



# Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District

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**March 14, 2017**

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The March Board meeting of the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District was convened at the USDA Ag. Service Center in North Branch on March 14, 2017. Chair Birkholz called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Board members present: Jim Birkholz, Roland Cleveland, Craig Mold, and David Tollberg

Board members absent: Justin Wilson

Staff present: Craig Mell and Deb Hermel (NRCS District Conservationist)

### **AGENDA**

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Mold to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Mold and seconded Tollberg to approve Consent Agenda as printed. Motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Recent correspondence were reviewed by the board, topics included the MASWCD March 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative Report, the March 21<sup>st</sup> MASWCD Day at the Capital appointment schedule with State Senators and Representatives, and the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Chisago SWCD Soil Health Workshop flyer

### **STAFF REPORTS**

NRCS District Conservationist Debra Hermel reviewed the past months NRCS activities.

SWCD District Administrator Craig Mell reviewed the past months SWCD activities.

### **COST SHARE PROGRAMS**

Motion by Tollberg and seconded by Mold to approve the following cost share request:

- Applicant: City of Center City
- Project Location: City of Center City Nelson Lane South
- Contract #: TW SRA 15-9
- Conservation Practice: Gully Stabilization and Vegetated Swale
- Project Completion Date: November 30, 2017
- Requested Cost Share Amount: \$17,000
  - \$11,000 – FY15 Targeted Watershed Demonstration Grant
  - \$6,000 – Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District Grant
- Technical Representative: James Landini, PE, Washington Conservation District

Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Conservation Corp Crew Labor Contract**

Motion by Tollberg and seconded by Cleveland to approve the 2017 Agreement for Services (Project Number 11905) between the Conservation Corps and the Chisago SWCD and to designate District Administrator Mell as the SWCD authorized representative to sign the agreement. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**State Buffer Program – Financial Assistance Options for Landowners**

The Board reviewed a spreadsheet outlining the Federal and State financial assistance options for landowners when installing a filter strip. Options include Federal programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the SWCD administered state cost share program. All of these programs require a minimum of a 30' vegetated buffer. The Board directed Administrator Mell to determine how many acres of potential 16.5' buffers are needed along Public Ditches in Chisago County and to research any non-state or non-federal financial assistance options available for landowners. No Board action was taken at this time, it was determined that the Board will revisit this topic at a future Board meeting.

**State Buffer Program – Local Water Resource Riparian Protection Map**

The Board continued their discussion from the February Board meeting regarding the requirement of the MN State Buffer Law (Minnesota Statutes §103F.48, Subd. 4) that requires all SWCD's on or before July 1, 2017, must develop, adopt, and submit to the local water management authority a summary of watercourses for inclusion in the local water management authority's plan. The Board reviewed a draft resolution from the Grant SWCD. The consensus of the board was that a list form was preferred over a map. Chair Birkholz and District Administrator Mell will draft a resolution with a list form for review and discussion at the April Board meeting. No Board action was taken.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No action taken.

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETING**

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at 8:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Mold to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m.



Secretary

\*Attachments available at SWCD office.

4-11-17

Date