

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District
Monday, April 19, 2021**

A meeting of the Rock County Soil and Water District Board was held virtually Monday, April 19, 2021 at 8:00 am at the Prairie Service Center with the following members present: Roger Hoff, Josh Ossefoort, Dave Esselink, NRCS Conservationist Cheryl Heard, Director Eric Hartman, Assistant Director Doug Bos, Office Manager Mary Thompson. Absent: Gene Cragoe, Jim Veldkamp and County Commissioner Stan Williamson.

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

NRCS Update:

Heard gave the NRCS update stating the following:

New staff: New Pheasants Forever Coordinator is Will Gallman. He will be located in the Nobles County office.

Freedom of Information Act – Districts, supervisors and partners may sign a new version of the FOIA Section 1619 in the near future. All federal information is solely for the purpose of the federal programs. Any request for information will go through the proper channels of approval being District Conservationist, Area Staff, State Staff.

EIP – 2021 local funds pools for cropland and pasture has \$431,579.00 to disburse for those with pre-approval. Rock County has 5 pre-approvals at this time. In 2020 Rock County was funded 3 contracts in regular sign up for \$54,526.00. First sign up ended Friday, November 20, 2020. Second sign up ended Friday, March 6, 2021. New applications will go for 2022 funds.

CSP – continuing to take new applications. Fourteen applications for 2021 general funds with one screened high priority to be assessed. Three applications up for 2022 renewal. These are any contract holders with a 2017 contract currently in their last year of the contract.

CRP – continuous sign up is available and general sign up has been extended with no deadline.

Wetland N/HEL Compliance – there has been a back log of tiling requests that are down to about a month's response.

Local Work Group due date is July 30. A meeting date needs to be set; may be later in June. Each county will hold their own meeting.

One Watershed One Plan Update

Bos stated the 900,000 dollars has been allocated to contracts with a need of approximately \$200,000 to fund projects ready to go. The joint powers board approved moving \$200,000 of the technical funds to allocate to those projects. The next allocation will be in May of 2022. The state indicated the amount will be the same at 1.3 million. The joint powers board may change the structure of the cost share policy to allow more projects to be funded. Bos stated Rock currently has approximately 20 projects waiting for funding. Thompson stated there are 20 projects in contract and 5 on the agenda for approval on April 21.

Local Capacity Cost Share Contract

Thompson presented cost share contract FY21-LC-01 for Jeff Petterson for a water and sediment control basin project in Springwater Township, Section 6, SW ¼ for
Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Buffer Cost Share Payment

Thompson presented payment for contract FY18-BCS2A for Dean Tofteland for a basin project in Section 33, Luverne Township in the amount of \$32,538.26. Motion to approve by Ossefoort, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Thompson state there is currently \$100,842.11 remaining in the Buffer Cost Share funds with one project remaining to be constructed. These funds will expire 12/31/2021.

Bills for Approval

Thompson presented the following bills for approval:

City of Luverne – electric for tree trailer - \$27.00

SW Prairie TSA Jan-March Tech & Eng – 433.37

Total \$460.37

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

Financial Statements

Hartman gave an overview of the financial statements. Motion to approve by Ossefoort, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Call for Resolutions

Thompson referred the board to the MASWCD Resolution Process Guidelines noting any submissions need to be submitted to the MASWCD office by July 21, therefore, any being presented will need to be at our June meeting for approval at the local level. The process and format for submission has been outlined in the document included in the board packets.

Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the March 15, 2021 meeting. Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried. The board reviewed the minutes of the April 5, 2021 meeting. Motion to approve by Ossefoort, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Upcoming Meeting

With no regular meeting scheduled in May, the next meeting will be June 21 unless otherwise needed then May 3, May 17 or June 7.

Adjourn

With no further business, motion to adjourn by Ossefoort, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Thompson
Office Manager