



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

**Todd County**

• MINNESOTA • EST. 1855 •

**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

215 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, Suite 104

Long Prairie, MN 56347

Phone: 320-732-2644 Fax: 320-732-4803

## **MINUTES FROM THE July 11, 2019 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Chairman Williamson called the Thursday, July 11, 2019 meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

The meeting was held at the Historic Courthouse, 215 1<sup>st</sup> Ave South, Long Prairie, MN 56347. Board members present were: Tom Williamson, Leland Buchholz, Kenny Pesta, and Dale Katterhagen. Dan Whitney joined for a portion of the reports portion of the meeting. Others present were: Deja Anton, SWCD District Manager, Reba Van Beusekom, Conservation Technician, Kevin Brown, Conservation Technician, Lew Noska, Conservation Technician, Luke Thoma, Pheasants Forever, Russell Kleinschmidt, NRCS, Gary Kneisl, County Commissioner, and Tim Ebnet, Nutrient Management Planner.

### **Introductions were made.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Williamson asked if there were any additions to the agenda. **Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve the agenda for July 11, 2019 regular board meeting with the following changes: moving the first report "Refresher Presentation on Fund 79 – Limitation and Capacity" to the bottom, #8, of the report list so that Dan Whitney could be present to participate, the 1W1P Williamson report, #6, due to no updates, was replaced with Jay Backowski's FSA Report, and a decision was added for an Alternative SWCD Representative at Planning Commission Meetings. Annual Work Plan for Review was removed off of the agenda at this time. The staff would like to work more on that. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta, and Katterhagen. Motion Carried.**

**Williamson called for conflict of interest. No conflict of interest.**

Williamson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the June 13, 2019 regular board meeting. **Pesta made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve the minutes as disbursed from the June 13, 2019 regular board meeting. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta, and Katterhagen. Motion Carried.**

Williamson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Treasurer's Report from the June 13, 2019 regular board meeting. **Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Pesta to approve the report as disbursed from the June 13, 2019 regular board meeting. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta, and Katterhagen. Motion Carried.**

### **REPORTS:**

**Commissioner Report:** Jonathon Stainbrook resigned. Chris Pelzer will be the Interim County Coordinator. Next Tuesday, June 18, 2019, it will be discussed what to do and how to find a new County Coordinator. They have been working on a budget, only a 2-3% increase from previous budget – a great amount of budget cuts got the budget to where it sits today.

**Staff Reports:** Anton reviewed her staff report. Anton's report included 319 Round 2 Small Watershed Focus Interview coming up, AIS projects, and answered Buchholz questions about various projects. Brown reviewed his staff report and was gone for six weeks for military. Van Beusekom reviewed her staff report. Noska reviewed his staff report.

**Pheasant Forever Report:** Thoma reviewed his staff report which included certifications of fields, CRP management, MN Land Trust applications, and other various items.



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

# Todd County

• MINNESOTA • EST. 1855 •

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

215 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, Suite 104

Long Prairie, MN 56347

Phone: 320-732-2644 Fax: 320-732-4803

**NRCS Report:** Kleinschmidt reviewed his staff report including program work, applications, contracting, EQIP – Round 2 – none in Todd County were funded, limited chance of further funding, and Cover Crop EQIP were five of the applications.

**Backowski FSA Report:** Backowski went over a handful of payments, loan disbursements, and existing loans available. He mentioned that land was reduced to 90% of land value for rental rate for CRP – which increased to 27 million acres able to be enrolled (up from 24 million acres) – tradeoffs. The Dairy Margin Sign-Up started. General CRP sign-up is on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, and is open to enroll larger tracts of land.

**BWSR Report:** No Report.

**Celebrations and Accomplishments:** Phase 2 of the Partridge River Grant was EPA Approved – funding starts next year and a receipt of \$17,500 was received for performance credits for feedlot work completed in 2018.

**Refresher Presentation on Fund 79 – Limitations and Capacities:** Anton covered various aspects of the 79 Fund Revenue and how the monies flowed. Buchholz was in agreement that the Division Director was and is a shared position. Instead of the County paying \$65,000-75,000 annually to SWCD when it was in the NRCS building, the County applied that money to the 605 budgets. The SWCD also offers in-kind work to support County requirements and P&Z functions. This was why nothing was stated in the Joint agreement about paying the director or budgeted for one. The notion of adding another technician came up. The SWCD also does not have budgeting or taxing authority. Whitney stated that going forward, it would be helpful to provide transparency as to why there are negative numbers (balance) on the 79 budget – perhaps on a spreadsheet or something. These are negative in the 79 fund as SWCD is waiting for transfer from one pool to another. The money is sitting in the 605, 603, 611, etc. SWCD pools.

## DECISIONS NEEDED:

**Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Pesta to approve encumbering FY2019 Local Capacity cost share funds for Randy Alexander in the amount of \$4,456.82 for a pit closure. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen and Whitney. Motion Carried.**

**Whitney made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to approve encumbering FY2018 Partridge River Phase 1 cost share funds for Randy Alexander in the amount of \$17,824.26 for a pit closure. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen and Whitney. Motion Carried.**

**Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to approve a letter of support for CIG Management Grant. Discussion: the CIG Management Grant is to put in four test systems to look at mechanisms for better control on irrigation. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen and Whitney. Motion Carried.**

**Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to approve In Kind contribution for CIG Management Grant. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen and Whitney. Motion Carried.**

**Dan Whitney left.**

**The policy for pit closure measures to include the establishment of a pond as a fundable cost-share practice was tabled for next meeting due to a safety hazard concern due to depth. Kleinschmidt was concerned that the DNR would call them wetlands. Anton said she will detail further explanation at the next meeting**



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

# Todd County

• MINNESOTA • EST. 1855 •

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

215 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, Suite 104

Long Prairie, MN 56347

Phone: 320-732-2644 Fax: 320-732-4803

**Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to approve the Local Partner's Agreement between Todd SWCD and Pheasants Forever. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen and Whitney. Motion Carried.**

Alternative SWCD Rep at the PC meetings was discussed about, but no decision was made- look into yearly appointments and decide who or how to go about doing that.

**DISCUSSION:**

Local Governance Training is September 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> in Bloomington – but same day as Board Meeting. No interest, but thankful for letting the Board know.

**INFORMATIONAL:**

**1W1P "Index Card" Information:** Discussion: really need to full support of 1W1P, Buchholz stated it could be in the new Director's lap since it also has a large P&Z component. Both SWCD and P&Z reps are required to partake in 1W1P meetings.

**Area II Meeting is October 16, 2019** – ie. Save the date. Perhaps a tour can be organized.

**Pictures Needed:** At the next meeting, all Board Supervisors and Staff pictures will be taken. Whitney was absent.

**Additional discussion: Shirts:** New SWCD logo and new staff. Figure out what staff want/need, complete it, and bring it to the Board for approval and payment.

**Chairman Williamson adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.**

The next meeting of the Todd SWCD Board of Supervisors will be held on August 8, 2019 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Todd County Historic Courthouse (Prairie Conference room), Long Prairie, MN 56347.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reba Van Beusekom, Minute Prepare

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Reba Van Beusekom*  
Deja Anton, SWCD District Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Kenny Pesta*  
Kenny Pesta, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
*10-10-19*  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
*10-10-19*  
Date