



## **McLeod Soil & Water Conservation District**

**2385 Hennepin Ave. N, Glencoe, MN 55336**

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### **McLeod SWCD Board Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2019**

**McLeod County North Complex, North Half Large Conference Room, 10:00 a.m.**

**Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman, Mark Schnobrich with the pledge of allegiance.**

**Members present:** Mark Schnobrich, Charles Mathews, Jeremy Bolland, Gary Templin and John Adamek.

**Others present:** SWCD Program Director, Ryan Freitag  
SWCD District Technician, Coleton Draeger  
SWCD Ditch & Drainage Inspector, Adam Leske  
Pheasants Forever, Kayla Blocker  
NRCS District Conservationist, Jacob Stich  
McLeod County Board Commissioner, Doug Krueger  
SWCD Secretary, Diane Miller

**Introduction of new NRCS staff:** Jacob Stich is the new NRCS District Conservationist who will be covering Meeker, McLeod, Sibley & Nicollet Counties.

**Coleton Draeger requested we add State Cost Share to the Agenda. It was forgotten so it was added to the agenda after EQIP Local Work Group.**

#### **1. Minutes – March 4, 2019**

**John Adamek made a motion to approve the March 4, 2019 meeting minutes. Jeremy Bolland seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **2. Financial Report - February**

**John Adamek made a motion to approve the February Financial Reports. Gary Templin seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **3. Bills - March**

**Jeremy Bolland made a motion to approve the March bills. John Adamek seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Jeremy Bolland requested we mail out the agenda and minutes but we email the financials so the board can look at them in advance of our meeting date.

#### **4. Audit:**

Ryan Freitag said the 2018 Final Financial Report was accepted by the State. There was enough income coming in so the State requires us to have an audit done. Ryan has contacted Peterson Company, which has done previous audits for us, with a fee of \$2,600 to do the audit. We need the preliminary report back no later than October 31, 2019.

**John Adamek made a motion to approve the mandatory audit for \$2,600 by Peterson Co. Limited for the 2018 Final Financial Report. Charles Mathews seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **5. Area VI Meeting:**

Mark Schnobrich said the meeting will be April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the American Legion located in New Ulm. Notice was sent out to all the districts along with the 2019 dues request. Deadline for registration is April 16, 2019. The agenda for this meeting will be Water Storage. Don Arnosti will be one of the speakers and he will be explaining what the Izaak Walton League does to promote Water Storage on Ag land. Also speaking is Scott Sparlan from MN River Congress and he will talk about what the MN River Congress is trying to promote as advocacy for Water Storage on the land. There will be a Panel discussion in the afternoon which will include Al Keen, Adam Griebie, Don Arnosti, Ryan Freitag and Scott Sparlan. McLeod District needs to have a door prize for the meeting. All registrations will be sent to McLeod County SWCD and after the meeting is done we would write a check to pay back Area 6.

Mark Schnobrich wrote up a resolution regarding Water Storage and he discussed whether we should support the Water Storage or not. This is what will be discussed at the Area 6 meeting so at this time John Adamek thinks we should table the letter of support on Water Storage until after the Area 6 meeting.

**Charles Mathews made a motion to approve the \$400 for the Area 6 dues. John Adamek seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Jeremy Bolland made a motion to pay \$16 each for Staff & Supervisors to register for the Area 6 meeting. John Adamek seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **6. Outreach:**

Ryan Freitag said at the Workshop on March 18<sup>th</sup> we discussed getting shirts for staff and supervisors to wear with SWCD embroidered on them. We have \$7,000 in Outreach so we want to spend \$100 per supervisor and \$300 per staff. Email Ryan by April 15 or 16<sup>th</sup> so he can get them ordered. There will be a one-time setup fee for the embroidery.

**John Adamek made a motion to approve spending \$100 per Supervisor and \$300 per Staff to buy shirts with the SWCD Logo on them. Gary Templin seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ryan Freitag said they had added \$1,000 dollars to their work plan so they could get new chairs for the staff. When they moved to the County all they received was some broken chairs they found in the basement of the Courthouse. We need approval to buy 3 chairs for a total amount of \$872.85.

**Charles Mathews made a motion to approve spending \$872.85 for 3 new chairs. Jeremy Bolland seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **7. Staffing:**

Ryan Freitag said at the Workshop on March 18<sup>th</sup> we discussed hiring a part time temporary worker for the summer. Ryan and Coleton met with Jeff Hedtke who has 30 years' experience working on Wetlands for BWSR. He can only work 67 shifts maximum before he would affect his PERA so he can work about 2 or 3 days a week. The only thing he doesn't know is the VRS-GPS survey equipment which he is excited to learn. Coleton Draeger feels he will be able to learn a lot from him. We will pay him \$18 dollars an hour plus tax. The total amount that can be spent is \$10,387.68. We can utilize our funding sources of 2017 Capacity, 2018 Capacity, 2019 Clean Water Fund Grant, CREP Grant, and Riparian Aid if we needed to.

**John Adamek made a motion to approve spending a total of \$10,387.68 for a part time temporary worker for \$18.00 dollars plus tax per hour with a maximum of 67 shifts. Charles Mathews seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **8. WCA Fee Structure:**

Ryan Freitag said that we found out by accident that there is a Wetland Fee Structure set up which we haven't been utilizing since we started doing Wetlands. The Delineation application fee is \$150.00, less than one acre \$60.00, Assistance on application is \$50.00 an hour, Replacement plan and Banking plan is \$100.00, Monitoring is \$100.00 a year and the appeal is \$100.00 that is listed on the Notice of Decision. We have already sent out a few delineations and Notice of Applications this year so instead of implementing it now should we start clean at the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year? Up to this point we have just been using the Wetland grant money that is available to pay with our billable rate.

John Adamek wants to table it until our November meeting.

#### **9. EQIP Local Work Group:**

Jacob Stich said the local work group will be April 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. located at the North Complex. He is not sure how it has been handled in the past as far as who has attended. Ryan has emailed out an invite to local interest groups and if you want to attend you can. In the past Ryan has sent it out to Fish & Wildlife, DNR's, Land Owners, Producers and Winsted Lake Watershed.

We figure out the priority resource concerns within the County and send that information up to State. State then compiles that information into what the overall State priorities are and works it into our rankings.

#### **10. State Cost Share:**

Coleton Dreager updated the Board on a new Well Sealing Contract:

1. St. Johns Church located in Hassan Valley Section 35 Contract No. 4-19. 4 "x 101' deep well. Total estimated cost is \$708.50. 50% is \$354.25

Total balance after this contract will be \$469.56 in our FY 18 State Cost Share dollars.

**Jeremy Bolland made a motion to approve funds from the FY18 State Cost Share dollars for St. Johns Church. John Adamek seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **11. Conservation Reports:**

##### **Coleton Draeger:**

1. Tree sales are picking up a little bit.
2. CREP questions have been coming in since people are getting ready for farming.
3. Getting our eyes on the drill since CRP seeding is right around the corner.
4. Meeting with the TSA on April 12<sup>th</sup> to take a look at final inventory on CD 11 so we can get designs done and we can implement the project this summer so we are hoping to have time to look at John's farm also.

##### **Kayla Blocker:**

1. Waiting on Farm Bill. They are working on rewriting the manual and figuring out the Acres allocated. I am assembling a spreadsheet with about 105 interested people. She has between 140 & 150 that want CRP. Hard to tell if we get this many that actually applies.
2. Finalizing CREP w/Coleton. There are 9 active in process and 5 want CREP.
3. A lot of meetings and trainings.

##### **Adam Leske:**

1. He has a few drainage projects: JD 17 Clean out & Buffer seeding, JD 4 Buffer seeding & repair culverts, JD 18 Outlets repaired.
2. Meeting with Landowners tomorrow regarding CD 27 for some sluff INS along with CD 40 has a culvert that is failing on a crossing. Meet tomorrow with Marlon Voss that Lives North of Biscay.
3. Redetermination meetings have been going on for JD 28 that outlets into CD 28, and JD 11 that outlets into CD 11. Landowners talked about redetermination on these ditches.
4. JD 8 presented to public at meeting last Thursday. Moving forward with bidding process with another meeting scheduled on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
5. Farm bill meeting was held last Tuesday for landowners to look at the viewers reports and talk about CD 16, CD 21, CD 40 & JD 09. Final reports due next Monday or Tuesday.
6. CD 32 looking to have Huston Engineering doing some design work for some of the crossings. The design will be on the Board agenda tomorrow.

7. CD 5 formal meetings are coming up after spring planting. Viewer's reports are done.
8. CD 64 & CD 63 we will be having informal meetings coming up.

**Jacob Stich:**

1. NRCS has 8 applications total for EQIP with 6 approved this go around. 4 pre-approved for funding and one has cancelled because he wants to hold off until next year.
2. 4 active contracts for EQIP and we need to get them done this year.
3. CSP we have 3 renewals and we are offering them a 1 year extension. Hopefully once they figure out the ins and outs of the new farm bill we will be able to offer them a renewal.

**Ryan Freitag:**

1. Baker's Lake follows up meeting in Penn & Round Grove Townships. We had all of the County Commissioners involved in the High Island Creek Watershed district attend.
2. Coleton & Ryan went to Hutchinson Technical partners' meeting in regards to the Otter & Campbell Lake basins. We were coordinating with City of Hutch & WSB Engineering firm to figure out what can be done in these watersheds.
3. WCA TEP meeting for Morning side Avenue for the Extension and Exsted road bank.
4. Workshop on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
5. Weed meeting that was put on by Al Koglin. We talked about Emerald Ash bore.
6. Judicial Ditch meetings all last week with the viewers.
7. Administration training in St. Cloud last Tuesday & Wednesday.
8. Joint Ditch meeting with all the surrounding Counties was last week Friday.

**Doug Krueger:**

1. Friday April 26<sup>th</sup> there is a meeting put on by the AMC for a seminar on land use and training.
2. On April 10<sup>th</sup> there is a N1W1P policy committee meeting in which there will be a final vote regarding disbanding the CROW by October of this year.
3. 319 Grant – John the lawyer for Buffalo Creek Watershed doesn't like the way the CROW has been running things. Buffalo Creek Watershed has Levy Authority. Doug is concerned about losing the 319 Grant.
4. On April 16<sup>th</sup> the County Board will be appointing a manager for the Buffalo Creek Watershed.

**12. Meeting Updates:**

John Adamek went to the TSA meeting. They closed out a bunch of grants. One of the grants they decided to spend \$40,000 on a Truck rather than return funds not used. The dues will be coming in the mail, \$3,319 for the match, so look for that Ryan. Check your calendars for upcoming meetings. Filter Strip training in New Ulm on April 10<sup>th</sup>, another one in Oronoco on April 11<sup>th</sup>, BWSR academy will be held at Breezy Point for the next two years in October. They have hired a new Civil Engineering Technician at the TSA so there spread sheet is all up to date now.

John Adamek went to the Hemp meeting put on by the Extension office in St. Charles located by Rochester. You can grow it for fiber, food grade oil, or CBD oil. You can't sell it across State lines. Look it up at [LegacyHemp.com](http://LegacyHemp.com).

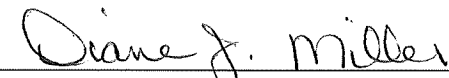
Mark Schnobrich was wondering if anything was figured out regarding AIS money and filling out an application form for work to be done on Bell Lake. Ryan Freitag said fill out an application and give it to Marc Telecky to look at and he can talk about it at a Work Group. Doug Krueger said go ahead and fill out an application so we can try to get it taken care of for you.

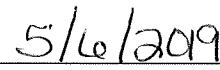
### **13. Adjournment:**

Mark Schnobrich called for Adjournment at 12:20 p.m.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the McLeod Soil & Water Conservation District will be held on Monday, May 6, 2019 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