

# MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 23, 2020  
9:00 a.m.

## USDA County Offices

### PRESENT:

**Supervisors:** Hubner, Brutscher and Scholl; Absent Saehr and Faber

**Commissioner:** Winscher

**Staff:** Wettstein, Hanson and Ringwelski

**BWSR Staff:** Absent

### 2020 RE-ORGANIZATION:

1. Official Date, Time, Location: Fourth Friday of Each Month, 8:00 a.m. at USDA County Office. Official Per Diem and Mileage: MSC Scholl/Hubner to table vote. Approved.
  - Per Diem and Mileage: \$75 Full Board or Exceeding Half Day Meetings
  - \$25/Committee or Payroll
  - Mileage at IRS Established Rate (\$ .575 as of 1/1/2020)
2. Official Publication: Morrison County Record. MSC Scholl/Hubner. Approved.
3. Official Bank of Deposit: Bank of the West Checking & Bremer Bank. MSC Hubner/Scholl. Approved.
4. Annual Resolution Approving Morrison County Local Water Plan as District's Annual Plan. MSC Hubner/Scholl. Approved.
5. Grant Agreements / Contracts Signature Approval: For FY2020 Morrison SWCD's District Manager, Shannon Wettstein, in the absence of SWCD Board Members, may sign grant agreements and/or contracts. MSC Scholl/Hubner. Approved.
6. Minimum Fund Balance Approval: The minimum Fund Balance for FY2020 will be 3 months of Operating Expenditures. MSC Scholl/Hubner. Approved.  
(ie: Operating Exp. for FY2020, divided by 12, times 3 months)
7. Capital Assets Policy of Threshold Approval: In the FY2020 Capital Assets Policy Report, \$5,000 and above will remain the level of threshold documented, for depreciation, for all purchases by Morrison SWCD. MSC Scholl/Hubner. Approved.
8. Slate of Officers for 2020. MSC Hubner/Scholl. Approved as presented.

<b>Roles</b>	<b>Proposed for 2020</b>
Chairman	Scott Saehr
Vice Chairman	Tom Brutscher
Secretary	Bill Faber
Treasurer	Dale Scholl
Public Relations	Dave Hubner
<b>Committee Assignments</b>	<b>Proposed for 2020</b>
Finance Committee	Brutscher/Saehr
Personnel Committee	Hubner/Faber
Water Plan Representative	Brutscher
WCTSA	Faber/Hubner
One Watershed One Plan	Scholl/Faber/Saehr

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES** MSC Scholl/Hubner. Approved as written.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** MSC Hubner/Scholl. Approved as presented.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Hanson reported NRCS is finishing up 2019 CSP payments. Working on planning for EQIP and CSP applications. They have not been informed on EQIP or CSP sign-ups or deadlines but have heard the deadlines will be coming out shortly. He encouraged the board if they know someone who is interested in NRCS programs to send them in. Hanson also shared he is the new Team Lead for the Little Falls Customer Service Team which covers Todd, Morrison and Wadena counties.

Ringwelski shared they reported for the Buffer Program and there were only a few sites which ended up being issues. Also, the ground is not frozen so applications for ditching and tiling is still happening. Tree sales are going good. Because of the CRP sign-up the nurseries may have really issues next year keeping up with demand. It was a busy year for WCA, looking at our numbers for the year there were more across the board and over 100 more point of contacts.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

Winscher recently attended an Our Mississippi meeting that Hanson and Wettstein also attended. The county is working on the airport runway extension, Lake Lena Camping site, designation determination for a Refugee County and updating the county website.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Approve Audit Package from Peterson Company Ltd. MSC Hubner/Scholl to approve.
2. BWSR Grants were released and Morrison SWCD did not receive Clean Water Funding through this source.
3. Grant Reporting Extensions Requested and Approved: BWSR/e-Link & LCCMR.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Budget Approval – Brutscher and Wettstein went through the main points within the budget including reasons for balancing it, wages and what is included in the Special Projects category. MSC Scholl/Hubner to approve as presented.
2. Vacation Roll-over for Alan Ringwelski Approval. MSC Hubner/Scholl to have Ringwelski's unused hours rolled over for Medical Emergency Leave hours to be given to Nouis in the case her vacation and sick time are exhausted in 2020. MSC Hubner/Scholl to approve.
3. MASWCD 2020 Dues – MSC Hubner/Scholl to approve \$4,025.91 for dues.
4. Cost Share Application- MSC Scholl/Hubner to approve.
  - a. State Cost Share Kurt Haakinson \$600 Well Decommissioning
5. Cost Share Cancellation- MSC Scholl Hubner to cancel.
  - a. State Cost Share Joe Kuchinski \$2,500 Water and Sediment Basin
6. Area 2 Envirothon Donation – MSC Hubner/Scholl to approve \$150 donation.
7. Civil Rights Review – Hanson reviewed civil rights with the board and had members sign off.
8. CPL Grant Submission Approval – Hillman Creek Restoration, Pierz Golf Course. MSC Hubner/Scholl to approve submitting.

9. Nominee for Outstanding District Employee of the Year for 2019 letter from John Jaschke and Thank You from Lance Chisholm for the nomination. Wettstein read both letters for the board.
10. REPI Pilot Project – Advancing Landowner Engagement in Sentinel Landscape. Wettstein has been approached by the Nature Conservancy and Camp about helping to develop a template for landowner engagement which could be used by other Sentinel Landscapes across the country. This would be a project we work as a contract under the Nature Conservancy and we would be reimbursed for our time.

**INFORMATIONAL:**

- Campaign Finance Public Disclosure Reminder, Due January 27, 2020
- February 25 – WRAPS Public Meeting, American Legion, Royalton 4-7 pm
- March 11 – MASWCD Area II Spring Meeting
- March 24-25 - MASWCD Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:15 a.m. MSC Hubner/Scholl.**

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**Bill Faber, Secretary**

# MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Friday, February 28, 2020  
8:00 a.m.

## USDA County Offices

### PRESENT:

**Supervisors:** Hubner, Brutscher, Faber and Scholl; Absent Saehr

**Commissioner:** Winscher

**Staff:** Wettstein, Hanson and Ringwelski

**BWSR Staff:** Chris Pence and Jason Wienerman

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES** MSC Hubner/Scholl. Approved as written.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** MSC Faber/Scholl. Approved as presented.

### STAFF REPORTS:

Hanson reported they are working on conservation planning with customers. There are 93 CSP applications and 156 EQIP applications. Carrie Miller and Hanson attended an NRCS MN all employee get together this last week.

### COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Winscher shared the Planning Commission will host a second Conditional Use public hearing regarding a rezone and future subdivision. He also shared the commissioners are being approached to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment dedicated county. Lastly, he shared the county is also getting more requests for money from non-profits than they ever have.

### BWSR/GUEST REPORT:

Chris Pence and Jason Wienerman from BWSR went over options for government units engaged in the delivery of One Watershed One Plan implementation dollars. They discussed three options, Memorandum of Agreement, Joint Powers Collaboration or a Joint Powers Agreement. Each has its advantages and the county and district should start thinking about which they would be comfortable entering into with other partners within each watershed. This would be a requirement due to liability and functionality of dividing up the implementation allocations the watershed will receive once a One Watershed One Plan planning process has been completed and approved by the BWSR board.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Official Per Diem and Mileage: Discussion Tabled in January MSC Hubner/Scholl to set at: \$75 per day plus mileage, includes regular meetings, committee meetings and check signing. Motion passed.
2. CPL Grant Submitted – Hillman Creek Restoration, Pierz Golf Course. This was a revised application based on recommendations from the CPL staff. The design is simpler and much more affordable. The City of Pierz has been working with us to develop the application and plan.
3. Grant Reporting Completed – BWSR requirements met after receiving a month-long extension.

4. Final Reports Submitted - Oak Wilt and Culvert Inventory. These are waiting for final approval by LCCMR staff but once they are approved we will be reimbursed the amounts owed on these grants.
5. Nitrogen Smart Meeting, February 11 – Successful event with around 18 participants. SWCD hosted with U of M Extension.
6. WRAPS Public Meeting, American Legion, Royalton 4-7 pm February 25 – Another successful event. There were around 50 people who attended. SWCD helped promote this MPCA hosted event.
7. Rum RIM and Well Head Protection RIM Outreach – Chisholm and Heinen have been looking in these areas to see if there would be eligible parcels and interested landowners in these areas. Information letters were sent out and discussions had started with landowners.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Approve Audit for FYE2019 to be completed Fall 2020 - \$2,875.00 Peterson Company LTD. MSC by Hubner/Faber to approve. Motion passed.
2. MASWCD Area II Spring Meeting, Foley, Wednesday March 11, 2020 – Scholl and Wettstein will plan to attend.
3. Irrigation Software Support Request - \$1,500 to Benton SWCD for Contract Services with RESPEC Consulting. MSC by Hubner/Faber to support. Motion passed.
4. Approval to apply for LCCMR Grants – Oak Wilt and Culvert Inventory – District will be working on applications for these two projects. The oak wilt project proposal will be larger this go around, the district is looking for \$500K. MSC Faber/Scholl to approve. Motion passed.
5. Cost Share Application – MSC Hubner/Faber to approve as presented. Motion passed.
  - a. State Cost Share Jim Hilmerson \$1,040 Field Windbreak
  - b. State Cost Share Peter Vogel \$536 Field Windbreak
  - c. State Cost Share Melissa Donek \$536 Field Windbreak
  - d. State Cost Share Lanny Anderson \$368.50 Field Windbreak
6. Morrison County Performance Drainage Management – Draft Plan. Wettstein shared a copy of this draft with the board and asked them to review for future discussion.

#### **INFORMATIONAL:**

- US Endowment Retreat, Seattle Washington March 24 - 26, 2020
- MASWCD Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol March 24 – 25, 2020
- Motley and Randall Well Head Protection / Drinking Water Supply Management Area Notice to update, public meeting Mon, April 13, 2020
- Water Plan Annual Task Force Wed, April 15, 2020; 9:30 - 12:00 pm
- Local Work Group Meeting Wed, April 15, 2020; 1 – 3 pm
- Central Minnesota Lake & River Workshop, CLC Brainerd Fri, May 22, 2020
- Federal Coordinators Committee Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape June 2–4, 2020

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 a.m. MSC Hubner/Scholl.**

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**Bill Faber, Secretary**

## **MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING**

**Friday, March 20, 2020  
8:00 a.m. Teleconference**

It was determined that meeting in person was not advised because of the COVID-19 health pandemic and the requirements for a telephone conference board meeting could be met. The official meeting was announced and posted as required and instructions were included for the public on how to attend or listen in.

At the start of the conference call it was confirmed everyone in attendance could hear one other. It was established all decisions will be made by roll call.

**Supervisors on Teleconference:** Hubner, Brutscher, Saehr and Faber

**Supervisors in Attendance at USDA Service Center:** Scholl

**Commissioner on Teleconference:** Winscher

**Staff in Attendance at USDA Service Center:** Wettstein

**BWSR Staff on Teleconference:** Chris Pence

### **SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

**MSC Saehr/Faber to approve as written. Approved by roll call.**

### **DISTRICT OPERATIONS and POLICY DURING COVID-19 HEALTH PANDEMIC**

Wettstein explained to the board how the building has been locked to the outside public by the USDA on March 19. There is a sign on the door explaining this and how all offices are still serving the public. The sign also gives instructions on the best way to contact each office. Both FSA and NRCS will be having limited schedules for their employees meaning only one person from each of their departments will be here each day. As a building we have discussed sanitation and the importance if someone is sick, they will stay home. If there is an exposure to someone with Coronavirus then the building would be considered a Level 3 and staff be sent home to quarantine.

Commissioner Winscher shared that the county is also closed to the public but that staff are working to assist the public.

Throughout the meeting it was shared that statewide events are either being postponed or cancelled and everything is changing hour by hour at this point.

Wettstein shared actions the district has been taking this week. This has included restricting in-person meetings. Meetings will either be conducted over the phone or by virtual meetings. Staff have been encouraged to continue conducting site visits but to practice social distancing if the landowner is present. The following events held by the district will be changed:

- Water Plan and Local Work Group, April 15<sup>th</sup>, Postponed until a later date.
- Tree Pick-up, beginning of April, Offer curbside pickup
- Nitrate Testing Week, May 11-15, Cancelled. Will be held again in the fall.

Wettstein shared with the board the different jobs which staff can continue working on even while practicing social distancing or working remotely. She has been working over the last week to outline duty assignments and ensure there is adequate equipment to be able to accommodate this. Because this situation does not have a start or an end date and because we are so close to our busiest time of year she would like to continue operating. Our employee manual does address emergency closures but does not specifically address working remotely.

**MSC by Saehr/Hubner to allow staff to work remotely and would be at the discretion of the district manager. This temporary measure would be in place until it can be reviewed again at the next regular board meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed by roll call.**

The group also discussed paid time off and Wettstein shared how much each employee has. The Department of Health has strongly encouraged employee policies are flexible and consistent. Allowing staff to work remotely, not requiring a doctor's note when absent and allowing staff to stay home when sick or to care for family members are all things which our policies do not make hard lines on but rather leave them up to the discretion of the manager. Because so much is changing on a daily basis the board asked Wettstein to keep them informed and is open to holding additional meetings as needed.

**MSC by Hubner/Faber to cancel the regularly scheduled board meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> in lieu of this meeting. Motion passed by roll call.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Cost Share Application MSC Brutscher/Faber to recommend with the understanding cost share approval would not be given until the WCA violation is cleared. Motion passed by roll call.
  - a. State Cost Share      Ken Witucki      \$2,500      Reforestation

**INFORMATIONAL:**

- ~~US Endowment Retreat, Seattle Washington: March 24 – 26, 2020 POSTPONED~~
- ~~MASWCD Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol: March 24 – 25, 2020 CANCELED~~
- Water Plan Annual Task Force: Wed, April 15, 2020; 9:30 - 12:00 pm POSTPONED
- Local Work Group Meeting: Wed, April 15, 2020; 1 – 3 pm POSTPONED
- Central Minnesota Lake & River Workshop, CLC Brainerd: Fri, May 22, 2020
- Federal Coordinators Committee Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape: Tue-Thur, June 2 – 4, 2020

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 a.m. MSC Scholl/Saehr. Motion passed by roll call.**

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**Bill Faber, Secretary**

# MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

**Friday, April 24, 2020**  
**8:00 a.m. Teleconference**

**Supervisors on Teleconference:** Brutscher, Saehr and Faber; Absent, Hubner

**Supervisors in Attendance at USDA Service Center:** Scholl

**Commissioner on Teleconference:** Winscher

**Staff in Attendance at USDA Service Center:** Wettstein

**BWSR Staff on Teleconference:** Chris Pence

## **SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve as written. Approved by roll call, all in favor.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

MSC Faber/Scholl to approve March. Approved by roll call, all in favor.

MSC Faber/Scholl to approve April. Approved by roll call, all in favor.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Josh Hanson reported they have one person in the office each day at the moment. It is the field season so they are doing visits.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Winscher said they will be hearing the Hardy Campground on Lena Lake and a rezone for Monroe. Shamineau LID has submitted an EAW. They plan to offer relief for property tax and offer produce delivery. The plan is to re-open the courthouse on May 4,2020.

## **BWSR REPORT**

Pence shared BWSR is still open but field work is not allowed. One Watershed One Plan planning grants can be submitted and he is aware of 7-8 who plan on applying. The office of management and budget recommend reducing budgets by 25%. The state has a hiring freeze.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. COVID-19 Work Update: Much remains the same since last month. The office is closed to the public, staff are working remotely for the most part and we are still providing services such as site visits and our upcoming tree sale. Wettstein was advised to create a MEMO which was part of the board packet which explains why the meetings are being held by conference during this time.
2. CPL Grant Accepted – Hillman Creek Restoration, Pierz Golf Course. City of Pierz is really thankful for our assistance on this. The board discussed extending additional cost share to the project but decided to stick with the current policies. The city will receive 90% cost share assistance through this type of grant and this is much better than what is typically received.
3. Tree Program and Tree Week – The district has been informed we will still be receiving trees. Some DNR orders may be reduced but the district will get all of our trees. Plans have been made to limit exposure of staff in the tree barn and the pick-up is planned to be a drive-thru. Letters have been sent to customers so they know what to expect.



4. Long Prairie River Watershed Planning Grant for 1W1P – The watershed partners will be applying this round for a planning grant. The group has been meeting and has been preparing the application.
5. Rum River Watershed RIM – This is a new program. Currently Lance and Amy are working with three landowners who will be enrolling in the program. Landowners in this program will have to restore acres if they are currently cropped so it is different than ACUB.
6. Federal NRCS (RCPP) funds for Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape II Unsuccessful – The almost 10 million dollar ask was not awarded even though the project was ranked #1 in Minnesota. It was very disappointing news as the application takes a lot of time to prepare and we have been successfully executing our last RCPP and are almost out of money.
7. Review resolutions to submit to LCCMR – Wettstein drafted resolutions of support based on the last board meetings desire to pursue funding through LCCMR for both Oak Wilt and the Culvert Inventory. This is a requirement of LCCMR, and the resolutions will be submitted with the application.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution to extend the timeline for working remotely – MSC Faber/Scholl to continue working remotely until our next meeting where this can be reviewed again. Motion passed by roll call. Board asked Wettstein to get plexi glass for the front counter for when the building is open to the public again.
2. Request for support of a resolution from Area 8 “Establishment of a Civilian Conservation Grazing Corps” – MSC Faber/Scholl. This resolution is similar to one we supported last year on Silvopasture. Faber has asked for the boards support on this as well. This will be passed to the Area II. Motion passed by roll call.
3. Cost Share Application Approvals MSC Brutscher/Faber to approve. Motion passed by roll call.
  - a. State Cost Share      Michael Wochnich      \$347.50      Windbreak
  - b. State Cost Share      Douglas Cook      \$2,500.00      Shoreline Restoration
  - c. State Cost Share      Ray Schwegler      \$1,340.00      Reforestation
4. Cost Share Payment Approval MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve. Motion passed by roll call.
  - a. State Cost Share      Douglas Cook      \$893.00      Shoreline Restoration
5. Internship opportunity through Sourcewell – MSC Faber/Scholl to approve contract with Sourcewell and hire Ivy Chisholm. Faber stressed to the board that many internships have been cancelled due to the pandemic and he would like to see us continue with the offering. Motion passed by roll call.

**INFORMATIONAL:**

- Rum River Watershed 1W1P Policy Meeting Cancelled.
- Nitrate Testing Cancelled

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:00 a.m. MSC Brutscher/Faber.**

**Motion passed by via teleconference roll call.**

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**Bill Faber, Secretary**

# **MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING**

**Friday, May 29, 2020  
8:00 a.m. Teleconference**

**Supervisors on Teleconference:** Saehr, Hubner and Faber

**Supervisors in Attendance at USDA Service Center:** Scholl and Brutscher

**Commissioner on Teleconference:** Winscher

**Staff in Attendance at USDA Service Center:** Wettstein

**BWSR Staff on Teleconference:** Chris Pence

## **AGENDA**

MSC Scholl/Hubner to approve agenda. Motion passed.

## **SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

MSC Faber/Hubner to approve with the correction pointed out by Wettstein on Doug Cook's cost share payment approval and cost share contract amount. Motion passed.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

MSC Brutscher/Scholl to approve April with the additional amount of \$76.86 to the investment receipts. Motion passed.

MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve as May as presented. Motion passed.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Josh Hanson came into the board room to give his report. It is the field season, so they are doing visits. The 2020 CSP General sign-up ends today and will be working on developing plans for these applications. They are working on EQIP 2020 applications. NRCS will be hiring a civil engineering tech in Little Falls soon.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Winscher talked about the Hardy Campground on Lake Lena and Shamineau. The courthouse opened this week and is the only one open in the five-county area. They are starting the budget process.

## **BWSR REPORT**

Pence shared BWSR is still operating but most field work or attending meetings is not allowed. The office of management and budget recommends reducing budgets. The state has a hiring freeze and BWSR is down staff.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. COVID-19 Work Update - Wettstein shared the Service Center is closed to the public and was closed to employees the week of May 15 because an employee in the building tested positive and the need to reduce exposure to everyone else.
2. Employee Update- Sourcewell Intern, Ivy Chisholm started this week. Mike Becker helped the Morrison Highway Department for three weeks on the Buckman Road on a shared services contract. He will help them with one other project this summer.
3. Tree Week- The drive-thru pickup was a success and we got a lot of comments from landowners and our workers who said they also really liked it. Wettstein presented the Profit and Loss for the program prepared by LeaAnn and pointed out we had the same amount of orders to the previous year but we actually made more money because of the larger fruiting tree orders. The district did get all of our trees but the DNR did cancel a lot of their orders that were made direct with the landowners. This is reflected in our cancelations below.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution to extend the timeline for working remotely – MSC Faber/Hubner to continue working remotely until our next meeting where this can be reviewed again. Motion passed. Board asked Wettstein about safety precautions that will be taken when office opens. She said there is nothing formal at the moment, but she could work on this.
2. Cost Share Contract Approvals. Wettstein recommended to the board to approve a higher cost share amount than our regular policy of \$2,500 because we have an excess of funds which need to be spent by the end of 2021. Stangl's project was cancelled last year because of wet conditions and this is the same amount they were approved for last time. MSC Brutscher/Faber to approve as presented. Motion passed.
  - a. State Cost Share Kathleen Gall \$5,625 Pit Closure
  - b. State Cost Share Craig Stangl \$2,500 WASCOB
3. Cost Share Payment Approvals with Amendments. MSC Faber/Hubner to approve the amendment and final payment as presented. Motion passed.
  - a. State Cost Share w/ Amendment Tyler Gottwalt \$611.00 Field Windbreak
  - b. State Cost Share w/ Amendment David Zumberge \$779.00 Field Windbreak
4. Cost Share Payment Approvals. Wettstein explained Gottwalt would have to wait to be approved until he cleared his WCA violation. Also explained Mutts Hill and Hilmerson have received cost share over three times. All the rest are as ready for payment. MSC Brutscher/Faber to approve as presented. Motion passed.
  - a. State Cost Share Peter Vogl \$536.00 Field Windbreak
  - b. State Cost Share Ray Schwegler \$1,340.00 Reforestation
  - c. State Cost Share Joe LeBlanc/Mutts Hill Lumber \$2,500 Reforestation
  - d. State Cost Share Michael Wochnick \$335.00 Field Windbreak
  - e. State Cost Share Lanny Anderson \$368.50 Field Windbreak
  - ~~f. State Cost Share Paul Gottwalt \$603.00 Field Windbreak~~
  - g. State Cost Share Jim Hilmerson \$1,040.00 Field Windbreak
  - h. State Cost Share Richard Skiba \$299.50 Field Windbreak

5. Cost Share Cancellations. Wettstein explained all of these landowners are interested in signing a new contract with the district but Vetsch's has expired and the others will have to wait until next year when the trees are available again. MSC Faber/Hubner to approve as written. Motion passed.
  - a. State Cost Share            Kevin Vetsch    Contract 02-18   \$2,500.00       Expired Ag Waste
  - b. State Cost Share            Ken Witucki     Contract 10-19   \$2,500.00  
    Reforestation - Did not receive trees from DNR
  - c. State Cost Share            Jason Bakke     Contract 19-18   \$1,918.76  
    Reforestation - Did not receive trees from DNR
6. REPI Pilot NRCS Grant. Wettstein shared there was an opportunity through NRCS for end of year funds. This project was previously submitted under another grant opportunity but NRCS has encouraged the CRSL group to submit for this funding. It will give money to develop a model for how to conduct outreach in a Sentinel Landscape and possibly open up opportunities down the road for additional landowner funds.

**INFORMATIONAL:**

- Filing for election is open from May 19- June 2. Brutscher, Faber and Hubner are up for election as is Winscher.
- June 18th, 2020 Area II meeting postponed to a future time yet to be announced later this summer
- West Central Technical Service Area II will send out meeting information via Zoom to still be held on June 18, 2020. Wettstein will share this information as it becomes available.
- Audit for 2019 will be done virtually the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>. All materials will have to be scanned and sent down to the auditors and will most likely take more time to do this than the audit.
- Rum River 1W1P Policy Committee meeting was held for the first time since January. Faber attended the Zoom meeting and said they had four months of catch up to cover. Next meeting will be August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:35 a.m. MSC Faber/Hubner.**

**Motion passed.**

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**Bill Faber, Secretary**

# **MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING**

**Friday, June 26, 2020  
8:00 a.m. Teleconference**

**Supervisors on Teleconference:** Saehr, Hubner and Faber

**Supervisors in Attendance at USDA Service Center:** Scholl and Brutscher

**Commissioner on Teleconference:** Winscher

**Staff in Attendance at USDA Service Center:** Wettstein

**BWSR Staff on Teleconference:** Chris Pence

## **AGENDA**

MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve agenda. Motion passed.

## **SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

MSC Brutscher/Hubner to approve. Motion passed.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

MSC Brutscher/Hubner to approve. Motion passed. Wettstein shared our accounts are in a position to put additional money into the reserve account. Next meeting this can be discussed.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Josh Hanson came into the board room to give his report. He reported they are working on EQIP applications and they are completing ratings on CSP. They have 6 Wetland Bank Program applications. Funding will be limited for all programs this year.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Winscher shared the county will be receiving 1.5-2M in Coronavirus Relief Funds so they are working on how to review and disburse these funds as they will only have 30 days. Also shared Morrison County sent down two deputy officers to help with riots in MSP/St. Paul.

## **BWSR REPORT**

Pence share the special session ended June 19, 2020, and the bonding bill was not funded. The per diem increase for SWCD supervisors also was not passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. COVID-19 Work Update - Wettstein shared the Service Center is closed to the public but all employees are back working in the office.
2. District advisory role with County Land Services, Commissioners and Highway Department – Wettstein explained how she attend county meetings and represents the district. These meetings include Land Services Developmental Review Team meetings, Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission hearings. Typically, the comments are in support of the goals of the county Water Plan but the decision is ultimately up to the board she is providing the information to. Wettstein asked the board if they are supportive of her continuing this role. The board all felt it was an important role that has been filled by Wettstein’s position and it provided expertise and support to the county.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution to extend the timeline for working remotely. MSC by Hubner/Faber. Motion passed.
2. Cost Share Contract Amendment -
  - a. State Cost Share – Extension to Installation Deadline  
Kurt Haakinson      \$600.00      Well Sealing - MSC Brutscher/Scholl. Motion passed.
3. Cost Share Payment Approvals -
  - a. State Cost Share w/ Amendment - Melissa Donek      \$670.00      Field Windbreak  
- MSC Faber/Scholl. Motion passed.
  - b. State Cost Share - Carol Brigner      \$860.00      Critical Area Planting  
- MSC Brutscher/Faber. Motion passed.
  - c. State Cost Share - Paul Gottwalt      \$603.00      Field Windbreak (WCA violation has been cleared)  
- MSC Faber/Hubner. Motion passed.
  - d. State Cost Share - Richard Skiba      \$299.50 check voided (\$549.50 Final Payment) Field Windbreak  
- MSC Hubner/Faber. Motion passed.
4. Cost Share Cancelations -
  - a. Little Rock CWF - Allan Sauer      \$7,582.50      Ag Waste  
- Federal cost share exceeded our 75% cost share policy so the district will not be able to offer assistance. MSC Brutscher/Scholl.
  - b. Little Rock CWF - Craig Stangl      \$6,231.00      WASCOB  
- This project was just outside of the Little Rock watershed boundary. MSC Faber/Hubner.
5. District Tree Order Sales Policy - MSC to adopt the policy as updated by Scholl/Brutscher. Motion passed.
6. District Fee Schedule - MSC to adopt the new fee schedule by Brutscher/Faber. Motion passed.

## **INFORMATIONAL:**

- City of Motley Wellhead Protection Plan, Part II notice – Comments Given
- City of Little Falls notice of implementation for Wellhead Protection Plan – Thank you
- Public comment period open for Mississippi River Brainerd Watershed TMDL/WRAPS reports
- Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 - SWCD Holiday
- July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - Local Work Group (Conference Call)
- July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 9 – 11 am: Area II meeting using Zoom
- July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, 5PM - 6PM: Rum River Policy Committee Meeting
- August 24 - 28, 2020 - Annual Audit (FY19); Preliminary Audit due to OSA June 30, 2020 (FY19)

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:38 a.m. MSC Faber/Hubner. Motion passed.**

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**Bill Faber, Secretary**

## **MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING**

**Friday, July 24, 2020**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Morrison County Government Center**

**Commissioners Board Room**

**213 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE**

**Little Falls, MN 56345**

### **Teleconference Available**

**Supervisors in Attendance:** Scholl, Brutscher, Hubner, Faber and Saehr

**Staff in Attendance at USDA Service Center:** Wettstein, Zapzalka and Ringwelski

**BWSR Staff:** Absent

### **SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve. Motion passed.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

MSC Scholl/Brutscher to approve. Motion passed.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Terry Zapzalka shared EQIP and CSP funded projects so far but also shared additional funding could be coming.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Winscher shared the application for the Coronavirus Relief Funds will be available first week of August and is encouraging businesses and farms to apply. The executive order from the Governor to wear masks will go into effect tonight. Also informed the board they have received an engineering report for the Belle Prairie Park which shows the potential for the park. The group also talked about the rain event on June 29<sup>th</sup> and the amount of damage it caused. The county is working to get emergency funding to help relieve some of the financial burden caused from the storm.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. COVID-19 Work Update / Office Building Status – Closed to Public Continues but we are working in the office. Will be able to meet the mask mandate.
2. Local Work Group Meeting – This was held July 8<sup>th</sup> through a conference call and Brutscher, Wettstein, Zapzalka and Hanson were all present as were a mix of resource professionals from the area. The meeting was open to the public and members of the agricultural community were invited. The group ranked out the top resource concerns for different settings including farmstead, forests, cultivated land and pastures to forward on to the state for ranking considerations in future NRCS applications. Hanson will tally the results and report back.

3. Area II Meeting – This was held July 15<sup>th</sup> and both Faber and Wettstein were on the Zoom. The main discussion was concerning resolutions from districts and which to forward on to the state convention. The resolution the district brought forward on the establishment of a civilian conservation grazing corps passed.
4. Rum River Policy Meeting -This was held July 23<sup>rd</sup> and Scholl was in attendance. They discussed priorities for the group some of which were shoreline and septic system compliance.
5. New 10 Year Cooperative Agreement – Wettstein shared a new one has been signed between BWSR and Natl. Guard Bureau with \$500K for ACUB Easements.
6. Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) and Rum River Watershed RIM Easement Update – Wettstein shared a handout staff had put together regarding other easement programs BWSR has available for landowners in the county.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution to Extend the Timeline for Working Remotely – MSC to extend until 12/31/2020 by Scholl/Faber. Motion passed.
2. Cost Share Payment Approvals – MSC Brutscher/Hubner. Motion passed.
  - a. State Cost Share      Craig Stangl              \$ 2,500.00      WASCOD
  - b. State Cost Share      Melvin Hackett          \$ 2,500.00      WASCOD & Waterway
3. Discussion Checking Acct. Fund Transfer to Money Market Reserve Acct. and/or Certificate of Deposit. MSC Brutscher/Faber to transfer \$150,000 to the Bremer Money Market account from the Bank of the West Checking account. Motion passed.
4. BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant Application –MSC Brutscher/Scholl to support applying. Motion passed.
5. Regional Conservation Partnership Program, NRCS (RCP) Application – Scholl/Brutscher to support applying. Motion passed.
6. Morrison County Water Plan, 2017 – 2021 - MSC by Brutscher/Hubner to extend until 2025. Wettstein will bring to the County Commissioners. Motion passed.
7. Annual Water Festival – This discussion will be continued next month but Wettstein shared the concern from school superintendents about holding the event in the fall. Possibly hold in spring or offer a virtual or in classroom offering.
8. Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) Contract – Wettstein shared the district has been approached to help do landowner outreach for MLT in exchange for a contract for services. MSC Hubner/Faber to consider the arrangement. Motion passed.

#### **INFORMATIONAL:**

- July 27<sup>th</sup> - FY2019 Local Capacity BWSR Reconciliation
- July 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> - Presentation to LCCMR for Oak Wilt and Culvert Inventory Application
- August 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> - Annual Audit (FY19)
- September 1<sup>st</sup> - Presentation to LSOHC for Phase IX Easement Work

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:05. MSC Hubner/Brutscher. Motion passed.**

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**Bill Faber, Secretary**



## MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Friday, August 28, 2020

8:00 a.m.

Morrison County Government Center  
Commissioners Board Room  
213 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE \* Little Falls, MN 56345

### Teleconference Available

**Supervisors in Attendance:** Scholl, Brutscher, Hubner, Faber and Saehr

**Staff in Attendance at USDA Service Center:** Wettstein and Hanson

**BWSR Staff:** Chris Pence

### SECRETARY'S MINUTES

MSC Brutscher/Faber to approve. Motion passed.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

MSC Faber/Scholl to approve. Motion passed.

### STAFF REPORT

Hanson shared there were 37 new CSP contracts, 10 RCPP CSP, 8 RCPP EQIP and 12 regular EQIP contracts. They are also working on six new Water Bank Program applications. They are starting to work on CSP mods for lost land and adjustments where practices were completed. They are also collecting 2020 CSP records of practices completed for 2020 payments.

### COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Winscher talked about mail in ballots and how County and Townships will be handling these. Other things happening include the DMV will not longer be offering the drivers test, they are talking about combining the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment and they are reviewing the budget. Also talked about the Corona Virus relief or the CARES Act funds for the county.

### BWSR REPORT

Pence gave an update to the board announcing the 1W1P for the Long Prairie River Watershed has been approved. Also gave the FY21 funding amounts for Local Capacity (\$134,810 unchanged) and Buffer (\$21,500 reduction of 14%).

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. LCCMR Funding Recommendations – Both Oak Wilt (\$423K a reduction from \$500K) and Culvert Inventory (\$198K with no reduction) will be recommended for funding to the legislature.
2. August 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> - Annual Audit (FY19) This is with Michael Peterson. We will not have an update until November.
3. August 27<sup>th</sup> - FY2019 Local Capacity BWSR Reconciliation. Wettstein is not expecting any surprises with this. We made requested changes a couple of years ago so this should be straight forward.
4. August 27<sup>th</sup> 5-7 PM Rum River Policy Committee Meeting. Scholl gave the update and announced the main facilitator (and a couple other staff) have started their own company and is requesting the contract move from RESPEC to this new company. Also shared they will be voting on their preference for the formal Joint Powers arrangement at the next meeting. He would like input from the county on what their preferences are so Winscher and Wettstein will work out a time to update the commissioners.

5. Internship Funding through Sourcewell and Ivy Chisholm has been extended. She did not use all the hours and Sourcewell was willing to extend through the end of the year to allow her to continue helping the district.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Pierz Golf Course Bid Opening – Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Funded. Saehr opened the bids, there were four. Mid MN Excavation, Tony Zetah for \$70,610; Houle Excavating LLC for \$79,700; Solutions 101 LLC for \$88,264.70; and Marvin Tretter for \$100,954.
2. Cost Share Contract Approvals – MSC Brutscher/Scholl to approve. Motion passed.
  - a. State Cost Share      Weyerhaeuser Museum      Water Diversion      \$9,375  
Wettstein shared the district has been working with Weyerhaeuser for several years as they have severe erosion but because the museum does not have money to fix it nothing has been done. They also did not qualify for the state emergency fund that the neighboring Lindberg Park did qualify for. This project is to stop the site from getting any worse until a more permanent project can take place.
  - b. State Cost Share      Ronald Nagel      Critical Area Planting      \$2,500  
This was another Mississippi Riverbank affected by the June 29<sup>th</sup> storm event. MSC Faber/Hubner to approve \$2,500. Motion passed.
  - c. State Cost Share      Tom Nelson      Well Sealing      \$500  
MSC Saehr/Faber to approve \$500. Motion passed.
3. Cost Share Payment Approval – MSC Brutscher/Faber. Motion passed.
  - a. State Cost Share      Douglas Cook      \$2,500      Shoreland Restoration
4. Cost Share Contract Cancellation – MSC Faber/Saehr to cancel. Motion passed.
  - a. State Cost Share      Kurt Haakinson      #23-18      \$600.00      Well Sealing
5. Long Prairie River Watershed – One Watershed One Plan Grant – This planning grant was awarded. Wettstein informed the board we will be the Fiscal Agent on the project so the board will be seeing stuff come through for this.
6. Upcoming “Normal” Events - Annual Water Festival, Nitrate Testing, BWSR Academy. All of these are being directly affected by COVID and concerns about keeping staff and the public safe. The district is having to postpone the Water Festival, is still brainstorming on how to offer the Nitrate Testing and BWSR Academy will be virtual this year.
7. Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) Contract –Staff are working hard to wrap up other easement work and MLT is open for working with us at any point that works best for us. MSC Brutscher/Hubner to table until a later date. Motion passed.

### **INFORMATIONAL:**

- September 1<sup>st</sup> - Presentation to LSOHC for Phase IX Easement Work. This request is for \$3M.
- Pheasants Forever MN Farm Bill Biologist Partner Newsletter. This features the work Amy Heinen has been doing.
- Minnesota Message, NRCS Publication
- Amy Heinen Wedding, September 19th

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:20. MSC Faber/Hubner. Motion passed.**

## **MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING**

**Friday, September 25, 2020**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Morrison County Government Center  
Commissioners Board Room  
213 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE \* Little Falls, MN 56345**

### **Teleconference Available**

**Supervisors in Attendance:** Scholl, Brutscher, Faber and Saehr. Hubner absent.

**Staff in Attendance at USDA Service Center:** Wettstein and Terry Zapzalka

**BWSR Staff:** Chris Pence via Teleconference

### **SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

MSC Brutscher/Scholl to approve. Motion passed.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

MSC Scholl/Saehr to approve. Motion passed.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Zapzalka reported producers are brining in records for CSP. They have over 200 to process and get signatures on. Contracting for FY2020 is done. EQIP signup for 2021 ends November 20, 2020. A civil engineer technician will hopefully be hired soon to cover Morrison/Todd/Wadena counties.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Winscher talked about precautions to take with Covid-19 and the CARES money, an update on Shamineau LID's proposal to move water out west from the lake, County Ditch 11 getting maintained and the preliminary levy being set at 2.7%.

### **BWSR REPORT**

Pence shared the audit for Local Capacity with us went well and announced BWSR Academy.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. August 27, 2020 - FY2019 Local Capacity BWSR Reconciliation – Wettstein reiterated what Pence shared earlier. Audit went well, there were no concerns.
2. September 23, 2020, 2:00 pm - Ditch Mitigation Meeting – Culvert Lowering on Butch Browns discussion with County Engineer, Ron Kresha and Wettstein. Wettstein explained to the group in order to mitigate the wetlands it could cost upwards of half million. Since it is a county ditch this would have to be assessed to the landowners. Butch Brown has expressed his commitment to keep pursuing this.

3. September 24, 2020, 5-7 pm - Rum River Policy Committee Meeting – Scholl gave the update that the policy group is split right down the middle on what sort of Joint Powers arrangement they would like to pursue for the implementation phase. The board discussed their preference to Scholl that it is Joint Powers Collaboration after he felt it would be the simpler arrangement. Wettstein will ask the county board for their preference. Scholl also shared the contract was extended another year and ISG, the new consultant, was hired.
4. CRP Update – General Sign-up & Re-enrollments – Wettstein and Zapzalka shared Amy Heinen helped process 74 contracts. She did a great job and picked everything up really quickly.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Cost Share Contract Approvals –
  - a. State Cost Share for Darrell Larsen’s Cattle Crossing for \$4,375.  
MSC Faber/Scholl. Motion passed.
  - b. State Cost Share for Zach Baert’s Well Sealing for \$687.50.  
MSC Scholl/Faber. Motion passed.
2. Cost Share Payment Approval –
  - a. State Cost Share for Ronald Nagel’s Critical Area Planting in the amount of \$2,500.  
MSC Brutscher/Scholl. Motion passed.
3. RCPP Application Support for Irrigation and CRLS.  
MSC Brutscher/Scholl to continue supporting these two applications.
4. Direct Agreement (DA) with NRCS Opportunity. Wettstein shared the opportunity brought to the district after General Kruse from Camp Ripley and Troy Daniel from NRCS met. They would like the district to host/staff a person at camp who would work on forestry for NRCS. Wettstein is talking with the Forest Stewardship Guild to possibly contract with as it would involve forestry training, planning and technical assistance. The district could either contract with them for the entire work or part of it. The DA would set the district up for a successful RCPP application and additional money for the local NRCS office. All costs associated would be covered by NRCS.  
MSC Faber/Brutscher to explore either the district contracting or staffing the DA directly.  
Motion passed.

#### **INFORMATIONAL:**

- Lifesaving Award Ceremony: Scott Saehr was recognized with saving a mans life.
- Nitrate Testing Clinic: Morrison County Courthouse October 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- Annual Township Supervisor Meeting: Morrison County Board Room October 21, 2020.
- BWSR Academy: October 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Virtual Meeting
- Upcoming Board Meeting Dates: October 23, November 20, No December 2020 Meeting

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:35. MSC Scholl/Brutscher. Motion passed.**

## **MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING**

**Friday, October 23, 2020  
at 8:00 a.m.**

**Morrison County Government Center  
Commissioners Board Room  
213 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE \* Little Falls, MN 56345**

**Supervisors in Attendance:** Scholl, Brutscher, Faber and Saehr. Hubner absent.

**Staff in Attendance:** Wettstein, Ringwelski and Hanson

**BWSR Staff:** Chris Pence via Teleconference

### **SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

MSC Scholl/Faber to approve. Motion passed.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

MSC Faber/Scholl to approve. Motion passed.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Hanson reported for NRCS sharing EQIP will have the first batching period November 20<sup>th</sup> for FY21. They currently are working on making all the FY20 CSP payments. CSP will now be a continuous sign up just like EQIP and there will be pools for forestry, cropland and pastureland and will now have to specify which year they want their payment. The RCPP deadline has been pushed back to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Ringwelski shared they have been doing projects, Pierz Golf Course and the Weyerhaeuser finished up. He is working on Environmental Reviews and WCA has been very busy with the end of season push.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

County has been busy with the CARES funds and elections. Half of the registered voters have already voted in Morrison County either by mail or in person. The DMV will be closed for 5-6 days to switch over from MNLARS to MNDrive.

### **BWSR REPORT**

Pence shared BWSR Academy is coming up, that reconciliations will not be needed for 2020 Local Capacity funds and that State Cost Share will need to be spent down for FY19 by December 31.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Nitrate Testing Results October 5 – 9, 2020. Amy Feldhege put together a summary map for this last round of testing and a map of all the wells tested by the district in this program. This year we held the clinic at the Morrison County Courthouse due to Covid and our doors being closed to the public. Of those who came in 32% were landowners who had never had their well tested before.
2. MASWCD Area II Meeting October 14, 2020. Faber and Wettstein attended this meeting. The association will not be requesting the \$350 dues from each district due to the fact they have not spent as much with the meetings being held virtually.
3. Annual Township Supervisor Meeting – Morrison County Board Room October 21, 2020. Wettstein and Mike Becker attended this meeting to present on the upcoming culvert inventory grant and the funds coming to help with oak wilt and where that has been found in the county.

4. Rum River Policy Committee Meeting October 22, 2020. Scholl attended and they discussed the implementation framework for the policy committee again. The county attorneys had gotten together because the policy committee has been split between a Joint Powers Collaboration and Joint Powers Entity. The attorneys are recommending at JPE so a draft will be drawn up and presented to the policy committee for approval.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. State Cost Share Contract Approvals – MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve contracts and payments. Motion passed.
  - a. Thomas Trettel Streambank Restoration \$15,442.35
  - b. Robert Streasick Reforestation \$1,747.05
  - c. Charles Streasick Reforestation \$1,747.05
2. State Cost Share Payment Approval –
  - a. Weyerhaeuser Museum Berm \$5,606.25
  - b. Tom Nelson Well Sealing \$166.00
3. City of Pierz/Hillman Creek – Approve payment to Mid-Minn Excavating for \$70,610. MSC Faber/Brutscher to approve payment. Motion passed.
4. Memorandum of Agreement – Planning Phase of Long Prairie River Watershed 1W1P. MSC Faber/Scholl to approve MOA and to have Faber serve as the Policy Committee representative for the district. Wettstein shared the county has already signed and has elected to have Mike LeMieur serve as the Policy Committee representation for them. Motion Passed.
5. Draft Copy of the 2019 Audit. Wettstein shared this with the board. Everything looks good and the auditors so the auditors would like to put together the final copy. The board agreed to move forward with the final copy.
6. Annual Report 2019 / Plan of Work 2020. Wettstein shared Nouis and herself recently presented to the county commissioners on this and thanked them for their ongoing district support.
7. MASWCD Resolution Packet – Voting. The board went through each resolution and cast votes. Wettstein will submit to the MASWCD.

**INFORMATIONAL:**

- Minnesota Message NRCS
- BWSR Academy October 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting
- Upcoming Board Meeting Dates: November 20, 2020 and December - Meeting Cancelled
- Country Acres Article about Darrell Larson

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:20. MSC Brutscher/Faber. Motion passed.**

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**Bill Faber, Secretary**

## **MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING**

**Friday, November 20, 2020  
at 8:00 a.m.**

**Supervisors on Teleconference:** Scholl, Brutscher, Faber, Saehr and Hubner.

**Commissioner on Teleconference:** Winscher

**Staff on Teleconference:** Wettstein and Hanson. Ringwelski and Chisholm during staff reports.

**BWSR Staff on Teleconference:** Chris Pence via Teleconference

### **SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

MSC Faber/Scholl to approve. Motion passed.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

MSC Hubner/Faber to approve. Motion passed.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Hanson reported for NRCS sharing the first EQIP deadline for sign-up is today. This years EQIP will have three local funding pools, one for cropland, forest and one for pasture land. The are working on CSP re-enrollments for 2021 and EQIP planning applications for 2021.

Ringwelski shared the Pierz Golf Course and the Weyerhaeuser have greened up and look good due to the 70-degree weather we had. Mike Becker and Ringwelski have also been checking buffers for compliance and only have a couple that may need follow-up. He finished up an Environmental Review for a hog barn in Morrill Township.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Winscher asked if anyone knew how the Potlatch deal will affect the tax roles in these other counties and Pence explained the Conservation Fund has 10 years to find new owners for those properties. If it ends up being county, city or state ownership that is what will depend on PILT payments or not. Winscher also shared the county board will not be meeting in person for the next meeting, that they are still considering combining the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment and that the CARES money is mostly spent down with the county but that Region 5 still has some money.

### **BWSR REPORT**

Pence shared BWSR employees will be working from home through June of next year but will be able to continue to support us virtually or via phone and email, just no in person meetings.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. BWSR Academy October 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - Virtual Meetings. Wettstein reported this went very well, it was attended by all staff and ended up happening while we were working from home.
2. Long Prairie Watershed One Watershed One Plan Orientation, November 6, 2020. Faber attended as our Policy Committee representative for the district. Mike LeMieur was not able to attend so Amy Kowalzec and Wettstein filled him in the Monday following.

3. COVID Update – Working remotely and office closure continues. Wettstein shared we did end up working remotely due to a positive case in the building. The district has been working with the county to get on a Virtual Private Network so we will now be able to reach our shared electronic files from home whereas last time, we depended on Nouis to act as a sort of librarian for our files.
4. Tree Orders and Open House Week. Tree order forms will be going out in the mail today, this is delayed from in the past because we were not able to confirm the number of trees until recently with the DNR. The district will not host an Open House Day this year but will instead have a week-long period where customers can still get the 10% discount if they place their order during that time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. State Cost Share Contract Approval- MSC Faber/Scholl. Motion Passed.
 

a. State Cost Share	Paul Kuske	Reforestation	\$1,731.42
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2. State Cost Share Payment Approval – MSC Brutscher/Faber. Motion Passed.
 

a. State Cost Share	Kathleen Gall	Waste Facility Closure	\$5,625.00
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3. Little Rock Cost Share Cancellation- MSC Faber/Scholl. Motion Passed.
 

a. Little Rock CWF	Alan Lanners	WASCOB	\$10,326.25
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4. FY2019 Financial Statement (Audit) – Final. MSC Faber/Scholl to approve. Motion Passed.
5. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Grant Agreement – Wettstein explained this will be coming in the next couple of weeks but would like to get approval to sign when it comes as our next meeting is not until the end of January. Shared budget information, our role as fiscal agent and that we will be reimbursed for this work (but not attending meetings) and the other key players who are included in the budget.

**INFORMATIONAL:**

- MASWCD Annual Business Meeting, December 8<sup>th</sup> 9 am – Noon
- Financial Committee Annual Meeting, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Brutscher and Saehr will attend. Time TBD.
- Upcoming Meetings – NO DECEMBER Meeting. Next meeting will be Friday, ~~January 22~~ **January 29**.
- Election Results – Wettstein asked when board members get their certificates if they would bring them by so we can make a copy of them.
- December 16<sup>th</sup>, Rum River Policy Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm
- Computer (Laptop) Update. Wettstein shared the district purchased two new laptops which the county is setting up for us. One was to replace an old laptop and the other is to meet the need while we work remotely.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:09. MSC Hubner/Scholl. Motion passed.**

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**Bill Faber, Secretary**



**MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING**

**Friday, DECEMBER 18, 2020**

**USDA County Offices**

**NO DECEMBER SWCD BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.**