

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, January 27th, 2023
9:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Brutscher, Faber, Hubner, Saehr and Scholl; SWCD Staff Wettstein, Knopik, Becker, Chisholm, Noska, Mankowski and Ringwelski; NRCS Staff: Hanson

2023 RE-ORGANIZATION – APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Items 2-11) MSC Saehr/Brutscher.

Motion passed to approve the consent agenda.

1. Swearing in of New Board Members –District 3 Supervisor Scott Saehr and District 4 Supervisor Dale Scholl
2. Official Date, Time, Location: Fourth Friday of Each Month, 8:00 a.m. at USDA County Office or Morrison County Government Center in special circumstances
3. Official Per Diem and Mileage:
 - Per Diem - Full Board Meetings, Day Meetings, Committee Meetings, and/or Payroll Signature - \$125
 - Mileage - at IRS Established Rate (\$.655 as of 1/1/2023)
4. Official Publication: Morrison County Record
5. Official Posting Location: Morrison SWCD Website and USDA Service Center Building
6. Official Bank of Deposit: Pine Country Bank Checking, Bremer Bank and Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund (4M Fund)
7. Resolution Adopting the Morrison County Local Water Management Plan and Adopting it as the District’s Annual Plan.
8. Grant Agreements / Contracts Signature Approval: Morrison SWCD’s District Manager, Shannon Wettstein, in the absence of SWCD Board Members, may sign grant agreements and/or contracts.
9. Minimum Fund Balance Approval: The minimum Fund Balance will be **3 months** of Operating Expenditures.
 (ie: PL Operating Exp. + Personnel for FY, divided by 12 x 3 months = MFB)
10. Capital Assets Policy of Threshold Approval: Capital Assets Policy Report, \$5,000 and above will remain the level of threshold documented, for depreciation, for all purchases by Morrison SWCD.
11. Slate of Officers for 2023 Recommendations:

Roles	Proposed for 2023
Chairman	Dale Scholl
Vice Chairman	Dave Hubner
Secretary	Scott Saehr
Treasurer	Tom Brutscher
Public Relations	Bill Faber
Committee Assignments	Proposed for 2023
Finance Committee	Brutscher / Saehr
Personnel Committee	Hubner / Faber
Water Plan Representative	Brutscher
WCTSA	Faber / Hubner
One Watershed One Plan	Scholl / Faber / Brutscher

SECRETARY'S MINUTES MSC Saehr/Brutscher to approved as written. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT MSC Faber/Saehr to approve and move Bremer funds into 4M Money Market. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Ringwelski reported he has been busy with ag waste designs for EQIP and the Weyerhaeuser Museum. Hanson shared they are working on EQIP FY23 and RCPP applications with the help of Destiny, Lew and Kolby. They are ranking 80 applications with a deadline of February 3. CSP FY23 Classic sign up is February 10, 2023.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Absent.

BWSR REPORT: Absent. Wettstein shared that Chris Pence has taken a new position and will not be our BWSR Board Conservationist.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl updated that the Mille Lacs Band was in attendance. Jake Janski from Mille Lacs is chair and they do not have funds for implementation yet, most likely in July 2023.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared the group is working on an application for implementation funds at the moment.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Wettstein and Chisholm attended a Citizen Advisory meeting to get additional feedback from the public on plan content.
4. MASWCD Annual Convention – Wettstein was pleased with board members and staff taking time to go, as well as the Tschida family to accept their award. Thanked them for being able to attend.
5. Annual Tree Sale- Wettstein shared that we had 149 sales at the Tree Open House. Most trees are sold out. Knopik shared the issues with availability again this year.
6. WCA Report for 2022 – Becker shared the six-year summary and year end numbers which are reported to the state. 2022 was a slower year because most people had done work in 2021 due to the dry conditions. There was a total of 268 interactions with WCA versus 455 the year before (which was the six-year high).
7. ACUB Report for 2022 – Mankowski and Chisholm presented the ACUB summary on easement programs. To date there have been 322 easements completed for ACUB, seven easements with the Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor program and five with the Rum River area. All are Re-Invest in Minnesota, state held easements.
8. BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant Award – \$155,000 for Cover Crops – Morrison and Benton SWCD have been awarded these dollars. Wettstein shared we are working to develop this program for summer program delivery.
9. Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Award - \$221,160 Crane Meadows Stream Restoration – Morrison SWCD was awarded this grant as well. This will be done in partnership with Crane Meadows and local DNR.
10. LiDAR Project with MNDNR – Private lands plot-based inventory – Wettstein shared we have been asked to be a pilot for this project within the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape. We will be reaching out to landowners to ask permission for a private forester to access their property this next summer to measure the height, diameter and count number of trees within

a 1/10-acre circle. Morrison SWCD will host an open house for landowners to learn more on March 16th.

11. Little Rock Creek – Scholl updated the group on the irrigation permits within the Little Rock Creek that the time limited permits who were set to expire at the end of the year have been extended to December 31, 2025. All the rest of the permittee in the watershed are business as usual.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Budget Approval – Tom Brutscher and Scott Saeher reviewed the 2023 Proposed Budget with Jennifer Knopik and Shannon Wettstein before the meeting. MSC Saeher/Hubner to recommend the budget with the addition of the equivalent of a step increase for Wettstein and plan to review the step/wage schedule before next years meeting. If changes to the budget exceed \$50,000 then staff will bring the budget back to the board for review and approval. Motion passed.
2. Audit Bid Letter for FYE 12/31/2022 to be completed Fall 2023 - \$3,800 Peterson Company LTD. – MSC Brutscher/Faber to hire. Motion passed.
3. Renew Partner Agreement with Centra Sota Cooperative, Little Falls – MSC Hubner/Saeher to table. Motion passed. Wettstein explained Centra Sota is interested in continuing the agreement it is just a matter of extending the existing or doing a new agreement.
4. Payment – LCCMR Oak Wilt Grant - Pioneer Tree Service for \$18,432.05 – MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve payment. Motion passed.
5. Approve FY2023 MASWCD Member Dues for \$6,244.30 – MSC Brutscher/Faber to approve renewal. Motion passed.
6. Approve MCIT Annual Insurance Renewal for \$12,507.00 – MSC Faber/Saeher to renew our insurance. Motion passed.
7. Adopt Resolution Authorizing Membership in the 4M Fund – MSC Faber/Saeher to sign the resolution. Motion passed. All members signed the authorization.
8. Donation Request for Area 2 Envirothon -MSC Faber/Saeher to approve \$150. Motion passed.
9. Approve State Cost Share Contracts- MSC Saeher/Faber to approve. Motion passed.
 - a. Renee Waldoch \$2,052.00 Field Windbreak
 - b. Joseph LeBlanc \$1,323.20 Reforestation
 - c. Katie Boser \$1,890.00 Field Windbreak
 - d. Lee Wood \$420.00 Field Windbreak
10. Approved State Cost Share Payments- MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve. Motion passed.
 - a. Kyle Schraut \$2,500.00 Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOB)
11. Re-sign Memorandum of Agreement Long Prairie River One Watershed One Plan – Wettstein explained this is because Otter Tail County would like to be a partner on this agreement, so the group is resigning the revised MOA. MSC Faber/Brutscher. Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Campaign Finance Board Deadline January 31st
- Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Policy Meeting February 2 at Crow Wing County Courthouse 2-4 PM
- Rum River One Watershed One Plan Policy Meeting, January 26th at Mille Lacs County Courthouse from 4:30-6:30 PM
- Morrison SWCD Annual Tree Sale – Until Sold Out
- Area 2 Meeting, Tuesday, February 7, 2023 Morrison SWCD to host at Little Falls Ballroom
- Winter Agronomy Meeting, February 24th Royalton Legion 9-12

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Scott Saehr, Secretary

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON FOLLOWED THE MEETING RECOGNIZING THE FOLLOWING:

Amy Kowalzek of Morrison County for being a Morrison County Super Partner, Mitch Brinks of Maps by Mitch for being a Morrison County Super Partner, Doug and Jan John for receiving the Morrison County Wildlife Habitat Steward Award, the Tschida Family Farm (Don, Mary and Calvin) for receiving the Morrison County Outstanding Conservationist Award, colleague Katie Retka from Camp Ripley Environmental for her exceptional support to the ACUB program (given jointly on behalf of BWSR and Morrison SWCD), Morrison SWCD staff members Mike Becker for his nomination to the MACDE Extraordinary Contribution Award, Lance Chisholm for his nomination of the SWCD Employee of the Year Award, and board member Dave Hubner as the runner up for the Truterra Innovative Farmer Award and the Truterra Farmer Advocacy Award. General Kruse was in attendance and presented Katie Retka and Shannon Wettstein with his commemorative coin.

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, February 24, 2023
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Brutscher, Faber, Saehr and Scholl; SWCD Staff Wettstein and Ringwelski; NRCS Staff: Hanson; BWSR Staff Darren Mayer; Guest Karl Sabrowsky, FSA

SECRETARY'S MINUTES – MSC Faber/Saehr to approve as is. Motion Passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Wettstein briefed the board that a check has been sent to 4M for deposit into the CD account. A statement will be reconciled next month and be on the treasurer's report. MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve report. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Ringwelski shared updates on the staff. Beehler is working on rolling out the cover crop program, Noska has been out in the field with Pioneer Tree Service on oak wilt and working on NRCS plans, Becker will be going to the Upsala school to speak to high school students. Ringwelski is working on Environmental Reviews and WCA.

Hanson announced they have 15 applications pre-approved for the CRSL RCPP, applications are pre-approved for the regular EQIP signup and is calling landowners for CSP and EQIP to see if they want to move forward. The Inflation Reduction Act EQIP and CSP signup deadline is March 24.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Winscher shared they will be looking for a new public health director as Brad Vold is resigning. They are having discussions about the sheriff's department getting a body scanner and the Auditor/Treasurer position being appointed versus elected. Winscher also shared he may have a conflict with our meeting date and time moving forward and the board all let him know how they felt about this.

BWSR REPORT: Darren Mayers is the interim Board Conservationist since Chris Pence left. He introduced himself and shared the Legislative Day handout, also offered to help moving forward as he hopes to get the job and become our permanent BC.

GUEST REPORT: Karl Sabrowsky, FSA Farm Loans Manager shared an update on FSA and current programs including how some of them are self-certifying programs and how that works.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – No meeting this month.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – No meeting this month.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – No meeting this month.
4. BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant Award – \$155,000 for Cover Crops – Wettstein shared they are working on rolling out this program and presented the work area map to the board. First sign-up in April, second in June and then applications will be ranked.
5. Area 2 Meeting, Tuesday, February 7, 2023– Wettstein recounted the event and thanked the board that attended and staff that helped to host the event. They did get good feedback from the full house of supervisors on the speakers, Todd Holman and General Kruse.
6. LCCMR Grant Period Open – Weyerhaeuser Shoreline Restoration and Oak Wilt Applications – Board supported the office moving forward with these applications.

7. LiDAR/PBI Project with MNDNR – Private Lands Plot-Based Inventory – Wettstein briefed the board on the outreach work the office is helping with on this project. An information evening is planned for landowners to learn more on March 16th.
8. Website Update – Logo – MSC Saehr/Faber to approve the new logo. Motion passed to use the Morrison Soil and Water image created by Red Canoe Creative, Dain Erickson.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Renew Partner Agreement with Centra Sota Cooperative, Little Falls – MSC Faber/Saehr to approve and extend until July 31st, 2023. Motion passed.
2. Payment – LCCMR Oak Wilt Grant - Pioneer Tree Service for \$83,929.70 – MSC Faber/Saehr to approve payment. Motion passed.
3. Approve Contract for Services with Pioneer Tree Service for 2023-2024 Oak Wilt Season – MSC Faber/Saehr to extend contract. Motion amended Faber/Saehr to include to extend the contract after it was approved by LCCMR staff that a new bid and RFP process was not needed. Amended motion approved.
4. Approve State Cost Share Contracts – MSC Saehr/Brutscher. Motion passed to approve.
 1. Evan Woitalla \$420.00 Field Windbreak
5. Approve Purchase for Planting for the Future out of REPI Challenge Grant– Up to \$25,000 for canoes, trailer and recreational equipment- MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve. Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL:

- ~~Winter Agronomy Meeting, February 24th -Royalton Legion 9 12~~
- Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Policy Meeting February 28 at Crow Wing County Courthouse 2-4 PM
- Rum River One Watershed One Plan Policy Meeting, TBD at Mille Lacs County Courthouse from 4:30-6:30 PM
- Long Prairie River One Watershed One Plan Policy Meeting, March 16th at Todd County Courthouse 9 AM
- Morrison SWCD Annual Tree Sale – Until Sold Out
- Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Open House for Landowners (LiDAR/PBI Project) March 16th, 4-5:30 at the Hangar at Camp Ripley
- Landowner Learn and Burn Workshop, April 21st

Meeting Adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Scott Saehr, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, March 24, 2023
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Brutscher, Faber, Saehr, Hubner and Scholl; SWCD Staff: Wettstein; NRCS Staff: Hanson; BWSR Staff Darren Mayer

SECRETARY'S MINUTES – MSC Saehr/Faber to approve as is. Motion Passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Board discussed the process for how the treasurers responsibilities are shared between the district manager, the book keeper and the board assigned treasurer. At the next meeting Wettstein will bring a financial policy for the board to review and approve. MSC Hubner/Brutscher to approve treasurers report. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Hanson announced they are working on contracting RCPP and EQIP, working on CSP applications and there will be lots of training opportunities this year offered in Morrison County including cover crops, prescribed burn and engineering.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Winscher shared the “Woke” material they are reviewing for the Great River Regional Library. Also said the Auditor/Treasurer petition needed 10% of the registered voters and got them so now they will all be verified. If they are validated the commissioner decision to make it an appointed position will get overturned and it will go back to an elected position.

BWSR REPORT: Mayers shared that the new e-Link is up and running. There are a couple of new grants open for water storage and wellhead protection. The SWCD funding is on the table yet for support at \$12M, not the original \$22M that was proposed by the MASWCD.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Approved the first round of projects, \$500K worth. They are going to put money into a CD to collect interest and they are hiring a new person to do outreach for the watershed.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Work Plan has been approved by BWSR so the group will be working on implementation very soon.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Group is still working through the planning process.
4. 2022 Erosion Control and Water Management Cost Share Projects Completed – Wettstein passed around a map that showed the location and name of projects we approved in 2022. There were 16 state cost share projects completed (2 well sealing, 3 reforestation, 3 field windbreaks and 8 cover crops)
5. 2023 RIM ACUB Rate – The RIM rates have been adjusted for the first time since 2018 for the ACUB program. Wettstein shared the rate increases with the board.
6. 2023 Cover Crop Cost Share Opportunity – Wettstein shared the flier that was created for the new funding limited to a portion of the county. It outlines the work area and the contract details, deadlines and how the applications will be ranked. The first sign-up deadline is April 14th so we are hoping to get a good turnout.
7. Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Open House for Landowners (LiDAR/PBI Project) March 16th, 4-5:30 at the Hangar at Camp Ripley – This open house happened on a terrible weather night

but we still had 12 landowners attend and all of them agreed to participate in helping with the project. Wettstein shared they are working to recruit landowners to help with the program as it is a pilot project on private lands. More information is on the Resource Assessment page on the DNR.

8. Winter Agronomy Meeting, Royalton March 22nd – The meeting also had bad weather but we had a good turnout of 45 people all who were there to hear about conservation practices with a focus on reduced tillage and cover crops. Speakers came across Minnesota and included: Centra Sota Cooperative employees Nate Hood and Andrew Lambert, Brian Johnson from MonTag Manufacturing, The Saehr Family, T.J Kartes with Saddle Butte Ag, and local government employees.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Cost Share Policy Discussion and Update – Wettstein asked the board to consider increasing our cost share cap from \$2,500 to \$7,000 as there is more project money coming online with the 1W1P's, project costs are increasing and the higher amount would match what we are offering for the cover crop program. MSC Hubner/Brutscher to increase the cap to \$7,000.
2. National Association of Conservation Districts Membership – MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve the membership amount of \$775.00. Wettstein shared we have received almost three quarters of a million dollars in funding commitments from them. Motion passed.
3. LCCMR Resolutions of Support for Weyerhaeuser Shoreline Restoration and Oak Wilt Applications – MSC Faber/Brutscher. Motion passed.
4. Long Prairie River One Watershed One Plan Fiscal (Todd SWCD) Agreement – MSC Brutscher/Hubner to sign on to the agreement. Motion passed. Wettstein explained we are still the fiscal for the planning grant which will expire on June 30th, 2023.
5. Master Project Agreement Between Rum River Watershed Partnership and Morrison SWCD- MSC Faber/Saehr to sign the agreement. Motion passed.
6. Approve State Cost Share Contract – MSC Brutscher/Faber to approve. Motion passed.
 - a. Scott Prokott Cover Crops \$3,400
7. Cancel State Cost Share Contract – MSC Saehr/Faber to cancel. Motion passed.
 - a. Katie Boser Reforestation \$1,890.00

INFORMATIONAL:

- Morrison SWCD Annual Tree Sale – Until Sold Out
- First Cover Crop Sign-Up Deadline – April 14th / Second Sign-Up Deadline – June 15th
- Landowner Learn and Burn Workshop, April 21st
- Local Water Plan/ Local Work Group, June 14th, Morrison County Courthouse

Next Board Meeting April 28th at 8 AM, USDA Service Center

Meeting Adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Scott Saehr, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, April 28, 2023
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Brutscher, Faber, Saehr and Scholl. Hubner arrived after agenda item number 2; SWCD Staff: Wettstein, Beehler and Ringwelski; NRCS Staff: Hanson; BWSR Staff absent. Guests: Don, Mary and Calvin Tschida.

SECRETARY’S MINUTES – MSC Saehr/Faber to approve as is. Motion Passed.

TREASURER’S REPORT - MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve treasurers report. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Hanson shared they have had EQIP, RCPP Camp Ripley, RCPP Irrigation and EQIP IRA pre-approved for funding and they are working on CSP classic applications. Ringwelski shared WCA will be gearing up once it starts to green up. He is also working on Environmental Reviews and the one coming up for Curt Plante’s hog barn will be sure to draw a crowd from the nearby lake residents.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT: Winscher shared there are some contentious public hearings coming up. The new Health and Human Services Director will be starting. The Landfill expansion was approved, and the Auditor/Treasurer position being elected or appointed will go to referendum.

BWSR REPORT: Absent.

GUEST: Tschida Family (Don, Mary and Calvin), 2022 Morrison County Outstanding Conservationists and Area 2 Winners. Wettstein presented what they are doing at their operation including cover crops, tree plantings, native plantings along the Skunk river, two covered manure stacking slabs, irrigation management and manure management techniques and so much more on their broiler, beef and crop farm. The board presented them with a sign and congratulated them on being nominated, selected and for also being the winner for the 12 county west central area. The Tschida family was very honored. They thanked staff for all of their good work and support they have received over the years.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – No updates.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – No updates.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher said the Policy committee met last week. Still developing the plan.
4. LiDAR/PBI Project Update – Wettstein said the pilot is going slow. They are still working to get willing landowners but next month the DNR is hoping to put out a contract for private foresters to bid on the ground truthing work.
5. Landowner Learn and Burn Event, April 21st – This was held last Friday, it snowed again so landowners were not able to take the field tour unfortunately. We did push registration and filled the event within four days as it was limited to 35 people. We have a waiting list for a fall event already.
6. 2022 Precipitation Report – Ringwelski shared the names of the volunteers who collect this data and the year end summary for the county.

7. New Federal Funding for ACUB \$1.3M – Wettstein briefed the board that this money was now available and we will continue to work down the wait list.
8. Crane Meadows – Request for Proposal for Earth Work Contractor Process Timeline – The SWCD will be the fiscal on this project so we will plan on doing a request for proposals the second week of May so the board can review bids at the June meeting.
9. District Financial Policy – Wettstein passed out a draft for the board to review. This policy is in response to the discussion last month. The district does have a good process and division of duties but it is not written down anywhere.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval to Apply for Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Funding for ACUB – Wettstein shared the office would like to apply for phase 12 of funding for state funded easements. Any money we solicit from the state acts as match to ensure we continue to get federal funding. MSC Faber/Brutscher to support applying. Motion passed.
2. Approve Clean Water Fund Cover Crop Contracts –The board discussed the following payments, the intent of the program and individual application ranking. MSC Saehr/Faber to approve the following contracts together. Additional discussion was had regarding the next round of funding. Board asked for staff to stress to producers the ranking importance as funds will be limited. Wettstein explained these funds are only available to a smaller portion of Morrison County that is more at risk for groundwater contamination of nitrates. The grant was specifically structured around wells which more than 25 people per day drink from. Motion passed.

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| a. Jason Lorenz | \$2,592.00 |
| b. Jim Knopik | \$7,000.00 |
| c. Donald Tschida | \$858.00 |
| d. Darv Keehr | \$3,565.60 |
| e. Keith Lorenz | \$1,050.80 |
| f. Keith Ripplinger | \$1,554.00 |
| g. Greg Tax | \$3,764.00 |

Additional discussion on the following projects was regarding multiple family members receiving funds and if any conflict of interest existed with board members so each was approved separately. Wettstein shared that staff met with producers to understand their operations and exactly where the cover crops would be planted so that each contract could be ranked off of their field locations. Staff feels confident that the contracts the board is reviewing followed the developed internal procedures and the goals of the grant. Beehler was also available to answer specific contract ranking questions. Total amount of acres for this first round was 3,000 acres.

- h. Duane Kroll \$4,877.00 – MSC Faber/Brutscher. Motion passed.
- i. Dave Hubner \$4,815.20 – MSC Saehr/Faber. Motion passed.
- j. Simon Kroll \$6,044.00 – MSC Faber/Brutscher. Motion passed.
- k. Adam Kroll \$6,550.00 – MSC Brutscher/Faber. Motion passed.
- l. Jesse Brutscher \$7,000.00 – MSC Faber/Saehr. Motion passed. Brutscher abstained.
- m. Dave Brutscher \$7,000.00 - MSC Saehr/Faber. Motion passed. Brutscher abstained.
- n. Isaac Kroll \$7,000.00 – MSC Brutscher/Faber. Motion passed.

3. Approve Soil Health Cost Share Contracts – MSC Faber/Saehr. Wettstein explained this is a separate pot of state funds specifically for soil health and cover crops is a practice eligible for use of these funds. Motion passed. Hubner abstained.
 - a. Dave Hubner \$1,018 Cover Crops
4. Approve Pioneer Tree Service Invoices -\$8,472.00 and \$4,143.00 – MSC Brutscher/Faber. Wettstein shared the bulk of the work was approved for payment last month. Motion passed.
5. Invitation to Join the Minnesota SWCD Forestry Association – Wettstein is waiting for a call back from the chair of this group. MSC Brutscher/Faber to table. Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee, April 25th, Crow Wing
- Morrison SWCD Annual Tree Week May 1st with Pick-up Scheduled for May 5th
- Morrison SWCD Logo Reveal Party – May 11th, 3 PM at Starry Eyed Brewing
- Planting for the Future, May 12th, 10-2 PM at Camp Ripley
- Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee Meeting, May 18th at 9 AM, Todd
- Rum River One Watershed One Plan Partnership Board Meeting, May 25th, 4:30 PM, Mille Lacs CC
- Nitrate Testing Clinic – May 22-26, Morrison County Courthouse
- National Sentinel Landscape Coordinators Meeting, June 6-8, Camp Ripley Hosting
- First Cover Crop Sign-Up Deadline –Second Sign-Up Deadline – June 15th
- Local Water Plan/ Local Work Group, June 14th, Morrison County Courthouse
- Green Fair, August 2nd, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls Campus
- Tentative Soil Health Day, August 9th, Sobieski Community Center/Hubner Farms LLC
- Tentative Legislative Bus Tour, August 30th
- Camp Ripley Open House, September 17th at 11 am, Camp Ripley
- Morrison County Water Festival, September 19, Camp Ripley
- Landowner Learn and Burn, September 22nd, Camp Ripley
- Mississippi River Brainerd Public Hearing, September 26th, TBD

Next Board Meeting May 26th at 8 AM, USDA Service Center

SPECIAL NOTE- Brigadier General Lowell Kruse will be retiring the middle of June. I would like to thank him for all the support to our office over his tenure. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Scott Saehr, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, May 26, 2023
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Hubner, Saeher and Scholl. Attending virtually: Faber; SWCD Staff: Wettstein, Knopik and Ringwelski; NRCS Staff: Zapzalka; BWSR: Mayers.

MSC Hubner/Saeher to adjust agenda to move New Business after the Treasurers Report.

SECRETARY’S MINUTES: MSC Saeher/Hubner to approve as is. Motion Passed.

TREASURER’S REPORT: MSC Hubner/Saeher to approve treasurers report. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve District Financial Policy- MSC by Saeher/Hubner to adopt the policy. Discussion on the payroll was initiated by Saeher and asking if it would be easier to do payroll every two weeks versus two times per month. Knopik said it would be much easier for her. Wettstein said moving payroll would be possible since we now have ACH deposits. She also assured the board that Jennifer enters in payroll into the Pine Country system but then Wettstein reviews and approves so there is a check and balance in place. The board would then review and approve at the board meeting. Saeher amended his motion to adopt the policy with the change that payroll is completed every two weeks instead of two times per month. Motion passed.
2. Approve Soil Health Cost Share Contracts – MSC Saeher/Hubner to approve. Motion passed.
 - a. Nathan Gruber \$7,000 Cover Crop
3. Approve State Cost Share Contracts – MSC Hubner/Saeher to approve. Motion passed.
 - a. Sharon Schmidtbauer \$3,620 Critical Area Planting along Shoreline
4. Approve Pioneer Tree Service Invoice - \$5,323.25 – MSC Hubner/Saeher to approve. Motion passed.
5. Invitation to Join the Minnesota SWCD Forestry Association – MSC Hubner/Saeher to table. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Zapzalka shared the are funding RCPP and EQIP contracts and money keeps trickling in. Ringwelski shared how dry it has been and requests for Environmental Reviews and WCA and how the tree plantings will have a hard time this year. Becker is working on the Crane Meadows project, Beehler on MAWQCP, cover crops and the summer field day and all the staff helped with the nitrate testing.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT: Winscher had to leave before this agenda item. Wettstein shared with the board the county was featured in a KSTP news story over a land use decision with Labor of Love.

BWSR REPORT: Mayers presented the Legislative Update that MASWCD put out as there were several things that will affect our office. Some of the highlights are \$15 million in 2023/2024 and \$12M for 2025 and thereafter for SWCD Aid. More flexibility in Cost Share with a slight increase in the overall allocation. Increase to overall Natural Resources Block Grants (WCA/Water Plan/Septics

for counties) for the next two years. A ton of money for soil health, conservation easements and water quality and storage practices.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update -No updates. Meeting in June.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Implementation dollars are available for projects.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Draft plan is available for internal review, public review coming soon.
4. Tree Week Summary – Knopik presented on the tree program. It was a successful week. We served as the DNR drop point again so that is why there were 84,129 trees. There were some things that came up including having to send staff down to pick-up trees from the nursery because delivery would have been too late. She ended saying we had some really big, nice looking trees this year.
5. Planting for the Future Summary – This event was cancelled by the teacher of the school the day before the event. This was really disappointing for staff but we will be having an after action do discuss how to proceed next year.
6. Crane Meadows – Request for Proposals and Contractor Pre-Bid Meeting – We have opened the bidding window for this job and are hosting a meeting for interested contractors to see the site so they can learn more about the project and ask questions. At the June meeting we will do the bid opening.
7. Brigadier General Lowell Kruse Thank You – Lance Chisholm in the office is working to put together a thank you.

INFORMATIONAL:

- National Sentinel Landscape Coordinators Meeting, June 6-8, Camp Ripley Hosting
- First Cover Crop Sign-Up Deadline –Second Sign-Up Deadline – June 15th
- Local Water Plan/ Local Work Group, June 14th, Morrison County Courthouse
- Green Fair, August 2nd, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls Campus
- Tentative Soil Health Day, August 9th, Sobieski Community Center/Hubner Farms LLC
- Tentative Legislative Bus Tour, August 30th
- Camp Ripley Open House, September 17th at 11 am, Camp Ripley
- Morrison County Water Festival, September 19, Camp Ripley
- Landowner Learn and Burn, September 22nd, Camp Ripley
- Mississippi River Brainerd Public Hearing, September 26th, Camp Ripley

Next Board Meeting June 30th at 8 AM, USDA Service Center

Meeting Adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Scott Saehr, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, June 30, 2023
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Brutshcer, Faber, Hubner, Saehr and Scholl. SWCD Staff: Wettstein and Ringwelski; NRCS Staff: Hanson; BWSR: Mayers. Guest: Tim Terrill Mississippi Headwaters Board Executive Director.

MSC Faber/Saehr to adjust agenda to have a consent agenda for items 1-7. Motion passed.

SECRETARY's MINUTES MSC Saehr/Brutscher to approve minutes from April. Motion passed.

TREASURER's REPORT MSC Faber/Hubner to approve as presented. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Ringwelski shared there have been several requests for Environmental Review for feedlot expansions and boundary requests for wetlands in shoreline. Becker has been responding to more shoreline visits and Kolby is working to develop cover crop plans, but it has slowed down due to the dry soil conditions and lack of rain. Lance is working on processing easements and Destiny will be going to Pope County to do spot checks for NRCS easements as part of her Pheasants Forever duties.

COMMISSIONER's REPORT: Absent

BWSR REPORT: Darren Mayers reported the legislative session is over and a lot came out of this year's session. There will be about 25% more available for 1W1P moving forward. Competitive BWSR grants are now open and he is thinking about hosting a Supervisor Training but will keep us in the loop.

GUEST REPORT: Tim Terrill, Mississippi Headwater Board Executive Director shared a video on the history of MHB with the board. He also shared what they have helped with in Morrison County including raingardens in Little Falls, signage along the Mississippi River for canoe and kayak recreationalist and the recent donation to our Soil Health Field Day this August.

NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Items 1-7) MSC Faber/Saehr. Motion passed.

1. ACH Deposit for Board – Wettstein would like to invite the board to receive their quarterly per diems via electronic bank deposit so if anyone is interested, we will just need a form filled out. It is not mandatory.
2. Approve Clean Water Fund Cover Crop Contracts – In order of application ranking
 - a. Chad Newman \$1,410.00
 - b. Czech Dairy Inc \$4,751.40
 - c. Darrell Larsen \$510.00
3. Approve Clean Water Fund Cover Crop Amendment
 - a. Keith Lorenz \$1,327.60 addition for a total of \$2,378.40
4. Cancel Soil Health Cost Share Contract
 - a. Scott Prokott \$3,400.00 Cover Crop
5. Approve Soil Health Cost Share Contracts
 - a. Richard Karst \$760.00 Cover Crop
 - b. Richard Gall \$2,110.00 Cover Crop

6. Approve State Cost Share Contract
 - a. Marvin Burgraff \$3,650.00 Manure Pit Closure
7. Approve State Cost Share Payments
 - a. Lee Wood \$420.00 Field Windbreak
 - b. Renee Woldoch \$2,052.00 Field Windbreak
 - c. Joseph LeBlanc \$1,323.20 Reforestation
 - d. Evan Woitalla \$420.00 Field Windbreak
8. Crane Meadows Bid Opening – Five bids were received before the deadline. No bids were received after our deadline of Monday, June 26th. Faber opened the bids and presented the information. Doucette’s Landscaping and Contracting Inc., \$189,716.00; Mid Minn Excavating \$245,500.00; MN Native Landscapes \$207,700.00; RES Great Lakes LLC \$243,253.80; Pugh Bro. Excavating Inc. \$165,280.00. Wettstein verified all applications were complete. MSC Hubner/Brutscher to accept the lowest contract as the selected bid. Discussion around the qualifications of the Pugh Brothers Excavating Inc. then took place. Hanson shared they have completed several projects with NRCS and will do a good job as they will follow the plan and execute the design. Ringwelski concurred. Motion passed. Wettstein will put together a contract that we can approve at the next meeting.
9. Approve 2022 Annual Report – Wettstein shared a copy of the annual report. No additional edits were suggested. Wettstein will be submitting this along with our annual county request in July to Morrison County.

Hubner left the meeting at 9:25

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl presented that at the last policy committee meeting three projects were approved including a Morrison County project. He also said they will be putting up signs along the highway to let people know as they are coming into the watershed. Wettstein shared we had submitted a feedlot project as well but it was not approved. She has been directed by the steering committee to develop a prioritization study assessment for the project as the steering and technical committee are not as familiar with feedlot projects and this would be a way to better judge whether or not to recommend it for funding.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber said no new updates. There will be a meeting in July.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher shared this plan is open for public comment.
4. National Sentinel Landscape Coordinators Meeting – Wettstein said this was a very successful event for us as we were able to highlight all the work being done by our office and the partnership. The event was very well attended by State Conservationists for NRCS from the other 11 Sentinel Landscapes. We helped execute the event which included several tours, a canoeing trip and learning sessions.

5. Area 2 Meeting – Faber, Knopik and Ringwelski attended this meeting. The meeting was focused around the legislative appropriations to SWCDs and what that money may mean for individual districts.
6. Water Plan Task Force and Local Work Group Meeting – Brutscher attended this meeting along with SWCD and NRCS staff. It is the meeting to share what has happened over the past year in Morrison County towards achieving Water Plan goals and setting our priorities which will be used by NRCS for ranking considerations. The district also acknowledged Josh Hanson with an award as our “Super Partner” for all of his support and cooperation with partners and the SWCD office.
7. Brigadier General Lowell Kruse Thank You – Wettstein shared the guidon (a flag with the new Morrison SWCD logo on it) that we will present to General Kruse. Chisholm thought of it and says in the military world when another installation or group gives a guidon it means there will always be a place to rally for them. A date and time has not been arranged yet to present this to him.
8. SWCD State Aid Discussion and Future Policy – Wettstein shared with the board that we will be receiving a split allocation of money directly through the Department of Revenue in the total amount of \$176,314.92. This was passed by the legislature this session. One of the requirements is to develop a policy for how we are going to spend this. This will replace the Local Capacity Funding of \$133,432 we have been receiving. We have used that funding since it was first given in 2016 to help cover the costs of staff time working on programs which do not receive sufficient funding such as WCA and Water Plan, attending One Watershed One Plan meetings and the like. Wettstein will draft a policy that will keep this the same but if anyone has suggestions let her know as the money can be used however we choose.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Local Water Plan/ Local Work Group, June 14th, Morrison County Courthouse
- Green Fair, August 2nd, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls Campus
- Soil Health Day, August 9th, Sobieski Community Center/Hubner Farms LLC
- Third Cover Crop Sign-Up Deadline – August 15th
- Tentative Legislative Bus Tour, August 30th
- Camp Ripley Open House, September 17th at 11 am, Camp Ripley
- Morrison County Water Festival, September 19, Camp Ripley
- Landowner Learn and Burn, September 22nd, Camp Ripley
- Mississippi River Brainerd Public Hearing, September 26th, Camp Ripley

*****Next Board Meeting July 28th at 8 AM, USDA Service Center

Meeting Adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Scott Saehr, Secretary

2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Wettstein attended the last policy meeting and about 20 people from the public showed up in opposition to Nelson Lake in Otter Tail County being drained south into the Alexandria Chain of Lakes in Douglas County.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update - No new updates from Brutscher. Public comment period is still open.
4. Centra Sota Partnership Agreement Update is that we are not moving forward with the shared partnership position. Centra Sota has another opportunity they would like to pursue. Kolby will be continuing to work on soil health initiatives, and we have funding left to staff her and there will be much more soil health money in the future so keeping that program running should be a high priority for the district.
5. New Soil Health Activities Funds – TBD/\$10.5M Statewide – Wettstein shared it hasn't been announced when we will receive this money but the legislature to approve this money to BWSR.
6. MDA Soil Health Equipment Grant Dollars Opportunity – Applications will be taken starting August 1 so if there are questions Beehler will be willing to answer them. Covers up to 50% and a max of \$50,000 for retrofitting or new soil health equipment. Priority will be to MAWQCP producers or those that have signed up for that program.
7. Nitrate Clinic Summary reported 141 wells tested at our spring clinic. Wettstein said it was held at the government center again.
8. Morrison County Historical Society Streambank Restoration Recommended for Funding from LCCMR - \$519,000
9. Oak Wilt at the Northern Edge Phase 3 Not Recommended for Funding from LCCMR – Wettstein did share even though we did not receive this funding the DNR acknowledged her at their DNR Forestry Managers meeting with a partnership award for the work the board and staff have done on this project. Faber attended this awards banquet with Wettstein in Bemidji.
10. Staffing Updates- MSC Faber/Brutscher to close the meeting to allow discussion amongst the board and Wettstein on personnel issues.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Green Fair, August 2nd, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls Campus
- Soil Health Day, August 9th, Sobieski Community Center/Hubner Farms LLC
- Third Cover Crop Sign-Up Deadline – August 15th
- Legislative Bus Tour, August 30th
- Camp Ripley Open House, September 17th at 11 am, Camp Ripley
- Morrison County Water Festival, September 19-20th, Camp Ripley
- Landowner Learn and Burn, September 22nd, Camp Ripley
- Mississippi River Brainerd Public Hearing, September 26th, Camp Ripley
- Long Prairie River Watershed Collaboration Policy Committee Meeting October 19th at 9:00

*****Next Board Meeting August 25th at 8 AM, USDA Service Center

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Scott Saehr, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, August 25, 2023
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Faber, Saeher, Hubner, Brutscher and Scholl. SWCD Staff: Wettstein and Ringwelski; NRCS Staff: Zapzalka; Commissioner: Winscher; BWSR: Mayers. Public: Marvin and Sherry Stroschein. Guests: Gerry Maciej and Emily Forbord from Benton SWCD and Will Bartsch from UofM NRRI.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: MSC Saeher/Faber to approve as is. Motion Passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve treasurers report. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT (10 MIN.): Scholl welcomed and asked the Mr. Stroschein before he started to address the board why he does not want the road there. Mr. Stroschein went on to explain that he doesn't want the road because he is trying to protect his fields. He also paid \$5,000 for the delineation and doesn't want to pay for this again. He told the board that the comment received during the comment period on the application came from the son and doesn't believe his comment is necessary. Mr. Stroschein told the board he wants an answer on the delineation on this by the end of the month so the TEP can go out there in September. Scholl thanked him for coming.

STAFF REPORTS: Zapzalka reporting they are busy contracting. There are 15 new EQIP, four of which are pre-approved ag waste, 23 new RCPP contracts as Noska is getting the word out on forestry. He also said the Farm Bill ends September 30 so they will be getting an extension in hopes to getting it done before the end of the calendar year. Ringwelski reported Becker is working on Platte River, Weyerhauser, Townships stuff and went to a training on stream restoration. Chisholm is working on easements and spot checks with Mankowski. Mankowski is also organizing the bus tour and the water festival. Beehler is working on MAWQCP assessments and soil health initiatives. Noska on RCPP and oak wilt and will be sending out a mailing in September to landowners in a specific area about oak wilt because there is so much oak death mostly due to two lined chestnut borer death and Ringwelski is working on WCA and spot checks. Wettstein mentioned Knopik and her will be presenting to the county for our budget request and are asking for an increase over last years.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Winscher said Shamineau residents want to have the County Commissioners override the decision of the LID to pump the lake and said there are 2-4 abandoned cabins falling into the lake. The planning commission health the public hearing for Curt Plante's hog barn expansion and there were complaints from residents on the dead animal smell. Also the Motley police staff have all resigned and Randall doesn't have any law enforcement so they want to contract with the county sheriff's department.

BWSR REPORT: Darren Mayers presented that the BWSR Board met in August so money will be coming soon for WCA, Water Plan, Buffer, Conservation Delivery and Cost Share.

GUEST REPORTS:

9:30 – 10:00 Benton SWCD- Gerry Maciej, District Manager and Emily Forbord, Watershed and Outreach Specialist. Forbord presented on data collected by the MPCA on the water quality in the Little Rock Creek and the correlation between the BMPs that have been done over the years. Maciej spoke about the 1W1P process and how for the Mississippi River Sartell we could try a different model than what has been tried in the past.

10:00 – 10:30 University of Minnesota Natural Resource Research Institute (NRRI) - Will Bartsch, Research Group Leader – Presented the final maps and outcomes of the climate resiliency project with show areas within the CRSL that could be prioritized for those outcomes.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl said they will have a meeting next month. Wettstein commented the group will be considering funding for the Matvick feedlot project again.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared they will have a meeting in October.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher said the public hearing will be in September, that is their next meeting.
4. Green Fair, August 2nd, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls Campus – Wettstein shared the district staffed a booth with Ringwelski and Beehler working and Brutscher and Knopik volunteered at the event. It was very hot but a good event.
5. Soil Health Day, August 9th, Sobieski Community Center/Hubner Farms LLC – 130 in attendance so this was a very successful event for the second year. Thanks to Hubner and Beehler for all their work in site prep and planning.
6. Morrison SWCD Website and Social Media Account – New website up and running.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Clean Water Fund Cover Crop Cost Share Contracts – MSC Hubner/Brutscher to approve a-m. Wettstein clarified that the Kroll below is not the same Kroll that signed up the first round, they have the same name though. Motion passed.
 - a. Schmitt Dairy \$2,972.00
 - b. John Holtz \$454.80
 - c. Scott Prokott \$1401.85
 - d. Roerview Dairy, LLC \$1,778.00
 - e. Paul Schilling \$2,938.00
 - f. Kevin Zimmerman \$7,000.00
 - g. Dean Zimmerman \$7,000.00
 - h. Michael Jacobs \$1,640.10
 - i. Kurt Stuckmayer \$1,456.40
 - j. Gary Rademacher \$2,619.60
 - k. Darrell Saehr \$1,686.80
 - l. Tom Smude \$4,285.80
 - m. Duane L. Kroll \$1,810.20
2. State Cost Share Contract – Waiting on new money from BWSR but should be available in September hopefully.
3. State Cost Share Payments – MSC Saehr/Hubner to approve both. Motion passed.
 - a. Marvin Burggraff \$3,650.00 Manure Pit Closure
 - b. Sharon Schmidtbauer \$3,620.00 Critical Area Planting
4. WCA Decision and Process – Wettstein reminded the board the decision-making process with WCA and how staff and the TEP work together. The TEP reviewed the Stroschein application at the last TEP in the office as the landowner did not want us out there until talking with the board. The TEP found there is an existing road that has been in place prior to the 1940’s. Wettstein showed pictures to the board and said the road is as evident as the surrounding township roads and if the road existed prior to 1991 when WCA went into effect that it is outside of our jurisdiction to regulate. Wettstein recommended that the board move forward with a decision to deny the application as the delineation says it is all wetland when in fact it is an old road which can be maintained. MSC Faber/Hubner to deny the application. Motion passed.

Presentations from guests happened at this time.

5. Award Nominations for Conservationist of the Year and Wildlife Steward – Wettstein shared the office nominated landowners for these two awards and then voted to select one for each and would like to recommend to the board that we nominate the Saehr family and Randy Hamson. Wettstein listed all of the things the landowners have been involved in over the years and it is a lot. MSC Brutscher/Hubner to nominate them. Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Legislative Bus Tour, August 30th
- Camp Ripley Open House, September 17th at 11 am, Camp Ripley
- Morrison County Water Festival, September 19-20th, Camp Ripley
- Great River Greening Event, Plant Native Shrubs for the Ruffed Grouse, September 30, 9-12 am
- Landowner Learn and Burn, September 22nd, Camp Ripley
- Mississippi River Brainerd Public Hearing, September 26th, Camp Ripley

*****Next Board Meeting September 22nd at 8 AM, USDA Service Center

Meeting Adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Scott Saehr, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, September 22, 2023
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Faber, Saehr, Hubner, Brutscher and Scholl. SWCD Staff: Wettstein and Ringwelski; NRCS Staff: Zapzalka; Commissioner: Winscher; BWSR: Mayers.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: MSC Brutscher/Faber to approve as is. Motion Passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: MSC Faber/Saehr to approve treasurers report. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Zapzalka reporting that the RCPP and regular EQIP sign-up deadline is October 6th. NRCS is still working on hiring new people, of which they have a new administrative staff in the Little Falls office that will service Todd and Wadena as well and a new Area Forester who is based out of Baxter. The biggest news is that the federal government may shut down so they would be affected locally. Ringwelski reported Beehler is working on MAWQCP and cover crops, Mankowski was planning Water Festival, Chisholm is working on reporting, spot checks and RIM haying because of the drought. Becker is working on Platte River which will be starting soon and both him and Ringwelski helped with a 6th grade water day through Pierz. Ringwelski is working on wetlands, Environmental Reviews and spot checks. Lew has the Learn and Burn workshop today.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Winscher talked about the complaints they are receiving on hog barns and smell. He also said the budget for the county will be approved at the end of the month.

BWSR REPORT: Darren Mayers said we should be seeing funds come soon for our regular annual grants such as cost share, conservation delivery and buffers. There will be an opportunity to apply for additional competitive Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) for those watersheds who have completed a One Watershed One Plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl said they will meet next week.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared they will have a meeting in October.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher said the public hearing will next Tuesday, that is their next meeting.
4. Legislative Bus Tour, August 30th – We had a full bus and good turnout from our elected officials both senators, representatives and even a congressional staffer.
5. Camp Ripley Open House, September 17th at 11 am, Camp Ripley – This event is every other year and we always staff it. In addition, this year they had a dedication ceremony for the new military museum.
6. Morrison County Water Festival, September 19-20th, Camp Ripley – This was the 30th year of the festival (if you take out the Covid years). Mankowski took over planning it and did an excellent job, we did get a lot of compliments from teachers and the Science Museum on the changes she incorporated.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. REPI Outreach Funds – Current Balance \$281,503.72 to be spent down by March 31, 2024. Wettstein is proposing moving forward with the following items listed below to be funded by this pot of money.
 - a. Contract for Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Strategic Plan Update - \$42,000 HEI- MSC Faber/Brutscher. Todd Holman was in attendance to explain the need for the update as we will be able to incorporate the work the University of MN NRRRI did for us on climate resiliency and the cultural resources inventory that was completed last year by Sylvan Township. Wettstein shared Moriya Rufer from HEI is who would be the plan writer, the same person who has been

working with us on the Long Prairie and Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plans. Motion passed.

- b. Contract for ACUB Story Map Creation – \$12,000 North Point Geographic Solutions – This will create a story map specific to our ACUB program. Motion by Faber/Saehr to approve. Motion passed.
 - c. Contract for Outreach Assistance - \$30,000 Kanati Land Management – Wettstein shared with all of the events it is taking a considerable amount of staff time and this contract will enable them to assist staff in the planning and promotion of events. This will be over a year period of time so estimating about 5-7 hours a week of assistance. MSC Faber/Saehr. Motion passed.
 - d. Bids for Camp Ripley Military Museum Environmental Classroom Exhibits – Wettstein explained we have a really unique opportunity to help tell our story of the landscape of this area and the landowners and wildlife that live in by supporting the exhibits that will be featured there. The board discussion after watching the KSTP news feature was that this is something they would support this. Wettstein said they will work to develop a bid packet to solicit firms that do this type of work. No motion needed.
 - e. Additional expenses include staff time, Great River Greening for small outreach events, promotional event expenses. No motion needed. Wettstein was just sharing where other monies are going to be directed towards outreach.
2. Clean Water Fund Cover Crop Cost Share Payments – MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve a-d. Motion passed.
 - a. Don Tschida \$858.00
 - b. Keith Lorenz \$2,378.40
 - c. Jason Lorenz \$2,592.00
 - d. Darrell Larsen \$510.00
 3. State Cost Share Payments – MSC Faber/Saehr both 3 and 4. Motion passed.
 - a. Scott Prokott \$1,636.55 Cover Crops
 4. Soil Health State Cost Share Payments
 - a. Scott Prokott \$452.00 Cover Crops
 5. National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference, February in San Diego – Wettstein mentioned there is an opportunity for staff to attend this conference and potentially present on different work we are doing. The board had budgeted money for this so they were supportive of staff attending if they wanted to. No motion needed.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Landowner Learn and Burn, September 22nd, Camp Ripley
- Mississippi River Brainerd Public Hearing, September 26th, Camp Ripley
- Nitrate Testing Clinic, October 16-20th, Morrison County Government Center
- MASWCD Annual Convention, December 11-13, Double Tree in Bloomington

*****Next Board Meeting October 27th at 8 AM, USDA Service Center

Meeting Adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Scott Saehr, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, October 27, 2023
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Saehr, Hubner, Brutscher and Scholl. Absent: Faber; SWCD Staff: Wettstein and Ringwelski; NRCS Staff: Hanson; Commissioner: Winscher; BWSR: Mayers.

AGENDA: MSC Saehr/Brutscher to approve the agenda with the addition to review the draft audit and discuss building ownership options. Motion passed.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: MSC Saehr/Brutscher to approve with the once correction of the REPI grant expiring in 2024 not 2023. Motion Passed. MSC Saehr/Brutscher to explore putting money into a six-month CD at next months meeting in the amount of \$125,000. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: MSC Saehr/Brutscher to approve and explore putting money into a six-month CD at next month's meeting in the amount of \$125,000. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Hanson reported that they have 92 EQIP applications and 38 CSP applications for the first batch for FY24. Ringwelski is working on WCA, spot checks; Beehler on cover crop contracts; Becker on the Platte River project as it is almost done and delineations for the County Highway Department; Mankowski on CRP, nitrate clinic and organizing events. Wettstein shared with the board that Chisholm will be receiving the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employee Extraordinary Contribution Award for his work in assisting other districts learning the easement process on October 25th.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Winscher shared nothing has been improved yet on the Camp Ripley Veterans State Trail. He also talked about the ongoing legal challenges in eastern Morrison County regarding trusts held by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

BWSR REPORT: Mayers shared a draft of what the soil health activities money will be available for including new positions within district offices for soil health capacity and financial assistance funds through an RCPP with NRCS.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl shared the JPE will be getting more money in July and the current funds will need to be spent by 12-30-2025. The watershed will have a coordinator on board soon.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Wettstein shared their will be a meeting this month for the policy committee. Implementation funds area available and being spent just like in the Rum.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher said the Policy Committee has recommended the plan to all the local boards so we will be seeing this later in the agenda to approve the resolution.
4. Landowner Learn and Burn, September 22nd, Camp Ripley – Wettstein shared it was a successful event that had perfect conditions so landowners did get to see lots of examples of what using fire as a management tool can look like.
5. Nitrate Testing Clinic, October 16-20th, Morrison County Government Center – Wettstein will provide a summary next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Earned Sick and Safe Time Effective January 1 – Wettstein explained there are changes coming regarding state law and employee policies. As far as the change which will go into effect January 1, we do currently meet the threshold for the new law and will not have to change anything other than providing an updated leave accrual on pay stubs.
2. MASWCD Resolutions – Board went through the package and voted on each resolution separately. Wettstein will submit the resolutions to MASWCD after the meeting.

3. MASWCD Annual Convention RSVP – Faber will attend two days, Brutscher will attend two days, Scholl will not attend, Hubner will not attend and Saeher will attend Wednesday.
4. Tree Sale Policy – Wettstein shared the policy and commented that the biggest changes will be the addition of having the ability to take orders through our website this year, the rest is consistent with past years. MSC Hubner/Brutscher to approve policy. Motion passed.
5. Mississippi River Brainerd Comprehensive Water Management Plan Resolution – MSC Brutscher/Hubner to approve. Motion passed. Wettstein shared this will go before the Regional BWSR Board on November 1 before it goes to the full BWSR Board in December.
6. State Cost Share Contracts – MSC Saeher/Brutscher. Motion Passed. Wettstein said this was the first Forest Stewardship Plan we have approved since the Cost Share Contracts policy had been relaxed this last legislative session.
 - a. Sarah LeBlanc Forest Stewardship Plan \$450.00
7. State Cost Share Contracts Payments – MSC Saeher/Brutscher to approve. Motion passed.
 - a. Pete Ratka Cover Crops \$1,915.50
8. CWF Soil Health Grant Payments – MSC to approve a-k, not g by Saeher/Brutscher. Motion passed. MSC to approve item g. Saeher/Brutscher. Motion passed with Hubner abstaining.
 - a. Roerview Dairy Cover Crops \$831.60
 - b. Darrell Saeher Cover Crops \$904.80
 - c. Darv Keehr Cover Crops \$1,840.00
 - d. Kevin Zimmerman Cover Crops \$7,000.00
 - e. Dean Zimmerman Cover Crops \$7,000.00
 - f. John Holtz Cover Crops \$140.00
 - g. Dave Hubner Cover Crops \$3,799.00
 - h. Simon Kroll Cover Crops \$6,044.00
 - i. Adam Kroll Cover Crops \$6,550.00
 - j. Keith Ripplinger Cover Crops \$705.00
 - k. Paul Schilling Cover Crops \$2,163.80
9. Soil Health State Cost Share Contracts Cancelled – MSC Saeher/Brutscher to cancel. Motion passed with Hubner abstaining.
 - a. Dave Hubner Cover Crops \$1,018.00
10. Draft Audit – MSC Hubner/Saeher to table this for next month to give them a chance to review. Motion passed.
11. Building Ownership – MSC Saeher/Brutscher to explore options over the next six months for owning our own building. Motion passed. The board would just like to know if it is an option and if there is opportunity for this to happen. Wettstein will do the research and contact the landlords.

INFORMATIONAL:

- BWSR Academy, Craguns Resort, October 24-26
- Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee, October 26th at 9 am, Todd County Courthouse
- Office Closed for Thanksgiving and Black Friday, November 23-24
- MASWCD Annual Convention, December 11-13, Double Tree in Bloomington
- NACD Annual Convention, February 10-14, San Diego CA

Meeting Adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Scott Saeher, Secretary

4. CWF Soil Health Grant Cancellation – MSC Brutscher/Faber to cancel New Business item 4a. Motion passed.
 - a. Duane L. Kroll Cover Crops \$1,810.20
5. Soil Health State Cost Share Payments- MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve payment for New Business item 5a-b. Motion passed.
 - a. Nathan Gruber Cover Crops \$7,000.00
 - b. Richard Gall Cover Crops \$2,110.00
6. Soil Health Cost Share Cancellations – MSC Brutscher/Saehr to cancel New Business item 6a. Motion passed.
 - a. Richard Karst Cover Crops \$760.00
7. Draft Audit – Wettstein went through the draft audit with the board. The auditor had no concerns over the financials. The recommendation is always surrounding the separation of duties due to the small office size, but the district has worked hard to put in place through its internal financial policies. MSC Saehr/Faber to approve draft audit. Motion passed.
8. WCA Appeal- Wettstein shared that the BWSR remanded the SWCD decision that was appealed by Marvin Stroschein. Wettstein recommends that the board reissue the decision as denied because one of the parcels within the project area is owned by Ellen Kalahar and access to this parcel for purposes of field review of the application were denied by the owner. The SWCD received or found no documentation provided which created an easement over the property owned by Ellen Kalahar. The Morrison SWCD Board denies the application because the applicant did not satisfy the General Application Requirements because the applicant did not provide evidence of ownership of the project area or the requisite property rights to perform the activity. This conclusion was reviewed with the TEP and the TEP agrees with the basis for this decision. MSC Faber/Brutscher to deny the and revise the decision. Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Office Closed for Thanksgiving and Black Friday, November 23-24
- MASWCD Annual Convention, December 11-13, Double Tree in Bloomington – Brutscher and Faber will attend from the board.
- NACD Annual Convention, February 10-14, San Diego CA – Wettstein asked the board to consider attending as Beehler and Wettstein will be speaking at two separate talks during the convention.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Scott Saehr, Secretary

*****Next Board Meeting December 22nd at 8 AM, USDA Service Center

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, December 22, 2023
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Saeher, Faber, Brutscher and Scholl. Absent: Hubner; SWCD Staff: Wettstein and Ringwelski; NRCS Staff: Hanson; Commissioner: Winscher; BWSR: absent.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: MSC Faber/Brutscher. Motion passed with no changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: MSC Saeher/Faber to approve. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Hanson reported they on working on ranking. They have 90 EQIP applications, 60 RCPP applications and they are planning on the CSP applications. Ringwelski shared things have not slowed down for WCA. Wettstein shared that a Franciscan nun, Sister Carolyn Law, who the office had been working with as part of their One Planet Fund, Green Fair and the Dream Project passed away suddenly.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Winscher talked about the DNR trail, truth and taxation and feedlot Conditional Use permits and variances. The county set the levy at 2.95%. Board requested the Commissioners Report be moved up on the agenda before staff reports for the next meeting.

BWSR REPORT: Wettstein presented what Mayers had sent over including the request for proposals open for the soil health staffing grant, Alliance to Advance Climate Smart Agriculture and that he will be hosting a supervisor training in February.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – No meeting this last month. They will be asking for supplemental funds.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – No meeting this last month. They will be asking for supplemental funds as well.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update- BWSR Board has approved the plan.
4. MASWCD Annual Convention, December 11-13, Double Tree in Bloomington – Faber and Brutscher attended with staff and both Amy and Darrel Saeher were their to be acknowledged for their Conservationist of the Year award.
5. Human Resources Update – Compensation Study with DDA -
6. NACD Annual Convention, February 10-14, San Diego CA
7. AgBMP Summary 2023 – Wettstein passed around a list of landowners who participated in this program last year and shared the list of example practices with the board. The kitty for this program is \$900,000 and funding is available as loans are paid off. Last year \$225,804.66 of new loans were made using this program for manure handling equipment, conservation tillage equipment and septic upgrades.
8. Tree Sale – Wix Point of Sale (POS) system for online and credit card processing – This will be the first year the district will be able to take tree orders over the internet and be able to process credit cards. The website will keep the inventory up to date and will be able to give a better experience to customers.
9. Observation Well Monitoring – DNR approached Wettstein about doing this work for them as they have increased their rate from \$30 to \$60 per well. Wettstein turned them down after learning almost all the wells are in the Little Rock area and not spread evenly throughout the county. The board agreed we do not need to do this work.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Payment for Services – Pugh Brothers Excavating Inc. for Crane Meadows Shoreline Restoration to be reimbursed from Conservation Partners Legacy Grant in the amount of \$165,730.11. MSC Faber/Brutscher to pay. Motion passed.
2. Payment for Services- Pioneer Tree Service for vibratory plowing for oak wilt to be reimbursed from LCCMR in the amount of \$16,590.85. MSC Brutscher/Faber to pay. Motion passed.