



McLeod Soil & Water Conservation District

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McLeod SWCD Board Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2018

McLeod County North Complex North Half Large Conference Room, 10:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Vice Chairman, Mark Schnobrich.

Members present: Roger Schultz, Mark Schnobrich, Charles Mathews, John Adamek and Jeremy Bolland

Others present: SWCD Program Director, Ryan Freitag
SWCD District Technician, Coleton Draeger
SWCD District Technician, Mark Yrjo
Pheasants Forever, Kayla Blocker
Board Conservationist, Jeremy Maul
Grants Compliance Specialist, Julie Krebs
SWCD Secretary, Diane Miller

1. MINUTES

Mark Schnobrich pointed out three changes on the minutes from the August 6, 2018 meeting.

1. #4 Last name should be Sheila Vanney not Banning
2. #7 First sentence should have "where" not were
3. #9 Spelling on Griebie was incorrect

Mark Yrjo also said his first name is spelled wrong; it has a "c" instead of a k.

Mark Schnobrich made a motion to approve the August 6, 2018 meeting minutes with the changes corrected. Roger Schultz seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. FINANCIALS

Mark Schnobrich wanted to know about the \$145,000 BWSR Grant. Ryan Freitag said this was a previous grant that was transferred from the checkbook to McLeod County.

Jeremy Bolland asked why we received a refund for trees. Coleton Draeger explained how we had two customers that had trees that were bad so Schumacher's sent a refund for the customers. We need to distribute the refund check to the customers yet.

Mark Schnobrich wanted to know how much it cost us to have the Women in Ag day event. Mark Yrjo said it didn't cost us anything other than the use of the Shed and we donated some trees for a prize. Ryan Freitag said we received contributions in the amount of \$1,400 and we only spent \$800.97.

Mark Schnobrich made a motion to approve the August Financial Report. John Adamek seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. BILLS

John Adamek made a motion to approve the August bills. Roger Schultz seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. 2017 Final Financial Report

Ryan Freitag said you have two copies of letters in front of you from BWSR. The first one is requesting our 2017 Final Financial report that was due by March 15, 2018. When we signed the Joint Powers with the County it was understood that the County would be responsible for doing our financial reports. The County finally got them done but BWSR is requesting a correction of the format. Colleen is working on correcting the reports and should be done with them by this Friday. The second letter is from Jeremy Maul & Julie Krebs regarding our grant reconciliation that was done on our 2016 – SWCD Local Capacity Services Grant. Ryan turned it over to Jeremy Maul to talk about the two letters.

Jeremy Maul said that the first letter is a MN statutory requirement so failure to submit financial statements by the specified deadline will result in the withholding of grant funds or financial penalty. Jeremy can grant an extension but not usually up to 6 months. This is a big deal because grants are on hold and it can hurt potential applications for Clean Water fund Competitive Grants. Points that you get for doing a good job helps you receive future grants.

John Adamek feels we need to set up a Joint Powers meeting with the Commissioners to let them know there is a deadline for the final financial reports each year and it is very important that the financial department gets them done on time. If there is a problem that the reports can't get done on time then the finance department should notify us. We can then have someone else do them so we are not late again.

Jeremy Maul said that the second letter is a joint letter from Julie and him regarding our grant reconciliation that was done on our 2016 – SWCD Local Capacity Services Grant. When you have grants that are more than \$100,000 dollars BWSR has to perform reconciliation if you are at the 50% of expenditures. Jeremy introduced Julie Krebs so she could talk about the reconciliation.

Julie Krebs said that BWSR's policy is to reconcile all grants that are over \$50,000. We need to look at one grant in each fiscal year; so for McLeod County we will be looking at every Capacity Grant because that is the grant we have that is over the \$50,000. So the Capacity Grant we looked at we came up with a few changes that need to be done. We have been working with Ryan on how to fix the issues so we can move forward. There is a State wide Standard Template that you can use to track your time and figure out your billable rates to use. We will need a letter from the board stating the corrective action plan you will be taking to fix your hours on the grant.

Jeremy Maul said we try to do these corrections while the grant is still open not once it is closed. It's important to get the 2016 grant fixed so we can move forward with the 2017, 2018 and even the 2019 grants so they can be done right.

5. State Cost Share

Coleton Draeger said there are no new State Cost Share's this month. We just need a signature from Jeremy Bolland on last months.

6. Conservation Report

Mark Yrjo:

1. Finishing up the Water Sediment Control Basin by Hutchinson for Jim Schlager & Francis Svoboda. Should be done this week.
2. Collins Township project hoping to work on in October if we get the 2018 money
3. Sent out bids for the Jerry Paumann Basin project
4. Sent out bids for the Bruce Stacken Rim project hopefully this will happen this Fall yet. Friday deadline for getting the contractor bids back.
5. CREP
6. John Adamek's project hopefully next month

John Adamek was wondering if you have any pictures of the Schlager project. Coleton and I will take some and put it on the web site.

Mark Schnobrich was just wondering if you could bring pictures of projects you are working on to show us at the meetings. Coleton Draeger said do you want it on a Power Point and just at the end of the year or when? Mark Yrjo thinks it would be best to do in the winter time. Mark Schnobrich said it doesn't need to be fancy.

Jeremy Maul suggested maybe take a bus tour with your County Commissioners and Supervisors to see the projects. Ryan Freitag said we could take the Environmental Services sprinter bus for a tour.

Mark Yrjo said most of these are piggybacked with EQIP so we are required to take pictures for case file documentation. We should have pictures available to bring to meetings.

Coleton Draeger:

1. Clean Water fund grant application was turned in August 23rd or 24th for \$141,000.
2. Helped Kayla with CREP so we can keep meeting deadlines
3. Getting Tree's lined up for the spring
4. Some Drill Rentals for reseeding drowned out alfalfa
5. Wetland delineation reviews
6. RIM Inspections consumed August

Jeremy Maul wanted to add to Coleton Draeger's update on the Clean Water Fund. What Coleton applied for was a multi-purpose drainage management grant for CD11 that feeds into Winsted Lake. For that grant pool there were 7 applicants that applied for a total of 1.3 million

dollars which we have 610,000 available. There is one project that sucks up ¾ of the total 610,000 dollars if he gets funded depending on how things rank out. So we will have to see how things go.

Mark Schnobrich wants to know if you are looking for more projects that are bringing multiple opportunities for multiple districts to bring a project together.

Jeremy Maul said the key is prioritized, targeted & measurable but multiple districts are good too. The big thing is prioritized locally which this project is. Since we have never applied for a clean water fund before and the fact we have financials not done this is going to hurt our chances. Jeremy has a vested interest in this grant because he helped Coleton get it done so he will let us know what our ranking score was. Even if this project is not funded this year you can try again next year.

Kayla Blocker:

1. Did a lot of CRP's: 23 re-enrolls for new contracts, 34 brand new contracts & 8 CREP CRP plans for a total of 65. Not the greatest number but that is what she had time for since she has to depend on Jake's availability to help her.
2. CREP wise it has been the time needed to get everything BWSR wants and making sure it is correct.
3. Received an email from one of our co-workers through PF, Jen who is one of our precision Ag ladies. She wants to get the word out about making precision Ag profitable. There is a meeting in St. James on September. 13th and Fairfax on September 14th. They will be showing how the Profit Zone Management program works. If you catch her at the right time she sometimes has grants available to help pay for it. Meeker County is doing cost share to help the farmer afford to be able to use this program.
4. Will not be at the next meeting because that is her Holiday so she will let Ryan know if there is anything important to report.
5. Waiting to hear about the Farm Bill.

Ryan Freitag

1. Morning Side Drive – East side of Glencoe – Coleton Draeger and I had to meet with their consultants to figure out what they can & can't do so that they don't dry out the wetlands.
2. Mark Yrjo and Ryan worked at the McLeod County Fair – The 1st day was really slow. They feel that there is room for improvement. They should split up each department and maybe join together with Environmental Services only. We should maybe set up a booth located in the Agribition Building so they are close to farmers and could interact with them. They would like to bring the rain fall simulator to the fair and schedule time for demonstrations at the stage.
3. Tree Orders are done
4. CREP one additional easement funded with a total of 8.
5. Board Meeting today
6. Five public hearings coming up for ditch systems.
7. September 24th we have a WCA Technical Evaluation panel meeting scheduled.

8. Also on September 24th in the evening there is a meeting of the Association of McLeod County Township that will be located somewhere in Glencoe.

7. Meeting Updates

John Adamek said there is a TSA meeting in Mankato on September 18th that he is unable to attend so was wondering if Mark Yrjo would be interested in going. Mark would like to look at the agenda for the meeting to see if there is anything he would be interested in.

Ryan Freitag said that the TSA Leasing/Purchasing Enterprise fleet wants to know if we would be interested in putting our vehicle's on the TSA fleet. They are begging everyone because they need to get 4 more vehicles to get to the total of 20. Mark Schnobrich doesn't feel that it sounds very appealing to him. John Adamek said he doesn't think it sounds like a good idea.

Mark Schnobrich said the Area meeting will be located in Fairmont on November 27th.

Mark Schnobrich was wondering if anyone went to Staples MN to a research plot where a guy talked about Ag Explorer which is an additive to add to your soil. This is supposed to retain the nitrogen in your soil. Would this be something we should have at an Area meeting?

Mark Schnobrich said we talked about County Commissioners at some point to coming in to our meeting for presentations. Is there any thought if we should ask some of our local representatives to come in such as Glen Gruenhagen. Ryan Freitag said we could plan for our October meeting to have the board meeting until 11:00 a.m. then have a legislative interaction.

Mark Schnobrich was wondering if Ryan would add a discussion about doing a SWCD News Letter to send out maybe quarterly regarding Conservation at our next meeting. Coleton Draeger said he did a newsletter in Sibley County and it cost about \$3,000 dollars for a quarterly newsletter. It is a possibility so it depends on what kind of content do you want in it and how often do you want it sent out.

Ryan Freitag said that the County is looking at buying the Jungclaus building.

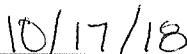
8. Adjournment

Jeremy Bolland called for Adjournment at 11:37 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the McLeod Soil & Water Conservation District will be held on Monday, October 8, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the McLeod County North Complex North Half Large Conference Room located at 2391 Hennepin Avenue North, Glencoe, MN 55336.


Secretary, Diane Miller


Date