

***MINUTES***  
***Board of Supervisors Special Meeting***  
***September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020***  
***Grant Soil & Water Conservation District***  
***712 Industrial Park Blvd, Elbow Lake, MN 56531***

Vice-chairman Groneberg called the meeting to order at 8:30am. Via tele-conference.

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

Others Present: Brent Gulbrandson, Jared House, Grant SWCD;

**August Secretary's Report:** Motion was made by Christenson, seconded by Dally to approve the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Affirmative: Groneberg, Dally, Stephens, and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion was made by Stephens, seconded by Dally to approve the treasurers' report as read. Affirmative: Groneberg, Dally, Stephens, and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

**Old Business:**

- 1. Rollofson Soil Health Expo** – House told the board that the September 9<sup>th</sup> soil health expo that was held at Rollofson farm was a success. There were 52 participants and 20 workers that were in attendance. Everyone complied with the face mask requirement. A videographer filmed the event and Jared and Jodi DeJong-Hughes will be editing the videos in hopes to create four short films describing soil health tactics.
- 2. Administrative Assistant Update:** House reported that there are three candidates that have been selected for interviews. Paul Gronenberg was added to the hiring committee and will attend the interviews. A special meeting will be held on Monday October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to review applicants with the full board.

## ***New Business:***

1. **Pomme de Terre Report:** Gronenberg reported that the watershed plan has been complete and staff are working on a workplan for the FY 21-22 watershed based funding. House told the board that it looks like most counties have approved contributions to the Pomme de Terre River Association. These contributions will help cash flow grant funds as well as provide a source of funding to pay for the watershed coordinator.
2. **Bois de Sioux/Mustinka Report:** House informed the board that the steering committee is currently working on drafting a MOA that will outline governance for implementing funds tied to the comprehensive watershed management plan. He also told the board that the draft plan is currently within the 60 day review period.
3. **Chippewa River Report:** House described how the Chippewa River JPA has almost been signed by all parties. Once this happens the Chippewa Association will be governed by to agreements until all old grant funding has been expended. At which time, the old JPA that only included county commissioners will be disbanded. Dally asked to make sure that draft bylaws are in process.
4. **State Cost-Share Policy Review:** House and Gulbrandson presented tentative changes to the policy language. They suggested that the board add unused well sealing, no-till, and cover crops to allowable practices. In addition, language was drafted to update project ranking to fit in with the new grant agreement periods provided by BWSR. A motion was made by Stephens, seconded by Christenson to approve the changes as presented. Affirmative: Groneberg, Dally, Stephens, and Christenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.
5. **Bois de Sioux WD Cover Crop Funding:** Gulbrandson told the board that the Bois de Sioux Watershed District is providing \$5,000.00 of cover crop cost share money for SWCDs within their organizational boundary. Gulbrandson said that the contract they provided for review requires that SWCD's hold liability insurance at a rate much higher than our office currently holds. House has sent in a request with Wendell Pioneer Insurance Co. to see what our premiums would be at if we raised our limits to the required amount.
6. **District Finances:** House presented the draft 2019 audit report completed by Peterson Co. House also asked the board to approve the drafted letter sent from Peterson Co. that described the work that was done by both the district and Peterson Co. Motion was made by Christenson, seconded by Stephens to approve the audit report and sign the Peterson Co. letter. Affirmative: Groneberg, Dally, Stephens, and Cheristenson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

House reviewed his assessment of the district financials. He has been projecting funding availability for FY 22 & 23. The state has mentioned that SWCDs will most likely be facing 10-15% cuts to state funding across the board. Part of House's review was of county contribution funds for past years and he noticed that the 2019 County GIS allocated funds (\$22,750.00) were never dispersed to the district. He contacted the county auditor and they are going to rectify the issue.

7. **CREP/CRP Update:** Gulbrandson told the board that he is just finishing up CCRP paper work. Overall, he was able to complete 100 contracts. He mentioned that we should be getting \$440.00 for each completed project from MASWCD in the form of a contribution agreement.
8. **Dual Management Update:** House and Gulbrandson informed the board that they are working well together under the dual management system currently in place. The board decided to discuss this further during the special meeting scheduled for October 5th.

Motion was made by Christenson, second by Stepehns to pay the August 22<sup>nd</sup> – September 21<sup>st</sup> bills - #13619 - #13656 and all debit card withdrawals as presented. Affirmative: Groneberg, Dally, Christenson, and Stephens. Opposed None. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Dally, seconded by Stephens to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 a.m. Affirmative: Groneberg, Dally, Christenson, and Stephens. Opposed None. Motion Carried.

**Special Board Meeting will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.**

**Regular October Board Meeting will be Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 a.m.**