

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Friday, January 28, 2022

8:00 a.m.

Morrison County Courthouse

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Brutscher, Scholl, Faber and Saehr; Commissioner Winscher; SWCD Staff: Wettstein, Beehler; NRCS Staff: Hanson; Guest: Todd Holman, Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Coordinator

Attending Virtually: None

2021 RE-ORGANIZATION:

1. SWEARING in of New Board Members – None
2. Official Date, Time, Location: Fourth Friday of Each Month, 8:00 a.m. at USDA County Office or Morrison County Government Center During COVID-19 Restrictions. MSC Saehr/Faber. Motion passed.
3. Official Per Diem and Mileage: MSC Saehr/Faber. Motion passed to include the following
 - Per Diem - Full Board Meetings, Day Meetings, Committee Meetings, and/or Payroll Signature - \$125
 - Mileage - at IRS Established Rate (\$.585 as of 1/1/2022)
4. Official Publication: Morrison County Record. MSC Saehr/Faber. Motion passed.
5. Official Posting Location: Morrison SWCD Website and USDA Service Center Building. MSC Saehr/Faber. Motion passed.
6. Official Bank of Deposit: Pine Country Bank Checking and Bremer Bank. MSC Saehr/Scholl. Motion passed.
7. Annual Resolution Approving Morrison County Local Water Plan as District’s Annual Plan. MSC Scholl/Faber. Motion passed.
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. MSC Saehr/Scholl. Motion passed.
9. Minimum Fund Balance Approval: The minimum Fund Balance will be **3 months** of Operating Expenditures. MSC Saehr/Scholl. Motion passed.
(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. MSC Faber/Scholl. Motion passed.
11. Slate of Officers for 2022 and Committee Assignments. MSC Faber/Saehr. Motion passed. Faber nominated for Chair. MSC Saehr/Scholl. Motion passed. Scholl nominated for Vice-Chair. MSC Saehr/Brutscher. Motion passed.

Roles	Proposed for 2022
Chairman	Bill Faber
Vice Chairman	Dale Scholl
Secretary	Dave Hubner

Treasurer	Scott Saehr
Public Relations	Tom Brutscher
Committee Assignments	Proposed for 2022
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 : No changes to the December minutes. MSC Brutscher/Scholl. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: MSC Scholl/Brutscher to approve the treasures report. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Hanson shared there were 73 applications for EQIP, 63 applications for CSP for fiscal year 2022-year funds. They will be sending out FY23 renewal letters soon.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Winscher shared Morrison County will have to redistrict and all five county commissioners will be up for election. He also added they are having discussions about Ag Zoning over the next few months with the commissioners and Board of Adjustment/Planning Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. New staff introductions – Destiny Mankowski, Pheasants Forever Private Lands Biologist & Kolby Beehler, Conservation Agronomist.
2. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl shared they held their final public hearing on the plan and that several changes were suggested. There was quite a bit of discussion about removing the dam in Anoka and about the sections mentioning climate change.
3. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update - Faber shared their next meeting will be February 17th.
4. Winter Agronomy Meetings – Beehler briefed the board on the meeting that was held on January 17th. These meetings were part of the Conservation Champions grant through the NWF that Centra Sota was awarded and the goal of this is to raise more awareness about soil health. The feedback was very positive from the event. The next outreach event will be a field day in August.
5. Social Media Account – Wettstein talked about the potential to have a social media presence and if the board would support seeing a demo of what a Facebook page could look like for the district. Wettstein proposed that next meeting a demo presentation could be given by Mankowski of typical content and a plan for how often material would be added. The board was supportive, the discussion mainly focused around the consistency of posting and making sure staff had a plan to keep it updated.
6. WCA Report for 2021 – The district had another very busy year and shared a five year summary of the program. Report of Contacts are up more than double since 2018. This year

was especially busy for ditch maintenance and wildlife pond exemptions due to the dry work conditions.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2022 Budget Approval – The Finance Committee of Brutscher, Saehr, Wettstein and Knopik met to review year end numbers and set preliminary numbers for the full board to review on January 27th. Saehr led the discussion around salaries explaining the additional staff are covered by grant monies, the recommended cost of living adjustment and the step increases for those employees that are eligible.
2. Audit Bid Letter for FYE 12/31/2021 to be completed Fall 2021 - \$3,250 Peterson Company LTD. MSC Scholl/Saehr to approve. Motion passed.
3. Rum River Watershed 1W1P Plan for final submission to BWSR authorization. MSC Brutscher/Saehr to give authority to the Rum River Policy member the authority to recommend the plan at the next policy committee meeting if the review of the county attorney and the county board is in support of the draft document. Wettstein will bring it to the county board for discussion and ask the county attorney to review. Motion passed.
4. Partner Agreement with Centra Sota Cooperative, Little Falls – The board had no additional comments to the wording of this agreement after several months of working on this. MSC Brutscher/Scholl to approve and sign. Motion passed. Wettstein will send it to Centra Sota for execution.
5. Walk in Access Program Agreement- DNR approached the district over helping conduct outreach with this program in Morrison County. The boundary of WIA was recently expanded in the state to include Morrison County. Landowners would receive an annual incentive payment for lands they enroll but they cannot be crop land. Enrolling in the program means their land would be posted and open to the public during the hunting season for public hunting. Hunters pay an additional fee on their license to cover the cost of the program. The district would only be paid on a successful enrollment. Wettstein did not anticipate that their would be a ton of interest in the program because most of our landowners hunt their own lands but it has been very popular in the southwestern part of the state. She explained, for the right landowner it is another offering and it could help differ the cost of property taxes for them. MSC Saehr Brutscher. Motion passed 3-1. Opposed Scholl.
6. Cover Crop Cost Share Policy – MSC Brutscher/Scholl to impose a new cost share policy to encourage the adoption of cover crops. Beehler researched costs and other district programs and presented the background information to the board. Wettstein explained the program would currently be funded from the State Cost Share funds so it isn't intended to cover all acres on a farm but more of an opportunity for growers who have not tried cover crops to dip their toes in 5-75 acres. MSC Brutscher/Scholl. Motion passed.
7. CRSL REPI Challenge Request for Proposals – Todd Holman, CRSL Coordinator presented on the draft RFP. Wettstein shared we do not have the signed grant agreement yet for this project but she anticipates the district will have one in the next couple of months and wanted to get this draft in front of the board early with the intent of bringing it back after we have an executed agreement from NACD for the money to do this project. The RFP outlines the work a contractor would provide, with the Morrison SWCD acting as the fiscal.

8. Payment – LCCMR Oak Wilt Grant - Pioneer Tree Service for \$98,814.60

9. Approve State Cost Share Contracts

- a. Neal Loidolt \$665.00 Field Windbreak – Replacements
- b. Joseph LeBlanc \$2,500.00 Field Windbreak – Replacements
- c. Mike Suppelt \$770.00 Reforestation - Replacements

INFORMATIONAL:

	January 1 – January 31		Campaign Finance Board	File this during the dates
	February 9 th	6:00 pm	City of Randall Wellhead Protection Plan Meeting	Randall City Hall
	February 16		Job Posting deadline – Morrison SWCD Summer Intern	Website
Thursday	February 17 th , 2022	9:00- 12:00	Long Prairie Watershed 1W1P Policy Meeting	Long Prairie, TBD
	February 1, 2022		John Korzeniowski, Little Falls DNR Forestry Manager	Retirement and Thank You

SECRETARY MINUTES: No changes to the December minutes. MSC Saehr/Scholl to approve. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Dale Scholl, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Friday, February 25, 2022

USDA County Offices

NO FEBRUARY SWCD BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Friday, March 25, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Morrison County Courthouse

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Brutscher, Scholl, Faber and Saehr; Commissioner Winscher;
SWCD Staff: Wettstein, Beehler, Ringwelski, Mankowski, Knopik; NRCS Staff: Hanson; BWSR: Pence
Guest: Todd Holman, Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Coordinator

SECRETARY's MINUTES MSC Saehr/Scholl to approve as written. Motion passed

TREASURER's REPORT MSC Saehr/Hubner to approve. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS Hanson shared they have 25 EQIP applications pre-approved, 3 RCPP MAWQCP applications pre-approved and they are working on 9 CSP applications. Hanson reviewed the Civil Rights with the board and let them know the Local Work Group will be held June 8th.

COMMISSIONER's REPORT: Winscher talked about the redistricting effort under way and how all five commissioners are up for election. Also shared the commissioners have been hearing proposals for renovating the courthouse and the Weyerhaeuser bank stabilization project.

BWSR REPORT: Pence said the district is all caught up on reporting that there will be spring trainings offered through BWSR for staff and that eLink is getting updated.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update - Scholl said they have been discussing how to get the public more involved with implementation of the plan and how the funding is going to be allocated to each project as part of the work plan development. The draft plan is in the 90-day review process. Wettstein shared this group will have a Joint Powers Board agreement moving forward into implementation and this is something we will need to consider signing into.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared their group will most likely go with the Joint Powers Collaboration and that now we are almost exactly at the same point the Rum group is out. A draft copy of the plan will be available shortly.
3. Area 2 Meeting and West Central Technical Service Area (WCTSA) Meeting – Wettstein, Hanson, Knopik and Mankowski attended this meeting. They reviewed the Day at the Capitol, election filing and Wettstein introduced a possible resolution regarding feedlot expansions that she will bring to the board at a later meeting. Faber chaired the TSA meeting where they approved the annual audit, budget and discussed the engineering workload.
4. Office Status – Open and unmasked
5. Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) Update – Acres, Producers and New Irrigation Certificate – Morrison SWCD has had a lot of support for this program from producers. In 2021 we had six new certifications for a total of 28. Wettstein passed around information on the new irrigation certificate the program is now offering.
6. AgBMP Program Update – This program has been slow the last year and a half due to the interest rates being so low but Wettstein expects interest to increase as this changes. Area banks continue to support and offer this to their customers so many of the referrals come

from them. Our revolving fund for the program is over \$900,000 with almost all of that in use and more becomes available as landowners make repayments.

7. Social Media Account – Mankowski gave a visual presentation of the Facebook account she has created for the district. It is not live but gave the board an idea of what sort of content could be shared. Wettstein explained we have not had a social media presence because no one previously was interested in maintaining it but with Mankowski on board she will be the one who is happy to do this. Saehr requested we draft a Social Media policy before making the page live. Wettstein will present this at the next meeting.
8. REPI Challenge Grant Executed - Climate Resiliency Analysis of the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape. Wettstein shared the district can now begin work on this grant and more details will be later in the agenda.
9. Sustainable Use of Groundwater Resources within Little Rock Creek Area – Wettstein attended the public meeting where the DNR shared they do now feel they have evidence that groundwater withdrawals are affecting stream flows in the LRC. This would be the first of its kind in Minnesota. DNR also shared a map of the wells which are affecting surface water flows and outlined three possible solutions to solve the problem but would like the irrigators to come up with the final solution. Wettstein will get more information to present at the next meeting for the board. Scholl was concerned at what is being determined and wants to make sure the County Commissioners are aware of what is going on. Wettstein will work with Winscher to share this information with the commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. CRSL REPI Challenge Request for Proposals – Holman presented the RFP to the board and the timeline for reviewing and getting a contractor hired to do this work. This will be posted on the Morrison SWCD website and be open until April 20th. Wettstein asked the board to support moving forward with this and suggested we have a review committee comprising of Holman, Wettstein, Faber and Josh Pennington from Camp Ripley. MSC Saehr/Scholl to approve release and having Bill help review the bids. Motion passed.
2. Civil Right Responsibilities for Partners – Josh Hanson, NRCS presented this and the board all signed acknowledgement of the responsibility.
3. Memorandum of Agreement with NRCS – General – Wettstein shared NRCS did not have a MOA on file for the district so they requested we review and sign. It outlines our partnership and roles as well as confidentiality requirements when working with landowners in federal programs. MSC Brutscher/Scholl to sign. Motion passed.
4. Crow Wing River One Watershed One Plan Resolution of Support – This group would like to move forward with a planning application and has asked us to support the planning process. MSC Saehr/Hubner to sign the resolution of support. Motion passed.
5. State of Minnesota LIDAR Agreement, \$50,000 from REPI Challenge Grant – Wettstein shared that as part of this grant we built in money to support this project because it will enable much of the final work to be completed. MSC Brutscher/Scholl to approve signing the agreement. Motion passed.
6. Approve Cost Share Contracts. MSC Brutscher/Hubner to approve. Motion passed.

- a. Wade Bauer, Little Rock CWF \$7,924.00 Water and Sediment Control Basin
 - b. Rick Skiba, State Cost Share \$425.02 Reforestation – Replant
7. Summer Internship Hire – Wettstein shared there were four applicants for the position and that Mike Becker and herself conducted interviews and would like to recommend to the board hiring Britany Struzyk for the position. She is a current student at CLC in the Natural Resource Program and is in the Natural Resource Club. MSC Brutscher/Scholl to hire Struzyk. Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL:

Mississippi River Brainerd Policy Committee Meeting – March 28th, Crow Wing County Land Services Office.

Learn and Burn Workshop – April 22nd, Camp Ripley

Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair – April 23rd, Brainerd Rotary Park

Long Prairie River One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee Meeting – April 21st, Long Prairie

Morrison SWCD Tree Week and Tree Pick-up ****TENTATIVE**** - April 25-29th, Little Falls Expo Arena

Nitrate Testing Clinic – May 16-20th, Morrison County Government Center

Morrison County Water Plan/Local Work Group Meeting – June 8th, Morrison County Government Center

Meeting Adjourned at 11:32 a.m. *

Dave Hubner, Secretary

***The board and staff met at the Pizza Ranch after the meeting as a way to reconnect after a very long two years of Covid restrictions.**

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Friday, April 22, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Morrison County Courthouse

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Brutscher and Scholl; Commissioner Winscher; SWCD Staff: Wettstein, Ringwelski, NRCS Staff: Hanson;

AGENDA MSC Brutscher/Hubner to approve with the amended additions of New Business items #7 and 8. Motion Passed

STAFF REPORTS Hanson shared the Local Work Group will be held June 8th.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES MSC Hubner/Brutscher to approve as written. Motion passed

TREASURER'S REPORT MSC Brutscher/Hubner to approve. Motion passed.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Winscher talked about the Ag Zoning Meetings and setbacks and building sites discussions the county board has been having with the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment and some county staff. Nothing has been decided and probably will not be for awhile on this. Also said the commissioners are having lots of discussions on what to do with the ARP monies available.

BWSR REPORT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update - Scholl said they will have a meeting next Thursday. BWSR will hopefully be approving the plan on May 25th. Still discussing the Joint Powers Entity and the Anoka Dam.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared they did not have a meeting, but the plan is in a draft form and will be released for agency and public comment next month.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher shared they met once and covered basics including that Aitkin SWCD will be the fiscal and hire Moriya from HEI and Tad from Region 5 to do the consulting on the project.
4. Morrison SWCD Annual Report – Wettstein shared copies with the board and gave acknowledgement to Destiny Mankowski for putting this together.
5. Little Rock Creek Sustainable Groundwater Meeting, March 23 Summary – Wettstein share the summary with the board and shared concerns with the data collection and margin or error yet the conclusion the DNR has come to is very definitive. She is disappointed that the DNR does not see conservation as a solution. Scholl also has issue with what has been determined and the solutions. It was discussed that most of this is stemming from those that did not have permits to irrigate in this area and now it is affecting so many irrigators.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. CRSL REPI Challenge Request for Proposals – Bid Review – One bid was received from Will Bartsch with the Natural Resources Research Institute out of the University of Minnesota. MSC Brutscher/Hubner to recommend moving forward with a contract after the review committee of Todd Holman, Josh Pennington, Bill Faber and Wettstein review for completeness and determine if the bid meets the requirements. Motion passed.

2. PRAP request for workload analysis – At the suggestion of Chris Pence, Wettstein would like to pursue more information on obtaining a workload analysis. She has been in contact with Doug Thomes, now a private consultant with HEI after retiring from BWSR about what he could offer. Wettstein asked the board if she could continue to pursue more information and get a bid from HEI to do this work. BWSR has grant funds to pay for this but the district would have to match the proposal in in-kind time at 1:1. MSC Brutscher/Hubner for Wettstein to get more information. Motion passed.
3. Region 5 – Regional watershed implementation coordination discussion – Wettstein was invited along with other Managers in Region 5 to hear how Region 5 could assist the transition into 1W1P implementation funding and staffing challenges. They offered the ability to hire trained professionals that could assist multiple districts and then asked what our needs were. Different topics were shared including career development, engineering and systems for tracking.
4. Social Media Policy – Wettstein presented a draft Social Media Policy which was mimicked off the Morrison County Social Media Policy. Board will review and consider at the May meeting.
5. Approve Cost Share Contracts – MSC Brutscher Hubner to approve contracts. Motion passed.
 - a) Molly Winscher Well Sealing
 - b) Jamie Litke Field Windbreak
6. Approve Cost Share Contract Amendment – MSC Brutscher/Hubner to approve amendment. Motion passed.
 - a) Rick Skiba \$250 amendment for a total of \$675.02 Reforestation – Replant
7. Approve applying for LSOHC grant, \$5.5 million. MSC Brutscher/Hubner to approve. Motion passed.
8. Approve applying for BWSR grant, Soil Health Clean Water Fund. MSC Hubner/Brutscher. Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Learn and Burn Workshop – April 22nd, Camp Ripley
- Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair – April 23rd, Brainerd Rotary Park
- Long Prairie River One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee Meeting – April 21st, Long Prairie
- Mississippi River Brainerd Policy Committee Meeting – April 26th, 2-5 PM Crow Wing County Land Services Office.
- Morrison SWCD Tree Week and Tree Pick-up ****TENTATIVE**** - April 25-29th, Little Falls Expo Arena
- Nitrate Testing Clinic – May 16-20th, Morrison County Government Center
- Morrison County Water Plan/Local Work Group Meeting – June 8th, Morrison County Government Center

Next meeting will be held on May 27th at the Government Center again. Meeting Adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Dave Hubner, Secretary

***The board and staff met at the Pizza Ranch after the meeting as a way to reconnect after a very long two years of Covid restrictions.**

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Friday, May 27, 2022

8:00 a.m.

Morrison County Courthouse

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

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

TREASURER'S REPORT MSC Saehr/Brutscher to approve. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS Hanson shared the Local Work Group will be held June 8th.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Winscher shared Morrison County was declared a disaster after the recent wind storms. He also said they had a fire in the Public Works building. Also said the commissioners are having lots of discussions on what to do with the ARP monies available but that the Historical Society was going to get money for their project.

BWSR REPORT: Pence gave a legislative update and noted that session ended May 23rd without having the general funding for SWCD pass that was being lobbied by MASWCD.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl shared the JPE is being worked on and we should have it next meeting. There will be over \$1.4 million of implementation funds for the watershed. The last meeting was taken up with a lot of discussion on the Rum River dam in Anoka.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Wettstein shared the plan is out for public comment.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher will be attending a policy committee meeting on June 6th. They will be forming the technical and citizen committees so they can begin meeting. They have discussed interesting topics at the meetings so far.
4. Learn and Burn Workshop – April 22nd, Camp Ripley – Wettstein shared they had a good turnout and really great feedback from landowners who attended. This training was held in partnership with the Forest Stewards Guild as part of the state agreement with NRCS.
5. Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair – April 23rd, Brainerd Rotary Park – Destiny Mankowski had a very successful event. She was acknowledged at the National PF Convention to have had the best turnout in the nation. The fair was in part funded by our REPI Pilot funds, volunteers from several organizations, including CLC, helped with the event.
6. Morrison SWCD Tree Week and Tree Pick-up – Tree week turned into two weeks this year because one of our private nurseries was not able to deliver three key species. Also, because of the lack of availability there were a lot of reimbursements made to orders. Wettstein shared next year should be better because DNR will again have trees to sell us where this year they did not have any.
7. Nitrate Testing Clinic – May 16-20th, Morrison County Government Center – Wettstein said next meeting she will provide the board with a summary like we have done in the past.
8. Little Rock Creek Sustainable Groundwater – Benton SWCD has drafted a letter to the DNR from their board and they would like us to support it. The letter urges the DNR to take more time in examining solutions to the problem and questions some of their assertions. Wettstein

shared Gerry Maciej did a really good job of pointing out several items that were either overlooked or ignored by the DNR. No action was taken by the board.

9. BWSR Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grant Submitted – \$155,000 for cover crops in vulnerable soil areas of Benton and Morrison Counties.
10. LSOHC Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Phase 11 Submitted - \$5.5 million for easements within five miles of Camp Ripley with focus around buffering public lands and funds for restoration activities.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. CRSL REPI Challenge – Contract Approval – NRRI University of Minnesota Duluth – MSC Brutscher/Saehr to enter into contract with NRRI. Motion passed.
2. PRAP request for workload analysis – MSC Brutscher/Saehr to apply for the full amount estimated by Doug Thomes at HEI to do the analysis. It was understood \$10,000 is the max award but the board would like to apply for the full cost to do the work and see what BWSR awards. Motion passed.
3. Social Media Policy – MSC Saehr/Brutscher. Motion passed.
4. Oak Wilt Suppression – Payment Approval Pioneer Tree Service - \$5,025.00. MSC Brutscher/Saehr to approve payment. Motion passed.
5. Minnesota Deferred Compensation and Health Savings Accounts – Wettstein shared staff met with staff from the state to explain these programs. Deferred Compensation can be utilized by any staff but the Health Saving benefit only applies to employees who have been with the district 10 years and have over 400 hours of sick time.
6. LCCMR Grant – Planting for the Future – Resolution of Support - MSC Brutscher/Saehr to pass this resolution. Motion passed.
7. Resolution from Stearns SWCD to Area II – New Agriculture Livestock and Poultry Production Facilities: Manure Storage and Stormwater Management – Wettstein presented the resolution but noted it will be presented at the upcoming Area II meeting for consideration.
8. Approve State Cost Share Contract – MSC Brutscher/Saehr to approve contract. Motion passed.
 - a. Kyle Schraut \$2,500 Water and Sediment Control Basin
9. Approve Cost Share Payments – MSC Saehr/Brutscher to approve payments. Motion passed.
 - a) Neal Loidolt Reforestation \$665.00
 - b) Mark Januschka Field Windbreak \$700.00
 - c) Mike Seppelt Reforestation \$770.00
 - d) Melissa Donek Field Windbreak \$420.00
 - e) Paul Kuske Reforestation \$1,488.17
 - f) Rick Skiba Reforestation \$675.02

INFORMATIONAL:

- SWCD Filing Period – May17th – May 31st; District 3 & 4
- Mississippi River Brainerd Policy Committee Meeting – April 26th, 2-5 PM Crow Wing County Land Services Office.

- Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Kick-off Event – June 6th from 4-6:30
Camp Ripley Environmental Classroom
- Morrison County Water Plan/Local Work Group Meeting – June 8th, Morrison County
Government Center
- Area II Meeting and WCTSA Meeting June 16th, Douglas County
- ACUB Working Group, July 19-22nd, Camp Ripley Training Facilities
- Morrison SWCD Conservation Tour, August 24th, Various Locations
- Soil Health Field Day, August 10, Hubner Farms, Sobieski Community Center
- Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Public Hearing, 10 am, Todd County Courthouse
- Morrison County Water Festival, September 20-21, Camp Ripley
- Fall Forestry Field Day, October 1, Craig Ahlen's Property

Next meeting will be held on June 24th at the Government Center again. Meeting Adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Dave Hubner, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Friday, June 24, 2022

8:00 a.m.

Morrison County Courthouse

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Brutscher, Faber, Hubner and Scholl; Commissioner Winscher; SWCD Staff: Wettstein, Ringwelski, NRCS Staff: Hanson; Guest, Jim Wanstall, DNR

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: MSC Scholl/Hubner to amend to add Bill Faber to those in attendance. Motion passed. MSC Brutscher/Hubner to approve with amendments. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: MSC Scholl/Brutscher to approve. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Hanson shared the Local Work Group was held June 8th. Wettstein shared the letter with the board that the Benton SWCD sent to the DNR regarding the Little Rock Creek meeting held by the DNR on March 23. Wettstein shared Scholl and Saehr both filed to run for election and all of the commissioners are up for election because Morrison County was redistricted.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Winscher shared Morrison County held its Truth in Taxation meeting and valuations are going up. Also said more decisions were made with how to spend the ARP funds with some going to Northern Pines to help with mental health and some going to the sheriff's department for radio replacements.

GUEST REPORT: Jim Wanstall, Conservation Focus Area Coordinator, MN DNR shared that he started on May 2nd with the state, but he previously worked for the Department of Agriculture in New Mexico. The Brainerd Lakes Conservation Focus Areas is one of the few active focus areas in the state, but his job will be to work with us and other focus areas around the state.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – See New Business below. The plan is now approved by the state and can be adopted by each county. Scholl will be happy to serve as a policy committee member on the Joint Powers Board.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Plan Review Period – This will be closing on July 19th. Faber shared they did not have a meeting this month.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update - Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Kick-off Event – June 6th from 4-6:30 Camp Ripley Environmental Classroom – We had had a great turnout with 70 people in attendance, most of them from Morrison County but citizens from all other counties in the watershed too. The event was intended to introduce what this process is and to get feedback from the public before this planning process begins. Brutscher attended as did Commissioner Blaine.
4. Morrison County Water Plan/Local Work Group Meeting – June 8th, Morrison County Government Center
5. Area II Meeting and WCTSA Meeting June 16th, Douglas County – Faber attended as did staff members Josh Hanson, Mike Becker and intern Britney Struzyk. Faber chaired the WCTSA meeting.
6. Nitrate Testing Clinic Summary – The clinic tested 146 wells in Morrison County and 11 from surrounding counties. 13 of the 22 wells that tested above the standard for the clinic are currently being treated. The highest result came from Bellevue Township at 54 ppm. Wettstein shared hosting it at the Morrison County Government Center has been a great location because we are getting people who have never tested before when they come in to pay taxes

or update their drivers license. The next clinic we will plan to host it at this location again in the fall.

7. Forestry Field Day Mailing – Save the Date Sent – This is being planned in conjunction with DNR, private foresters, Central MN Small Woodland Owners Association, NRCS and Crow Wing SWCD. Event will be at Charlie Ehlen’s property in Cushing Township on October 1.
8. CRSL REPI Challenge – Contract Executed – NRRI University of Minnesota Duluth – Wettstein shared this project will kick-off in July and she will update the board with progress. The project should take a year to complete.
9. Morrison County Commissioners and SWCD Elections – Discussed above. No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Agreement – Wettstein asked if they would be willing to have Chairman Faber review the final agreement so that this could be signed off on. The agreement must be signed by June 30th as this is the date our current agreement expires. MSC Brutscher/Hubner to give Faber the authority to sign after his review. Motion passed.
2. Approve Joint Powers Entity (JPE) for Rum River Watershed Partners – MSC Scholl/Brutscher. Motion passed.
3. Resolution to Adopt Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – MSC Brutscher/Hubner. Motion passed. Wettstein mentioned she will now bring these last two agenda items to the county commissioners for their consideration.
4. Approve Increased IRS Mileage Rate – 62.5 cents per mile – MSC Scholl/Brutscher. Motion passed. Wettstein shared normally we only do this once a year at our reorganization meeting but this year, due to gas prices, the IRS has raised it mid-year.
5. Approve Cost Share Payments – MSC Brutscher/Hubner. Motion passed.
 - a) Joe LeBlanc Reforestation \$2,500.00
 - b) Molly Winscher Well Sealing \$2,500.00
6. Approve Cost Share Contract – MSC Scholl/Hubner to approve. Motion passed.
 - a) Blake Moren Cover Crop \$1,500.00

INFORMATIONAL:

- ACUB Working Group, July 19-22nd, Camp Ripley Training Facilities
- Mississippi River Brainerd Policy Committee Meeting – July 26th, Crow Wing County Land Services Office.
- Soil Health Field Day, August 10, Hubner Farms, Sobieski Community Center
- Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Public Hearing, August 18th, 10 am, Todd County Courthouse
- Morrison SWCD Conservation Tour, August 24th, Various Locations
- Morrison County Water Festival, September 20-21, Camp Ripley
- Fall Forestry Field Day, October 1, Charlie Ehlen Property

Next meeting is Friday, July 22nd at 8 AM at the Morrison SWCD office. Meeting Adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Dave Hubner, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, July 22, 2022
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Brutscher, Faber, Hubner, Saehr and Scholl; Commissioner Winscher; SWCD Staff: Wettstein and Intern Brittany Struzyk NRCS Staff: Zapzalka

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: MSC Brutscher/Scholl to approve as written. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: MSC Brutscher/Saehr to approve as presented. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Zapzalka reported one application was funded for the RCPP Irrigation Partnership to Protect Groundwater, 24 CSP applications for renewal in 2023-2027 approved and this summer three poultry stacking slabs will be completed and some prescribed grazing systems.

Wettstein relayed the National ACUB Working Group was just held at Camp Ripley and we hosted a tour and an evening social for the event. Struzyk shared what she has been working on this summer, primarily helping Mike Becker with the culvert inventory. Her last day is August 12th as she will be starting back at CLC.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Winscher shared County Ditch 18 will hold a public hearing for benefited property owners in the anticipation of the ditch being maintained this winter. He also shared the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment met to hear another request for a variance for a residence from a feedlot.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update - Wettstein presented to the Commissioners at their Work Session meeting regarding adopting a resolution to accept the final plan that was approved by BWSR and will be bringing it to them on July 26th for a vote.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared they will be holding the public hearing on August 18th. Public comment period is now closed.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – First Citizen Committee meeting held.
4. Soil Health Field Day – August 10th – This is a collaborative event that our Conservation Champions group (Dave Hubner, Eric Smude, TJ Kartes, Amy Robak, Rebecca Schubert, Kolby Beehler and Shannon Wettstein) have been planning. It will be hosted by Hubner out at the Sobieski Community Center and surrounding field Hubner farms.
5. Morrison County Conservation Bus Tour – August 24th Invitations will be sent and we will be taking RSVPs. The day will consist of viewing past conservation efforts in the county and sharing Morrison SWCD/NRCS projects with lunch included.
6. Morrison County IT Services – Knopik and Wettstein met to discuss current IT needs and hear recommendations from migrating from Amy Middendorf, the IT Director on several items. Also reviewed past quarterly invoices we receive for the county IT services which include expenses for help desk tickets, software and hardware as well as our internet and phone. Middendorf is recommending we move from an inhouse server based storage to a cloud based system to prevent any downtime in the event of an equipment failure and our current server will need to be replaced which we would not have the expense if we moved to a cloud based system. It will also allow for remote work instead of having to VPN into our shared drives. She also recommended developing a contract directly with CTC as it will provide faster internet vs

routing it through the county first and then out to our location. Wettstein shared CTC already has a service to the USDA Service Center so it would be a smooth transition. Finally, she added we could continue to get telephone service through the county and develop a contract for services with Morrison County which would be a regular monthly expense that we can budget for. Discussion was for Wettstein to work with the county to keep the phone system with them, develop a contract for services, get internet through CTC and move to cloud storage. Wettstein will bring additional information back as the transition will not occur until our current licenses expire at the end of the year.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Cost Share Contracts – MSC Brutscher/Saehr to approve. Motion passed.
 - a) Doug Lorenz Cover Crop \$800.00
 - b) Dennis Thoma Cover Crop \$400.00
2. Approve Cost Share Payments – MSC Hubner/Saehr to approve. Motion passed.
 - a) Wade Bauer Water and Sediment Basin \$7,924.00
3. Pheasants Forever Agreement – Renew three-year commitment to provide partner support. MSC Scholl/Hubner to approve entering into another three-year contract supporting the position from the SWCD at an amount of \$18,000 over three years. Motion Passed.
4. Land Trust Alliance Conference – New Orleans, September 14-17th – Wettstein has been invited by the REPI Team to attend the conference. Expenses for the trip will be reimbursed. Board supported Wettstein attending the conference.

INFORMATIONAL:

- ACUB Working Group, July 19-22nd, Camp Ripley Training Facilities
- Mississippi River Brainerd Policy Committee Meeting – July 26th, Crow Wing County Land Services Office.
- Soil Health Field Day, August 10, Hubner Farms, Sobieski Community Center
- Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Public Hearing, August 18th, 10 am, Todd County Courthouse
- Morrison SWCD Conservation Tour, August 24th, Various Locations
- Morrison County Water Festival, September 20-21, Camp Ripley
- Fall Forestry Field Day, October 1, Charlie Ehlen Property

Next meeting is Friday, August 26th at 8 AM at the Morrison SWCD office. Meeting Adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Dave Hubner, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, August 26, 2022
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Brutscher, Faber, Saehr and Scholl; BWSR: Chris Pence; Staff: Wettstein and Ringwelski NRCS Staff: Hanson

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Scholl suggested Wettstein look into the bond market to see what interest rates would be. Wettstein will look into this. MSC Brutscher/Scholl to approve as presented. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Ringwelski has been doing WCA, spending a bunch of time on access roads. He is also working on spot checks, trees look good. Hanson shared that the Reduction Inflation Act will be giving over double of the amount of funds to NRCS than what was supplied in the past.

BWSR REPORT: Pence shared that he was aware we had re-submitted our CWF Soil Health grant and said we should know in December if we are awarded it. Let the group know there will be \$14K coming to each district in the state for soil health initiatives in the very near future. Also said BWSR Academy is coming up in October.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Absent

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl explained all the meetings will be held in person from now on. The last meeting went well probably because they are all in the same room.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared the public hearing was held and went well. The group is hoping to submit the plan to BWSR once they hear back from the districts and counties on the draft plan.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher explained they recently held a policy meeting and discussed different concerns in the watershed.
4. ACUB Working Group, July 19-22- Wettstein represented the district as Camp hosted the national ACUB Working Group.
5. Soil Health Field Day – August 10th – This event was very successful with almost 100 people in attendance, 75 of which were producers. Wettstein shared feedback from surveys they took.
6. Morrison County Conservation Bus Tour – August 24- Another event that went very well. Had 50 partners on the bus and had a full day. Wettstein shared pictures from the day with the board. Brutscher and Pence presented an award to Chisholm for 15 years of service at lunch that day.
7. National Association of Conservation District / REPI Funds FY2023 - \$375K – These funds will be available October/ November of 2022 and is more that Wettstein was anticipating. She will present a more detailed budget at the next meeting. The money is for outreach in the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape.

8. LCCMR Planting for the Future – Withdrew Application for Consideration – Wettstein explained because of the last items budget we have funding for this event and did not need to complicate things by managing another grant source.
9. Social Media Account Update – Mankowski put together a summary of the page and it has really grown since opening the page this summer. The posts are reaching over 2,000 people currently. Wettstein showed examples of what is going on the page.
10. BWSR Clean Water Fund Application – Denied; Resubmitting – This was already covered by Pence but Wettstein resubmitted this during the general round of the BWSR CWF period but there was still a special soil health category within it.
11. LSOHC Invitation for Presentation – ACUB \$5.5M, September 13th, St. Paul – Wettstein and BG Kruse will be going down to present for money for easements.
12. Fall Forestry Field Day – Invitation Mailing – The event on Saturday, October 1 is coming together and Wettstein just briefed the board that mailings would be going out this week encouraging people to register for the day.
13. Oak Wilt Update – Wilting Season and Treatment Plans – Noska is out working closely with the DNR to identify properties affected by oak wilt. They are speaking to these landowners, taking interest lists and compiling these sites in a map to help rank and determine which sites to start treatment on this fall.
14. Culvert Inventory Update–Surveys Completed (7,600 Culverts Surveyed; 2016 Project Start Date) – Becker has completed the field portion of this project after six years. It has been a huge project. A summary on this will be presented at a later meeting.
15. Kicked Off Project with University of Minnesota NRRI on CRSL Resiliency Mapping – Wettstein shared she is meeting with Will Bartsch and his team to provide data and direction on this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Cost Share Contracts – MSC Scholl/Saehr to approve all as listed. Motion passed.

a. David Brutscher	State Cost Share	\$2,250.00	Cover Crop
b. Joe Schilling	State Cost Share	\$1,500.00	Cover Crop
c. Bruce Barton	State Cost Share	\$540.00	Cover Crop
d. Jesse Brutscher	State Cost Share	\$2,250.00	Cover Crop
e. Heide Bruse	State Cost Share	\$357.50	Well Sealing
f. Peter Ratka	State Cost Share	\$1,800.00	Cover Crop
g. Keith Lorenz	State Cost Share	\$800.00	Cover Crop
2. Approve Cost Share Payments - None
3. Long Prairie River Watershed Resolution to Support Submitting Final Plan to BWSR – MSC Brutscher/Scholl to support. Motion passed. Wettstein said she will bring this to the commissioners and ask for their support as well.
4. Little Rock Creek Sustainable Groundwater Use – Update and SWCD Response to DNR. Wettstein explained some of the recent discussions with DNR and Benton SWCD on this topic and her and Scholl had met with Gerry Maciej and Benton SWCD Board member Chuck Rau recently to discuss the SWCD’s role. Out of this meeting, it was decided to draft a letter and have both boards review for submission to the state commissioner’s office.

5. Employee Benefits - Flexible Spending Account, Deferred Compensation, Daycare Pre-Tax – Wettstein shared that these benefits are spelled out in our employee policy and that the flexible spending account and deferred compensation plans are open and available to the staff and know how to participate. The daycare pre-tax option is currently not available as it would require a brokerage to administer the account. We do not have enough information yet on this option but will be gathering it for the board to review.
6. Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant – Approval to Apply, Platte River USFW Site – MSC Brutscher/Scholl. Motion passed. Wettstein shared this is a stream erosion site that USFW has known about for some time now.
7. Approve amended contract from HEI - \$15,000.00 – Wettstein explained that as part of the One Watershed One Plan for the Long Prairie Watershed there was an original contingency built into the award but was never budgeted. It was meant to cover cost overruns, but the plan development has been ahead of schedule and is on budget. With that in mind, the state does not want the money back, so it is available for us to use how the group sees fit. Wettstein asked the Long Prairie Policy Steering and Policy Committees and they would like to have HEI do some additional work as the plan transitions to implementation. MSC Brutscher/Scholl to amend the original contract. Motion passed.
8. Nominate Outstanding Conservationist Award – Wettstein presented three finalists to the board which had been voted on by SWCD and NRCS staff for their consideration and presented a brief biography on each nominee. The board discussed all three nominations and agreed that Don Tschida and his family should be selected due to their past works of conservation. Wettstein will submit to the MASWCD for the annual convention. MSC by Scholl/Brutscher to choose Don Tschida Family Farm. Motion passed. Morrison County has not presented an Outstanding Conservationist since 1990.
9. Nominate Wildlife Habitat Steward Award – One of the nominees presented previously has also done an exceptional amount of wildlife work on their property and this will be the first year this award is being offered. MSC Scholl/Brutscher to nominate Doug John for this award. Motion passed. Wettstein will submit this to MASWCD for consideration.
10. Sign management letter to auditor Michael Peterson – MSC Brutscher/Scholl to sign. Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Lance Chisholm Celebrates 15 years with the District
- Mississippi River Brainerd Policy Committee Meeting, Crow Wing County 2-4 PM
- Employee Appreciation Lunch, August 31st (Full Service Center Staff)
- CRSL State Agency Commissioner Coordinator Committee – August 31, Camp Ripley
- Morrison County Water Festival, September 20-21, Camp Ripley
- Area II Meeting/WCTSA Board Meeting, September 20th
- MACDE Board Meeting, Morrison County Commissioners Room, September 22nd
- Rum River Watershed Joint Powers Entity meeting, September 22nd Mille Lacs County Courthouse 5-7 PM
- Fall Forestry Field Day, October 1, Charlie Ehlen Property, Cushing Township
- BWSR Academy, October 25-27th, Cragun's Resort

Next meeting is Friday, September 23 at 8 AM at the Morrison SWCD office. Meeting Adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Dave Hubner, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, September 23, 2022
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Brutscher, Hubner, Saehr and Scholl; Commissioner Winscher;
Staff: Wettstein and Ringwelski; NRCS Staff: Hanson

Attending Virtually: Supervisor Faber (non-voting); BWSR: Chris Pence

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: MSC Saehr/Brutscher to approve as presented. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Ringwelski has been doing WCA, trainings and has helped with Pierz school district outreach recently. Wettstein shared staff have been working hard preparing for the Forestry Field Day and the Water Festival out at Camp Ripley. Hanson shared that the Reduction Inflation Act will be giving over double of the amount of funds to NRCS than what was supplied in the past. There is also a new Climate Smart Commodities program.

BWSR REPORT: Pence shared the progress of the One Watershed One Plan program and mentioned there are just a few watersheds left to start the planning process.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Winscher talked about public hearings for county ditch work that has been petitioned on CD15 and CD18. Gave an update on the preliminary levy which is proposed at 5.95%, union negotiations at the county, ARPA funds and shared there is a new Small Farms Educator with University of Minnesota Extension starting.

GUEST REPORT: BJ Allen, Region 5 Development Commission shared they can help with One Watershed One Plan implementation. They have qualified staff that could work across the watersheds and offer professional help, much like they currently do with other services like planning and zoning services for municipalities and counties. They also have staff available for pursuing grants in the region.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Zajac / Lakin Township WCA Appeal – In attendance were the Zajac brothers: Dan, Tim and Tom, and a representative from Lakin Township, Duane Britz. Wettstein presented the staff report and timeline and Dan Zajac agreed to her summary of the issue. Mr. Zajac also shared history on the road with the board. There was a lot of discussion, but the board agreed the township should consult an attorney and resolve the road issue in writing before resubmitting an application. MSC Saehr/Hubner to uphold the staff decision of denial of the WCA application. Chairman Scholl asked three times if there was any more discussion. Vote passed by roll call with all present members voting in favor of the motion. Faber did not vote.
2. Approve Cost Share Contracts – MSC Brutscher/Scholl to approve. Motion passed. Hubner abstained from voting.
 - a. Dave Hubner Cover Crop \$1,500.00
3. Approve Cost Share Payments – MSC Hubner/Brutscher to approve. Motion passed.
 - a. Jamie Litke Field Windbreak \$352.99
4. Approve Draft Audit from Michael Peterson – MSC Hubner/Scholl to table. Motion passed.

5. Draft Budget for National Association of Conservation District / REPI Funds FY2023 - \$375K – Wettstein shared the funds from REPI will be available after October as this is the beginning of the federal fiscal year. Funds would primarily be used for outreach and staff wages.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl shared they are retaining a private attorney to represent the entity and hiring a full-time coordinator. The group has asked for a work plan courtesy review by individual boards. Wettstein will bring this to the county board and go over this at our next board meeting.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber said the draft plan will be heard at the Northern Region BWSR Board meeting on October 5th.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Brutscher had no new business with the group this month.
4. CRSL State Agency Commissioner Coordinator Committee – August 31, Camp Ripley – Wettstein shared the General and other camp staff, as well as Todd Holman, the CRSL Coordinator hosted this meeting. It was well attended, and each state agency had two top representatives and Troy Daniell from NRCS attended. The meeting was an effort to align priorities with partner agencies and strengthen their commitment to the program by communicating success that has been achieved because of them.
5. LSOHC Invitation for Presentation – ACUB \$5.5M, September 13th, St. Paul – Wettstein and Brigadier General Lowell Kruse presented at the capitol for funding to secure easements around Camp Ripley. Recommendations will be announced before the next board meeting
6. Land Trust Alliance Rally – New Orleans September 14-17 – Wettstein thanked the board for allowing her to attend. The REPI team held several meetings at the Rally and most of the time was spent in those discussions with the other Sentinel Landscapes around the country.
7. Area II Meeting/WCTSA Board Meeting, September 20 - Staff member Beehler and Knopik attending this meeting. Amy Robak from Centra Sota presented on the partnership with the Morrison SWCD and Beehler's position.
8. Morrison County Water Festival, September 20-21, Camp Ripley - After a two-year break the Water Festival was held. All schools in Morrison County attended as well as a homeschool group. As was always historically done, the County Administrator and County Commissioners greeted the kids. The success of the event is due to the school's desire to attend, the presenters and Camp Ripley for hosting every year.
9. MACDE Board Meeting, Morrison County Commissioners Room, September 22- Hanson and Wettstein attended this. This is the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees and they discussed upcoming training opportunities, award recognition at the upcoming BWSR Academy and shared updates from each area. Hanson and Wettstein had the opportunity to present on work being done in Morrison County.
10. Oak Wilt Update – Wilting Season and Treatment Plans – DNR and staff member Noska have been working to identify oak wilt affected properties and will be making the recommendation for which properties will be offered grant monies to treat on their properties. Most of the oak death this year was caused by stress from the drought last summer and not oak wilt.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Fall Forestry Field Day, October 1, Charlie Ehlen Property, Cushing Township
- BWSR Academy, October 25-27th, Cragun's Resort

Next meeting is Friday, October 28 at 8 AM – USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

November meeting will land on Day After Thanksgiving

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Dave Hubner, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, October 28th, 2022
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

Attending In-Person: Supervisors: Brutscher, Faber and Scholl; Commissioner Winscher; Staff: Wettstein, Mankowski and Ringwelski; NRCS Staff: Hanson

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: MSC Brutscher/Scholl to approve as written. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: MSC Scholl/Brutscher to approve as presented. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Hanson shared they are doing CSP renewals right now and with the Inflation Reduction Act a lot more money will be coming to NRCS. Ringwelski stated he will have a field erosion project starting this late fall but they are now seeing lots of erosion issues in fields up by Randall now that crops are off. Ringwelski briefed the board on the rest of the staff.

BWSR REPORT: Absent

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Winscher said they received their first opioid check as part of the settlement, the CD18 project will be moving forward this winter and the Multi-use Veteran's State Trail has had setbacks and issues that are being communicated with the DNR and their contractor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Scholl explained right now they have the curtesy review of their workplan and then the Policy Committee will approve.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber shared the BWSR Board approved the final plan. Now it is up to everyone to adopt the plan.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update- No new updates.
4. Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Update – Wettstein shared they have not heard from Lakin Township or the Zajac brothers, so no news. Also commented that a violation that has been on the books for over a year has now been restored out in Green Prairie.
5. Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Recommendation to the Legislature - Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Phase 11 – ACUB for \$1,877,000 – This number could still change but Wettstein shared this money would be available next July for easements.
6. Forestry Field Day Recap, October 1 – Wettstein summarized the day and showed the segment from Lakeland News. The event had over 100 people in attendance and was very successful.
7. Nitrate Testing Clinic, October 17-21 – Mankowski gave the summary and reported 103 Morrison County wells were tested, down from our last couple of rounds. The clinic was held at the courthouse again. Wettstein asked the board if they would prefer it continue to be held at the courthouse or if it moves back to the office and it was decided to be a staff decision. Testing was moved to the courthouse during the pandemic and has been held there two times a year since then.
8. Little Rock Creek Response Letter from DNR Commissioner – Commissioner Strommen did reply to the both the Benton and Morrison Boards and is arranging a meeting to further discuss. Wettstein asked the board if they are interested in meeting with a bunch of DNR staffers because her concern is it will not be so much of a DNR listening to the boards than a DNR staff talking to the boards. The direction from the board was they would like to meet with the commissioner to share their concerns.

9. Tschida Family Farm Conservationist of the Year Nomination Selected to be the Area 2 Winners – This is a huge achievement and Wettstein said they are now eligible to receive the state award which will be announced at the annual convention.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approve Cost Share Contracts – No new contracts
2. Approve Cost Share Payments - MSC Scholl/Brutscher to approve all. Motion passed.
 - a. State Cost Share Keith Lorenz Cover Crop \$800.00
 - b. State Cost Share Doug Lorenz Cover Crop \$800.00
 - c. State Cost Share Pete Ratka Cover Crop \$1,800.00
 - d. State Cost Share Joe Schilling Cover Crop \$1,500.00
 - e. State Cost Share Heidi Bruse Well Sealing \$239.50
3. Cancel Cost Share Contracts – MSC Brutscher/Scholl to cancel. Motion passed.
 - a. Dennis Thoma Cover Crop \$400.00
4. Approve Draft Audit from Michael Peterson – MSC Brutscher/Scholl to approve. Motion passed.
5. MASWCD Annual Meeting – December 12-14, Bloomington Double Tree Hotel, Registration Deadline December 1 – Wettstein asked the board to think about if they will be able to attend and she will follow up with them to reserve tickets and register. No action needed at this time.
6. MASWCD Resolutions Packet – Vote on Policy Recommendations – Board voted on each resolution. Wettstein will submit the tally to the association.
7. Courtesy Work Plan Review for Rum River One Watershed One Plan Implementation
8. Adopt Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan – MSC Brutscher/Scholl to adopt. Motion passed.
9. Sign on to Long Prairie One Watershed Implementation Phase One Plan Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) – MSC Scholl/Brutscher to sign on as a member. Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL:

- BWSR Academy, October 25-27th, Cragun's Resort
- Morrison SWCD Annual Tree Sale Open House – Tuesday, January 3rd

Next meeting is Friday, November 18* at 8 AM – USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

***November regular scheduled meeting would have landed the Day After Thanksgiving**

Meeting Adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Dave Hubner, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING
Friday, November 18th, 2022
8:00 a.m.
USDA Service Center, Morrison SWCD Office

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

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: MSC Brutscher/Scholl to approve as written. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Members discussed the options of moving funds from the district checking account into a higher interest-bearing account through the Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund or 4M which is currently between 4.3-4.8% for different length CD's and 3.5% for money market accounts. MSC Saehr/Scholl to move \$250,000 into 4M account by the end of the year into a 24 month CD. MSC Saehr/Brutscher to approve treasures report as presented. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS: Ringwelski reported on district staff contributions and workload with Beehler and Ringwelski certifying cover crop plantings, Mankowski and Chisholm busy with landowner meetings with easements, Becker compiling summer culvert work, working on several erosion sites and working with Ringwelski on WCA and Buffer Law and Knopik getting ready for the tree sale. Noska is scheduling plowing with Pioneer Tree and cutting diseased trees. Hanson shared they are working on CSP renewals and sending out CSP payments. They are planning for EQIP apps and CSP planning for 2023

BWSR REPORT: Pence shared 400 people attended BWSR Academy this year. BWSR also has a couple of new grant opportunities available for non-governmental and tribal partners which closes on February 23.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Shared they are re-negotiating union contracts, that Crane Meadows is looking for board members and that he is still meeting with DNR on the Veterans State Multi-Use Trail.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update – Nothing new to report.
2. Long Prairie One Watershed One Plan Update – Faber reported commissioners and supervisors from the watershed partners were approving the final plan and that the next step is for the BWSR Board to approve the plan.
3. Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Update – Nothing new to report.
4. BWSR Academy, October 25-27th, Cragun's Resort – Staff attended this training and met to discuss sessions in an after-action review of the trainings. Staff felt the academy was worthwhile and it was good to be in person.
5. MASWCD Convention Logistics – Wettstein is looking for commitments to attend the annual meeting by the end of the month. Tschida's are planning to attend to receive their award for the Regional Outstanding Conservationists of the Year.
6. BWSR Soil Health Grant - \$14,175.00 – All districts across Minnesota will be receiving this amount to advance soil health within their counties. Wettstein reminded the board that we also applied for a separate competitive pool of money for cover crops from BWSR and we will find out in December if that is awarded. This will help save some of our state cost share

funds for other projects as this year we have used state cost share monies to start our cover crop program.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Cost Share Contracts – No new contracts
2. Approve Cost Share Payments – MSC Saehr/Scholl to approve. Hubner and Brutscher abstained on the vote. Motion passed.
 - a. State Cost Share Jesse Brutscher \$1,500.00 Cover Crop
 - b. State Cost Share David Brutscher \$1,500.00 Cover Crop
 - c. State Cost Share David Hubner \$1,500.00 Cover Crop
 - d. State Cost Share Bruce Barton \$540.00 Cover Crop
3. Cancelled Cost Share Contract – MSC Scholl/Hubner to cancel. Motion passed.
 - a. State Cost Share Blake Moren \$1,500.00 Cover Crop
4. Vehicle Purchase – Brandl Motors, \$40,466 (Plus Fees and Applicable Taxes) for Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Cab 4 x 4. MSC Saehr/Hubner to purchase the truck with the purchase price not to exceed \$50,000.
5. Review Bids for Website – Three bids were received which outlined website and design services for a new website. Bids varied greatly in cost for similar services. Knopik and Wettstein talked with all three firms on what they would be able to offer and what the end product would look like and how it would be maintained. Wettstein is recommending the board go with Red Canoe Creative as not only was their bid the most reasonable but of demonstrated projects with a neighboring SWCD. Pence also spoke highly of the firm and the work they have done for Area 8. MSC Hubner/Scholl to select Red Canoe Creative. Motion Passed.
6. Sourcewell Internship Program, Summer 2023 – Wettstein asked the board if they would support not having an intern for the summer. Board was supportive. No action required.
7. Approve Final Audit – MSC Brutscher/Scholl to approve the 2021 audit. Motion passed.
8. December Meeting – No meeting is scheduled at this time. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27th.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan Policy Meeting November 22 at Crow Wing County Courthouse
- Rum River One Watershed One Plan Policy Meeting, November 30
- MASWCD Annual Convention, December 12-14, Double Tree, Bloomington
- Morrison SWCD Annual Tree Sale Open House – Wednesday, January 4th
- Area 2 Meeting, Tuesday, February 7, 2023 Morrison SWCD to host at Little Falls Ballroom

Meeting Adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Dave Hubner, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Friday, December 23, 2022

USDA County Offices

NO DECEMBER SWCD BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD.