



Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District

38814 Third Avenue, North Branch, MN 55056
Phone (651)674-2333 www.chisagoswcd.org

April 10, 2018 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The April Board meeting of the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District was convened at the North Branch Public Library on April 10, 2018. Chair Birkholz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Board members absent: None

Staff present: Craig Mell

Others Present: Debra Hermel, NRCS District Conservationist

AGENDA

Motion by Tollberg and seconded by Wilson to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mold and seconded by Cleveland to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Recent correspondence was reviewed by the board.

STAFF/SUPERVISOR REPORTS

No reports were given.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Tollberg to approve the following Conservation Practice Assistance Contract:

- Applicant: Melvin Grell
- Contract #: GCW 17-2
- Conservation Practice: Water and Sediment Control Basin and Diversion
- Project Completion Date: June 30, 2019
- Total Project Cost: \$10,000
- Approved Cost Share Amount: \$5,500
 - \$4,500 FY17 CWF Rush Lake/Goose Lake TMDL Implementation Grant
 - \$1,000 Rush Lake Improvement Association
- Technical Representative: NRCS

Motion carried.

Motion by Mold and seconded by Cleveland to approve the following Conservation Practice Assistance Contract:

- Applicant: Russ Danson
- Contract #: GCW 17-4
- Conservation Practice: Water and Sediment Control Basin
- Project Completion Date: June 30, 2019
- Total Project Cost: \$12,000
- Approved Cost Share Amount: \$12,000
 - \$9,000 FY17 CWF Rush Lake/Goose Lake TMDL Implementation Grant
 - \$3,000 Rush Lake Improvement Association
- Technical Representative: NRCS

Motion carried.

Motion by Mold and seconded by Tollberg to approve the following Conservation Practice Assistance Contract:

- Applicant: Randy Carlson
- Contract #: GCW 17-3
- Conservation Practice: Stream Crossing and Critical Area Shaping and Planting
- Project Completion Date: June 30, 2019
- Total Project Cost: \$12,500
- Approved Cost Share Amount: \$11,000 FY17 CWF Rush Lake/Goose Lake TMDL Implementation Grant
- Technical Representative: NRCS

Motion carried.

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Tollberg to approve the following Conservation Practice Assistance Contract:

- Applicant: Byron Dahlheimer
- Contract #: TW AG 15-15
- Conservation Practice: Water and Sediment Control Basin
- Project Completion Date: June 30, 2019
- Total Project Cost: \$19,400
- Approved Cost Share Amount: \$8,000 FY15 Targeted Watershed Grant
- Technical Representative: NRCS

Motion carried.

Motion by Mold and seconded by Tollberg to approve the following Conservation Practice Assistance Contract:

- Applicant: Virginia Mitchell
- Contract #: TW AG 15-16
- Conservation Practice: Diversion
- Project Completion Date: June 30, 2019
- Total Project Cost: \$4,400
- Approved Cost Share Amount: \$3,700
 - 3,500 FY15 Targeted Watershed Grant
 - \$200 Chisago SWCD Local Cost Share Funds
- Technical Representative: NRCS

Motion carried.

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Wilson to approve the following Conservation Practice Assistance Contract:

- Applicant: Lee Nelson
- Contract #: TW AG 15-17
- Conservation Practice: Water and Sediment Control Basin, Grassed Waterway, Critical Area Planting
- Project Completion Date: June 30, 2019
- Total Project Cost: \$33,000
- Approved Cost Share Amount: \$26,000
 - \$21,000 FY15 Targeted Watershed Grant
 - \$5,000 Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
- Technical Representative: NRCS

Motion carried.

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Tollberg to approve the following Conservation Practice Assistance Contract:

- Applicant: Richard Prah
- Contract #: SWCD LC 18-1
- Conservation Practice: Water and Sediment Control Basin
- Project Completion Date: June 30, 2019
- Total Project Cost: \$17,000
- Approved Cost Share Amount: \$8,000 FY18 SWCD Local Capacity Services Grant Funds
- Technical Representative: NRCS

Motion carried.

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Tollberg to approve the following Conservation Practice Assistance Contract:

- Applicant: Chisago Lakes School District
- Contract #: TW SRA 15-13
- Conservation Practice: 587 – Structure for Water Control
- Project Completion Date: June 30, 2019
- Total Project Cost: \$300,000
- Approved Cost Share Amount: \$3,000
 - \$2,000 FY15 Targeted Watershed Grant
 - \$1,000 Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
- Technical Representative: Dave Rey, PE – Anderson-Johnson Associates, Inc.

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

State Buffer Program

District Administrator Mell updated the Board on the status of the State Buffer Law.

NEW BUSINESS

Lakeshore Plant Grant Program

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Mold to approve a Lakeshore Plant Grant Program for 2018, authorize District Administrator Mell to approve all applications, and to utilize up to \$5,000 in SWCD Local Cost Share Funds to implement this program. Motion Carried

Chisago County Local Work Group Meeting

The Chisago County Local Work Group (LWG) Meeting was convened by the Chisago SWCD Board of Supervisors, those joining the board meeting for the LWG included Jacob Hernandez, USFWS, Jerry Spetzman, CLLID, Dan Fabian, BWSR, Mike Kinney, CLFLWD, Ryan Clark, MAWQCP, and Suzanna Wilson, Chisago County. The following is a summary of the LWG meeting.

The LWG identified the following as priority resource concerns.

- Soil Erosion, sheet, rill, and wind
- Soil Erosion, concentrated flow
- Soil Quality Degradation – Organic matter depletion
- Water Quality Degradation – Excess nutrients in surface and ground water
- Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife – Habitat Degradation

The LWG identified the following as priority conservation practices.

Soil health practices (cover crops, no-till) and practices that keep soil in place. The local work group would like to promote a system approach. Selecting 1 or 2 practices that should be implemented isn't necessarily the answer. More intense weather events are causing us to look at what we can do to minimize the impacts from these storms. It will take adopting a soil health minded management system along with conservation practices to improve our soils. If 2 practices need to be selected it would be waterways and cover crops.

The LWG identified the following as priority geographical areas. The Upper Goose Creek watershed.

The LWG discussed the following roadblocks for producers to install conservation practices.

- Funding caps are needed for nonstructural cropland so more projects can have a chance of being funded. More money is needed in the fund pool resource concerns identified from the LWG.
- The paperwork process for farm bill program applications and contracts is too cumbersome and lengthy.
- Timing, if a producer walks in the door today and wants to adopt cover crops on their field this fall, there is no way that is possible. Projects can take up to 2 years to even be eligible for installation.
- Program rules, allow movement of acres you can implement cover crops. Cover Crop practices need to be able to be adaptable to field conditions and weather. Having strict rules on field and acres is not feasible with so many variables that could change from the time of application.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No action taken.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Tollberg to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.



Secretary

5-15-18

Date

*Attachments available at SWCD office.