberg, Dally, Stephens, and Christenson. Opposed None. Motion Carried.
  
- 10. NRCS Update-** Ryan Haspel joined the meeting at 8:45am. Haspel gave an update on EQIP and CSP within the county. Haspel asked the board for suggestions on how to hold a local work group meeting during the covid pandemic. It was determined that Gulbrandson, Haspel, and House will review the requirements of the local work group and will schedule a meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11am for any public input. Haspel left the meeting at 9:05am.

Motion was made by Christenson, second by Dally to pay the June bill - #13576 - #163591 and all debit card withdrawals as presented. Affirmative: Larson, Groneberg, Dally, Stephens, and Christenson. Opposed None. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Dally, seconded by Stephens to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 a.m. Affirmative: Larson, Groneberg, Dally, Stephens, and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned.

**\*\* No Treasurer’s Report this month.**

**July Board Meeting will be Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 a.m.**