

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District
Monday, November 21, 2022**

A meeting of the Rock County Soil and Water District Board was held Monday, November 21, 2022 at 8:00 am at the Prairie Service Center with the following members present: Gene Cragoe, Dave Esselink, Roger Hoff, Josh Ossefoort, Jim Veldkamp, County Commissioner Stan Williamson, Director Eric Hartman, Assistant Director Doug Bos, Technician Arlyn Gehrke, Technician Lee Tapper, NRCS Dylan Bartels, NRCS Patrick Toomey, MAWQA Danielle Evers. Absent: Office Manager, Mary Thompson

Chair Hoff called the meeting to order and asked for any additions to the agenda. With no additions, motion to approve by Ossefoort second by Veldkamp. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

NRCS Update

Dylan Bartels and Patrick Toomey presented information on the new EQIP CIC funding (Conservation Incentive Contract). Funding is available for soil health practices and Wildlife Habitat Management to name a few. Signups will be taken until December 16th. These funds are not allowed to be used for structural practices.

Soil Health Grant Agreement

Bos explained the BWSR Soil Health Grant Agreement that provides non-structural cost share for cover crops and soil health practices. The cost share incentives will be for three years and be based on EQIP cost share rates. Motion to approve by Veldkamp, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

SRAM (Seasonal Area Riparian Management) Update

Bos updated the board on the Seasonal Riparian Area Management Grant. Two farmers in Pipestone and one in Rock County have signed up for the program. The dollars left in the program for this funding cycle (will be two more funding cycles) will be available for conservation practices such as grass waterways and WASCBS.

Wellhead Cost Share Policy

Pipestone and Rock SWCDs are collaborating on a BWSR grant focused on improving nitrate management practices such as no-till, cover crops, split application along with changing crop choices. Contracts are for three years and can include a multitude of practices to reduce nitrates in the Drinking Water Supply Management Area. Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Tree and Tree Mat Pricing

Technician Lee Tapper presented information on tree prices and presented suggested tree prices of \$2.50 for deciduous and \$10.00 for potted conifers for 2023. Motion to approve by Veldkamp, second by Cragoe. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Motion to approve by Veldkamp, second by Cragoe. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program update

Danielle Evers advised the board that Rock County has the highest number of completed assessments and approvals. She presented information about climate smart endorsements stating the MAWQCP has five Endorsements available to water quality certified producers: Climate Smart Farm, Soil Health, Integrated Pest Management, Wildlife, and Irrigation Water Management. Many conservation practices targeting water

quality have benefits for other conservation goals, and the Endorsements provide additional recognition to water quality certified producers who are going above and beyond to implement conservation on their farms. She also share information on tours around I-90 and Hwy 14.

Conservation Use Acre Payments:

Hartman presented the following CUA payments:

CUA-52 Burdell Jansma for small grain/cover crop for 10 acres at \$100/acre for total of \$1,000. Motion to approve payment by Esselink, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

CUA- 54 Larry Smith for small grain/cover crop for 9 acres at \$100/acre for total of \$900. Motion to approve by Ossefoort, second by Veldkamp. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Local Capacity Cost Share Payment: FY21-LC-3 Remme for repairs to a basin project that was completed in November 2019 located in Section 16, Vienna Township, NW 1/4 for total of \$2,238.45. Total project cost was \$2,984.60. Motion to approve by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Bills:

Hartman presented the following bills for approval:

Regular Checking:

Post Approve – Regular Checking 10/7/22, 10/14/2022 and 10/28/2022:

Date	Vendor Name	Service	Amount
10/7/2022	MN Dept of Ag	CAWT Renewal B. Meyer	100.00
10/7/2022	Sunshine Foods	Ice – SWAG	9.98
10/7/2022	MVTL	9/8 Sample Results - SWAG	287.80
10/7/2022	MVTL	9/28 Sample Results - SWAG	41.00
10/14/2022	Rock County Abstract	Tofteland RIM Exam Fee, Pol Owners Prem, Gap Check	721.50
10/14/2022	Titan Machinery	Drill Repair	1,405.75
10/28/2022	City of Luverne	Sept Elec Facility Fee	28.00
10/28/2022	Clifton Larson Allen	2021 Audit	5,092.50

Total \$7,686.53

November Bills for Approval

Date	Vendor Name	Service	Amount
11/21/2021	City of Luverne	Elec Facility Fee	28.00
11/21/2021	MN Dept of Ag	Nursery Stock Dealers Cert	350.00
11/21/2021	NACD	Membership Dues	775.00
11/21/2021	Ben Aukes	Refund on Drill Rental	100.00

Total \$1,253.00

Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Financial Reports:

Hartman presented the financial statements for September. Motion to approve by Ossefoort, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Hartman presented the financial statements for October. Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Ossefoort.

Minutes

After review, motion to approve the September 19, 2022 minutes by Ossefoort, second Veldkamp. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Upcoming Meeting.

Next meeting, Monday, December 19, 2022

Motion to adjourn by Cragoe, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Hartman, Director

