

# MORRISON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, January 28, 2016  
9:00 a.m.

## USDA COUNTY OFFICES

### **PRESENT:**

**Supervisors:** Stangl, Faber and Brutscher (Absent: Dahmen)

**Staff:** Ringwelski, Hanson and McLennan

**Commissioner:** Randy Winscher

### **RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:**

1. Official Date, Time and Location of Meetings: MSC by Stangl/Brutscher to keep the official time as fourth Thursday of each month, 9:00 a.m., USDA County Offices.
2. Per Diem and Mileage: MSC by Brutscher/Stangl to set full board or over ½ day meetings at \$75, payroll or committee meetings at \$25. Mileage at the current IRS rate of \$.54.
3. Official Newspaper: MSC by Brutscher/Stangl to name the Morrison County Record.
4. Official Depositories: MSC by Stangl/Brutscher to name Bank of the West for checking purposes, Stifel-Nichlaus for investments and all other banks of Morrison County for investments.
5. Committee Assignments: Will be Postponed Until Claude Returns
6. Annual Resolution Approving the Local Water Plan and District's Annual Plan: MSC by Stangl/Brutscher to approve the LWP as the District's annual plan.
7. Delegation of State Cost Share Signing Authority: MSC by Brutscher/Stangl to continue delegating contract and state cost share signing authority to the District Manager.
8. Minimum Fund Balance Approval: MSC by Stangl/Brutscher to maintain the minimum Fund Balance for FY2016 will be 3 months of Operating Expenditures. (ie: Operating Exp. for FY2016, divided by 12, times 3 months {see attached}).
9. Capital Assets Policy of Threshold Approval: MSC by Brutscher/Stangl to set the FY2016 Capital Assets Policy Report, \$500.00 and above will remain the level of threshold documented, for depreciation, for all purchases by Morrison SWCD.

**Secretary's Minutes:** December 17, 2015 MSC by Stangl/Brutscher to approve as read

**Treasurer's Report:** MSC by Brutscher/Stangl to approve as presented.

### **Staff Reports:**

Josh said they have conducted 264 CSP reviews, ranked 43 EQIP applications, and paid 89 CSP payments in January.

Alan stated that he had done two environmental reviews in January, one for Eugene Trapp for a new hog operation and for Peter Klaphake who will be re-opening two former turkey barns in Parker Township. There has been a lot of interest in reforestation projects. He shared two maps created by Lance, of state cost share work and Little Rock Watershed projects that were done in 2015.

Helen stated that she had listened in to the webinar on the buffer mapping and requested that the county create shapefiles if possible of the benefit areas of public drainage systems. She's also begun the re-writing process for the Local Water Plan. She and LeaAnn were working on all necessary YE reports that are due at this time of year. She also received word that the Variano project may be funded by NRCS in 2016.

Commissioner Randy Winscher attended the Little Rock Watershed meeting in a church in Rice put on by DNR. Citizens were asked to submit ideas they had to address the watershed problems. He explained why the county and Camp Ripley are seeking a legal decision of ordinance control within Camp Ripley borders. He also spoke of the revenue that should be received with contracting out jail space.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. DNR Buffer Mapping Update: Helen shared the discussion held and said preliminary maps might be available as early as February. Many districts have already used the seed money to hire additional staff but she felt it was a little premature when certain things like "alternative practices" had not even been defined.
2. Mississippi River Sartell and Brainerd Monitoring Schedule: Helen and LeaAnn had participated in a conference call of the monitoring plans for the two watersheds. Aitkin SWCD will take the fiscal responsibilities of the Miss. Brainerd and Morrison SWCD will be the lead on the Miss Sartell efforts. She explained the process of data collection, what is being monitored and how the WRAP plan might lead to a TMDL depending on the test results.
3. Surface Water Assessment Grant Application: The district's application was unsuccessful but can be resubmitted next go around.
4. Discussion on Board Appointment: Helen explained that in referencing the Supervisor's handbook, it appears that boards "shall" appoint in the event of a vacancy on the board. Therefore, the board directed Helen to run an ad announcing the vacancy and once closed, the board will interview interested candidates and appoint. The appointee would then fill out the remaining months of the term held by Cindy Anez and run in the next general election for the seat.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Cost Share Applications MSC to approve the following:
  - a. Tom Theis #6-16 Sediment Basins \$2,500.00
  - b. Nadya Gotvald #7-16 Re-Forestation \$1,205.01
  - c. Zach Baert #8-16 Well Decommissioning \$ 150.00
  - d. Mutts Timber #9-16 Re-Forestation \$2,500.00
2. Cost Share Policy: Minimum, Maximum, Number of Times Per Landowner  
Helen shared that there is only \$4,000 remaining in state cost share funds until the next allocation in the fall. Therefore, staff had been kicking around recommendations on how to make the funds spread further. There is discussion on a minimum, but that would rule out most well sealing and they are highly encouraged so a bit of a contradiction. After discussion the board set the following policy on a motion by Stangl, second by Brutscher to establish the following policy:
  - 1. There will be a three time maximum for any one landowner.**
  - 2. Cost share rates for all practices will be 50% only, not to exceed \$2,500 total. If there are occasions when a higher amount is to be considered it will be brought to the board with documented explanation and why it should be prioritized at a higher amount.**
3. Staffing the LCCMR Grant Initiative: Helen said she is seeking an answer with LCCMR whether a staff hire could be made prior to the grant release of funds if subsidized by the district. But in the event that is not allowed, she will be bringing a job description and wage recommendation for the board to approve in the spring with perhaps interviews set up with a new hire being selected but not hired until after July 1, 2016.
4. Vehicle Purchase Approval: MSC by Brutscher/Stangl to approve the purchase of another vehicle with a budget of \$25,000.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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Tom Brutscher, Secretary

**MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, February 25, 2016  
9:00 a.m.**

**USDA County Offices**

**PRESENT:**

**Supervisors:** Dahmen, Faber, Brutscher, Stangl and Hubner

**Staff:** Hanson and McLennan

**Commissioner:** Randy Winscher

**BOARD APPOINTMENT ACTION:** MSC by Faber/Brutscher to appoint David Huber to fill the vacancy left by Cynthia Anez from District 5. Dave will serve until the next general election.

**CHAIRMAN'S APPOINTMENTS:** (Claude Assigned the Following Committees)

Finance Committee	Bill and Marvin
Personnel Committee	Claude and Dave
Water Plan Representative	Tom
WCTSA	Claude
Irrigation/Little Rock	Dave and Tom

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES:** MSC by Brutscher/Stangl to approve as read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** MSC by Brutscher/Hubner to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Helen shared that she is continuing to work on the Local Water Plan and may work one day a week from home to get it done without interruptions. She's had a lot of meetings the past two months that are also a constant interruption.

Josh reported there were 41 EQIP apps ranked, 58 CSP renewals from 2012, 50 new 2016 CSP application and the deadline for CSP is March 31<sup>st</sup>. He also handed out the EEO information as an annual reminder to make sure all applicants are treated equally and fairly.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Randy said the commissioners were a little concerned about the process of conditional use permitting and variances. They want to assure landowners are treated kindly and fairly. They have some conflict on tribal owned land and are being requested to relinquish the \$16,000 property tax revenue.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Little Rock Watershed Advisory Committee: Helen reported that she's been asked by DNR project manager to serve on the one year committee that is to develop a plan of recommended action on what if anything should be done to improve ground water and surface water quality. Commissioner Kevin Mauer will also be serving on the committee.
2. WCA Report – Status of Violations and Conflicts: Tim Stoltman asked for an extension to the end of March. Willard was done and needed to be certified and released. Radziej will be resumed this spring.
3. Sentinel Landscape Update: The committee met on the February 23<sup>rd</sup> and there is new involvement from NRCS, USFW and MN Dept. of Ag. The boundary has been set at a 10 mile radius around camp and if it gets a federal designation, then funding will perhaps follow the programs.
4. Planning and Zoning Applications of Interest: Helen shared about the owners of a rotting cabin on Fish Trap Lake that was slowly sinking into the ground. It is surrounded by lake on three sides and wants to build the lot up in order to rebuild. It would involve DNR, setbacks, grade and fill and most likely wetland mitigation to be approved.
5. Irrigation Clinic: Benton had hosted another irrigation clinic that was well attended by Morrison Co. farmers and speakers were from the U of M.
6. Drainage Workshop (Rinke-Noonen Hosted) Helen said the workshop was very informative on drainage maintenance rights on public and private drainage, as well as addressed the new buffer law. Several of our township boards had attended.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. State Cost Share Applications: Daniel Sauer           \$600 Well Sealing (denied)  
MSC by Faber/Brutscher to deny since the landowner is receiving  
90% cost share from MPCA.
2. Area 2 Meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>, in Benton County (location to be determined) Helen asked the board to check their calendars and let her know who would be attending. Registration will be in March.
3. Bridges to Opportunity Participation Agreement: Helen explained the push of FSA to become a clearing house of serving landowners on what agencies to contact for different information.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

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Tom Brutscher, Secretary

## MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 24, 2016  
9:00 a.m.

### USDA County Offices

#### **PRESENT:**

**Supervisors:** Faber, Brutscher, Dahmen, Hubner and Stangl

**Staff:** Hanson, Ringwelski and McLennan

**Commissioner:** Randy Winscher

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** MSC Hubner/Brutscher to approve as presented.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

Alan shared the number of new feedlot applications that are coming forward and the unusual one of "organic poultry" and what that means. WCA is picking up already. LeaAnn had placed another tree order in the paper and people were coming in fast to order trees with the change in weather.

Helen shared that she continues to work on the water plan and will be sending out a draft copy to partners soon for review and hold a LWP team meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>. She's also working with the Public Works staff to develop what tools will be needed for the drainage management planning and what software should be purchased. Some of the equipment will be purchased soon and a job posting in late April to hire a 2 year civil engineering technician. She also shared the planning status of the Kasek/Court project was and how many times it had to be re-designed.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Randy shared the information regarding the Fish Trap Lake Campground approaching the county to keep the number of docks they had prior to their CUP approval for more campsites and agreed as a condition to reduce the number. They were also approached by the Weyerhaeuser Museum to ask for funds to match any possible grant funds to fix the erosion problem on the Mississippi River. He also shared the situation with a manure pipeline operated by Dean Zimmerman and that they hopefully have a peaceful resolution with the Rinkel Mudfest operation.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Mississippi River Monitoring – Brainerd and Sartel WRAP Planning Kickoff Meetings:
  - a. April 7<sup>th</sup> in Rice for Sartel
  - b. May 19<sup>th</sup> in Brainerd for Brainerd

These two kick off events are open to the public and are held in locations that will appeal to the larger populations. Agencies will be represented to share how the monitoring process will work.

2. Mervin Eisel Property – MN Fishing Museum has been asked if they would be interested in the Mervin Eisel Property if donated. The bulk of the property is in an ACUB (LSOHC)

easement but the property has two public water lakes confined by Eisel property. He would like to see ownership after he's gone to stay in its present habitat but perhaps be open to youth groups for fishing and camping. The Fishing Museum was seeking advice on what a management plan should include.

3. Little Rock Groundwater Management Planning Team: The team was extremely distrustful and vocal but the second meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to develop a management plan recommendation to the state legislature to assure ground water quantity and quality. The irrigators are very concerned that their use might be limited in the future.
4. Bi-Annual Budget Request: Lance is working on the required BBR which allows BWSR to establish the financial needs of districts to meet their workload and water plan goals.
5. Ag BMP Loan Program Status: Helen shared that nearly \$800,000 is available in the revolving loan fund for landowners to borrow at 3% to do water quality projects or purchase minimum tillage equipment.
6. Vehicle Purchase: The board had approved the purchase of the vehicle via a phone call and a 2015 Chevy Equinox with AWD was purchased. Brutscher asked about the status of the Ford 150. It is a 2005 and has about 96,000 miles on it. It will serve fine for a while longer.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Little Rock Cost Share Application: Shawn Winscher        \$1500 Cover Crop  
MSC by Stangl/Faber to approve and forward the application to Benton SWCD.
2. Area 2 Registration: Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> in Foley: Dave, Marvin, Claude, Helen, and Terry will attend.
3. Storage for Tree Garage Equipment Options: Helen explained that the tree garage supplies are stored at her home and some at LeaAnn's and Alan's homes as well. Helen will be selling her home and would like the equipment to be stored elsewhere after tree garage season this year. Several options were presented. Randy said the county might have some space and will check on that. A motion was made by Brutscher/Stangl to approve the building of a shed on the trailer owned by the District if the county doesn't have space and then materials could be transported back and forth from year to year and be all together. It would be desirable to have it stored at either a county facility or USFW though so it doesn't get vandalized or the tires weather badly.
4. TEP Report: The March TEP approved a number of Public Works projects scheduled for 2016.
5. Water Plan Update Meeting: April 7<sup>th</sup> @ Government Center; 9:30 - 12:30 p.m. Helen will check with Commissioner Mike Wilson who he is appointing for his district.
6. Client Gateway – NRCS Request – Josh explained the program and asked if any of the supervisors would be willing to try the on-line process. None responded at this time but took the material home to review.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

# MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 28, 2016

9:00 a.m.

## USDA County Offices

### **PRESENT:**

**Supervisors:** Brutscher, Dahmen, Stangl, Faber and Hubner

**Commissioner:** Randy Winscher

**BWSR BC:** Maggie Leach

**Staff:** McLennan

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES:** MSC by Stangl/Faber.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** MSC by Hubner/Stangl.

**INTRODUCTION OF MAGGIE LEACH,** BWSR BC has recently left MPCA to join the BWSR staff and very busy trying to catch up on her districts and the new approved legislation that will affect districts and BWSR. She was formerly with the Pennington SWCD several years ago and was the Project Manager for the Little Rock TMDL so she's aware of some of the challenges in watershed planning.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

Helen shared that the rest of the staff were in the tree garage preparing for Friday pick up. She and Lance had been fielding the other workload. Most topics were on the agenda.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Randy shared that there were some drainage issues between landowners in his district and the county was beginning the 2017 budget process. He was interest in hearing about how the buffer law finally shaped up.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Environmental Reviews –The district had performed three new environmental reviews for two hogs and one poultry operation and another hog barn review will be due in May. That makes 7 reviews already this year for large scale feedlots. The Leidenfrost barn has a pretty vocal opponent in the neighborhood.
  - a. Brian Boser, Alan Lanner, Robert Leidenfrost (April)
  - b. Bradley Piekarski (May)
2. Local Water Plan Meeting Re-cap: Twenty eight people had attended the meeting between agency partners and citizen representatives and a lot of good feedback was shared. Helen recommended getting some help on the actual writing for a recently retired SWCD Manager from Mower County, Bev Nordby. Bev has agreed to work, pending board approval. The rate will be \$30/hr and Helen estimated that it would



likely not take more than a month to put the information into final format. With so many new projects on the horizon, writing it herself seems nearly impossible. MSC by Brutscher/Faber to approve the contracting.

3. ACUB Funding Level for 2016: Helen shared that an additional \$2,000,000 had been allocated to BWSR in addition to the \$1.3million already received this year. In addition there is Phase 5 and 6 LSOHC funds to encumber. Hopefully Camp Ripley is going to do another landowner outreach since some of the available list has faltered in their interest.
4. Technical Evaluation Panel: The TEP visited the two sites listed and Restoration Orders will be prepared. In addition, another Restoration Order was served to a landowner who had purchased tax forfeiture property up by the lakes and now learned it had no building capacity at all. He will be required to remove his driveway.
  - a. Randy Radziej
  - b. Keith Lorenz
5. Area 2 Meeting Re-cap / WCTSA Report – Dave said a lot of information was shared and he found it interesting. Marvin, Claude, Terry and Helen had attended as well. The legislative report was pretty intense.
6. MPCA Mini Audit of the Clean Water Partnership Grant for the Platte River: Peter Fastner and Phil Votruba had visited the office to review the reporting requirements on the George Lancaster property and visited the site. They were very impressed with the speed and large partnership that had worked together to get the job completed in less than a year.
7. Tree Garage Storage: The Co Hwy Dept. did not have storage so the district will still be looking for an enclosed trailer if tarping our flat trailer seems insufficient.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Job Posting for Civil Engineering Technician: Helen shared a job description and posting for the technical who will be working with the Drainage Mgt. Plan and assisting on the buffer law. Steve Backowski has been extremely helpful in working with the district on this project. MSC by Stangl/Hubner to approve the posting. It will now be posted in Morrison County Record, St. Cloud Times, and through our MASWCD network as well as sent to area colleges.
2. Little Rock Payment Approval: Alan Lanners                      LR49-04-15        \$10,010.50  
State Cost Share Payment Approval: Zach Baert            #08-16            \$150.00  
MSC by Hubner/Brutscher to approve the project completion and submit to Benton SWCD for payment.
3. Legislative Update: Helen shared the status of the buffer law and the timelines that will be mandatory. She also identified the responsibility of the SWCD to identify other buffering needs and the inclusion as an amendment to the LWP by July, 2018.
4. Nitrate Clinic – May 4<sup>th</sup> for Royalton Green Fair and Week of May 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> in the Office
5. Local Work Group Meeting - May 24<sup>th</sup> (Tom)
6. Election Reminder – May 17<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> (Tom, Bill and Dave)

Meeting Adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

# MORRISON SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Thursday, May 26, 2016  
9:00 a.m.

## USDA COUNTY OFFICES

### **PRESENT:**

**Supervisors:** Dahmen, Faber, Brutscher, Stangl and Hubner

**Commissioner:** Randy Winscher

**Staff:** Hanson, Ringwelski and McLennan

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES:** MSC by Faber/Stangl to approve as read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** MSC by Brutscher/Hubner to approve as presented.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

Josh reported on 38 new EQIP applications, 50 new CSP. They are beginning spot checks. He described the workload practices involved this year.

Alan said the Tom Theis sediment basins were completed. A number of shoreline residents have been calling regarding erosion and/or other problems. Wetland calls were being done.

Helen shared a photo of an example of some of the wetland site visits that get requested. On one, the elevation of the water surrounding the lot was higher than the ordinary high and the applicant wants to put in a driveway. Even many permits issued get exceeded and it is a never ending struggle. She's working on the Water Plan guidance to writer Bev Nordby, the Varianno contract with NRCS, and spot checks for RIM/ACUB.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Randy Winscher spoke about the conflicts and timelines of public hearings both with Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission. Ideas were expressed about excessive odor issues when compounding the number of large scale operations in a given area.

**SPECIAL GUEST:** Peter Gillitzer, MN Dept. of Agriculture, presented on the Water Quality Certification Program roll-out in July. They have hired some area certification specialists. This brings additional EQIP and Clean Water Funding to the area. They will be working with 5-6 irrigators in Morrison who will be paid via Stearns SWCD for management, channeled through the district.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Tree Program Summary: The summary showed nearly a \$10,000 increase in profit over the 2015 program. Net income this year was \$25,734.
2. Nitrate Clinic Summary: It was a very active clinic this year with over 180 samples brought in and the usual rate of 15-17% failing drinking standards. 34 systems were tested that had Reverse Osmosis systems already installed and two of those showed no need for the system but the other 32 did indeed need treatment.

3. Technical Evaluation Panel Findings: Downs Tyler and Darrell Kirt conflict was resolved this month and the TEP is assisting in writing the Restoration orders for Lorenz and Radziej.
4. Royaltown Youth Summary Green Fair: It was a good attempt but not many people attended this year. Helen and Lance took the nitrate equipment to do water samples.
5. Sentinel Landscape Federal Designation and What It Means: Helen and Josh explained the additional USDA dollars that will likely occur due to the designation. It expands the borders to a HUC 12 outline, which equates to about 10 miles.
6. Board of Adjustment Decisions and Planning Commission Recommendations: Helen shared that most approved applicants are sent to the district for either erosion control plans or storm water plans and she and Alan had been to quite a few sites already this year.
7. Jane Varriano Project Status – The funding has been approved through NRCS to go ahead with this erosion project but the engineer needs to determine if the previous design is still adequate and a cultural survey needs to be performed before bids can be let. Helen is working on the contract with NRCS Engineer Scott Swanberg.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Job Posting Status: Helen shared that no applications had been received yet and it may force a second posting.
2. Radio Show Resurrection: For the past month, KLTF/KFML is once again doing a weekly radio spot that airs at noon on Thursdays.
3. Restoration Orders for Wetland Conservation Act:
  - A. Randy Radziej: Very disturbed and complicated site to measure.
  - B. Keith Lorenz: Has been served and a ditch plug ordered.
  - C. Joseph Gulseth: Has been served but no response as yet.
  - D. David Stich: Will be required to fill the ditches back in to previous elevations and remove all the fill in the meadow.
4. County Budget Allocation Request (Presently \$95,000) MSC by Brutscher/Faber to request the same amount as 2016.
5. Cost Share Approval for City of Little Falls – Remaining CWF-2013 Funds, est. \$14,000 MSC by Hubner/Stangl to approve.
6. Cost Share Re-Approval: MSC by Hubner/Stangl
  - a. #10-16 Jane Varriano \$2,500 Shoreline Restoration
7. Cost Share Cancellation: #LR-49-03-15 James Kloss MSC by Brutscher/Faber
8. Cost Share Payment Approvals: MSC by Hubner/Faber to approve:
 

a. Mutts Hill Timber (Joseph LeBlanc)	Reforestation #9-16	\$2,500.00
b. Doug Carlson	Reforestation #3-16	\$2,500.00
c. Chad Donner	Reforestation #4-16	\$1,728.00
d. Lance Kurowski	Reforestation #2-16	\$2,472.00
e. Nadya Gotvald	Reforestation #7-16	\$1,205.00
f. Ray Ginter	Reforestation #5-16	\$1,446.00
g. George Lancaster	Riparian Buffer CWF#13-186	\$1,595.76
h. Tom Theis	Sed basins #6-16	\$2,500.00
9. John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director, Visit to Little Falls - July 1<sup>st</sup>, Site To Be Determined.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

# MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 23, 2016  
9:00 a.m.

## USDA County Offices

### **PRESENT:**

**Supervisors:** Dahmen, Brutscher, Stangl and Hubner (**Absent:** Faber)

**Commissioner:** Randy Winscher

**BWSR Conservationist:** Maggie Leach

**Staff:** Ringwelski and McLennan

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES:** MSC by Brutscher/Hubner to approve as read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** MSC by Hubner/Stangl to approve as presented.

**STAFF REPORTS:** Helen reported on all of the ordinance violations and wetland violations that were found on Lake Shamineau. Eleven (11) sites were found on one road and a severe bluff violation. Three will be wetland violation and the rest will be county ordinance violations. A contact was made to the lake association president and to the Lake Improvement District. The new lake association president was very supportive of a pro-active approach to keep it from continuing. The LID was not interested in helping with working with their landowners. A letter from the District will be mailed to every Shamineau owner to try to stop the illegal activity.

Alan said that considerable time was being spent to help landowners meet conditions placed on them with variance or CUP approvals. He and Lance are working on the CWF application due in July. Cost share spot checks are being made. Also a few more people working towards certification of the MWQACP program.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Randy Winscher reported on working towards a new airport road and all of the partners involved. There were some violations at the Rinkel mud-fest and so they are working with some new conditions before a permit will be issued for Labor Day. The county is doing a facility study on spacing needs and also looking at doing some possible restructuring of the staffing in the Assessor's Office and Planning and Zoning to improve efficiency.

**BWSR REPORT:** Maggie Leach gave a BWSR update. The CWF application period will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> - August 8<sup>th</sup>. She confirmed that the visit by John Jaschke will be Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at the courthouse. She said there are also additional buffer training sessions that will be announced. There are 7 fact sheets regarding the buffer laws on the BWSR website and mapping is on the DNR website now. The BWSR board approved many of the grants this month, including additional capacity opportunities, NRBG, and

others. They hope the additional funding will continue. She said she would forward the language regarding the leverage capacity funds that counties will be considering.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Varriano Status of Project: A cultural survey has been requested from the low bid company. No date has been scheduled.
2. Water Plan Update: Bev Nordby will be bringing a draft to meet with Helen on July 12<sup>th</sup>. A timeframe of late fall approval is the target for completion. There will have to be a time for review, a public hearing, county board approval, BWSR approval, and then final adoption. Once that is done, then every municipality gets it for approval.
3. Wetland Conservation Act – Helen shared that the Restoration Order for Radziej was so complicated that it took a lot of assistance from Cade to write. It was sent to the attorney representing Radziej and to the assistant County Attorney since it appears that it will all be litigated. Other restoration orders are also under timelines and new ones to prepare on the Shamineau sites.
4. Little Rock Cost Share Funding Amendment: MSC by Brutscher/Hubner to approve.
  - a. Jim Schlicting #LR49-02-15 \$5,406.25 for a Total of \$9,896.26
5. Little Rock Cost Share Cancellation: Dale Scholl LR #49-01-15 \$13,484.50 MSC by Stangl/Brutscher to cancel. This project had adequate federal funding and was not eligible for additional dollars. It will be a site on the August 10<sup>th</sup> tour.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Ob Well Report – Lance (postponed until July)
2. Tour Details: (August 10<sup>th</sup>) Helen and Alan outline all the possible sites that are being lined up. Brochures and final invitations will be prepared and sent by mid-July. There should be between 40 - 45 attendees. Andy's Tour bus has been reserved.
3. Engineering Tech Hiring Approval: Michael Becker \$23/hr, beginning July 10<sup>th</sup>, MSC by Brutscher/Stangl to approve. This position will be funded by the LCCMR grant and accelerated capacity award. It is hopeful to work into a permanent position.
4. Little Rock Cost Share Payment Approval: James Schlicting #LR49-02-15 \$9,896.26
5. Financial Audit Scheduled – July 6<sup>th</sup>, Peterson Company, LTD, has been retained again. Michael Peterson/ Samantha Woken.
6. Ob Well Renewal: Helen shared the new contract sent and said it was a break-even point and pretty time consuming. She wasn't sure whether to recommend it or not. The data collected is important but it's a feeling that DNR feels someone else should do their work and not adequately be compensated for it and were rather demanding about the times they wanted it done with little consideration for what the district's workload is. Tom Brutscher recommended just sitting on it for a time and determine whether we wanted to continue or not.
7. Vacation Approval for Helen: MSC by Brutscher/Stangl to approve the final two weeks of July. A July meeting will only be held if there is action to take that can't hold over until August.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, July 28, 2016  
9:00 a.m.**

**USDA County Offices**

**NO JULY SWCD BOARD MEETING WAS HELD**

## MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, August 25, 2016

9:00 am

USDA County Offices

### **PRESENT:**

**Supervisors:** Dahmen, Faber, Brutscher, Stangl and Hubner

**Commissioner:** Randy Winscher

**Staff:** McLennan, Ringwelski, Becker and Hanson

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES:** MSC by Faber/Stangl to approve as read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** MSC by Brutscher/Faber to approve as presented.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

Helen stated that she and Lance will be reviewing and editing the Local Water Plan next week and should have a final draft version for comment by end of September. The tour, LSOHC hearing, Budget hearing, working with Mike on the LCCMR project, developing the Sentinel Landscape goals etc. had been her primary workload.

Alan is working with contractors and landowners to try to get the WCA violations restored. He's also worked with several landowners on their buffers as conditions to county permits. The state cost share inspections are complete and no problems were found. The Varriano project is still waiting to start and contractors are saying it may be too wet to begin.

Josh said they have 49 re-enrollments in CSP since the last meeting. There are 30 new EQIP practices approved and a nice variety of projects, 38 CRP contracts, 4 RCCP warbler habitat projects.

Mike gave a demonstration of what the LCCMR drainage management plan will likely provide. The spreadsheets for Little Twp were shared and the equipment used is really impressive. The project development team which is Mike, Helen, the County Public Works and the RT Vision owner, Tom Girtz are continuing to tweak what else might be needed or streamlines. Helen has it set up with the Annual Twp Board meeting in Oct to show townships what this will provide. Mike will also demonstrate in March at the Area 2 meeting.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Randy reported on the LID hearing for Lake Shamineau, the Comp Plan approval, the airport road project, Glen Erickson retiring which is allowing the county to look at a restructure of Planning and Zoning and the Assessor's Office. He also shared the issue of the sludge waste disposal for the Ethanol Plant.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Tour Re-Cap: The tour will be posted on the SWCD website and 43 people had attended. The board was impressed and all feedback from the partners had been really positive. Helen said Alan, Carrie and LeaAnn had done a great job of planning and putting it together.
2. County Budget Hearing: Helen and LeaAnn had met with the county board to discuss the budget request and the leverage possibilities. The Public Works offered up office space for Mike and Joe Byrne, the County IT Specialist, are working on possible connections to the county internet connections.
3. Clean Water Fund Application Total: Helen shared the summary of the CWF application that Lance and Alan had submitted which included Swan River Watershed projects, Little Falls storm water management, and projects targeted in the Rum River Watershed. Total of the application was \$1,042,000.00
4. Buffer Training Recap of August 22<sup>nd</sup>: Helen, Alan, and Mike attended the training held in St. Cloud. Alternative practices is still a little vague. But she clarified the deadlines for compliance and also the deadline for the county to accept or reject enforcement, as well as the timeline for the SWCD to make recommendations on other waters that should be buffered and what the process for inclusion in the LWP would be.
5. LSOHC Hearing for Phase 7: Helen, Jay Brezinka and Alan attended the hearing Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>. Besides Helen's testimony, Jay and Colonel St. Sauver talked about the Sentinel Landscape designation.
6. WCA Violation Status: The TEP will be meeting with Randy Radziej and his attorney on Sept. 7. Two of the three violations on Lake Shamineau have been restored. One remains. Dave Stich has not responded to his Restoration Order and it will go to citation. Gulseth on Hickory Lane reports he's done, but it has not been verified as yet. There is still the Cox one pending on Shamineau.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. RCCP Application – Sentinel Landscape – Josh explained the progress of the application submitted by Camp Ripley, sponsored by the District.
2. Area 2 Meeting Registration: Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> in Sauk Center: Claude, Marvin, and Josh will go. It's the Water Festival so Helen cannot attend.
3. Civil Rights Training – Josh is required to deliver this and have you sign forms.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

1. MASWCD Tidbits were shared.
2. Region 5 ballot was distributed for voting.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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Tom Brutscher, Secretary



## MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 22, 2016  
9:00 a.m.

### USDA County Offices

#### **PRESENT:**

**Supervisors:** Dahmen, Faber, Brutscher and Stangl (Absent: Supervisor Hubner)

**Commissioner:** Randy Winscher

**Staff:** McLennan, Ringwelski, Becker and Hanson

**BWSR:** Maggie Leach

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES:** MSC by Stangl/Faber to approve as read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** MSC by Brutscher/Faber to approve as presented.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

**Waived to go to action items since Faber needed to leave.**

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Randy discussed the Tony Wenzel dog kennel situation and that the decision was inconsistent with not approving the Devon Przybilla project as presented. He felt the neighbor's interests should have been considered in both cases.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Water Festival Recap: The festival went off as planned. All of the Commissioners made it to the event, three of them both days. No problems occurred but some of the classes when combined were too large so it may need to be addressed on adding stations for next year. Bill felt CLC students could be available to help.
2. Environmental Review – Devon Przybilla is re-applying for a CUP now for an additional poultry barn and Alan had completed an Environmental Review. She is now able to meet the county ordinances of setback and Tier 2 compliance.
3. RCPP Application for the Sentinel Landscape – Josh and Helen explained that the District will be the financial agent and sponsor but the \$4+ million would be additional federal farm program money for the area with additional staff hired and likely located out at Camp Ripley.
4. Area 2 – Marvin and Claude shared that several legislators had attended and the main focus was on the inability to get the bonding bill passed.

5. Water Plan Update on Re-Write: Helen said that it is looking like it's nearly impossible to get back to the Local Water Plan and it may be necessary to hire a consultant. MSC by Faber/Brutscher to allocate up to \$10,000 for a plan writer in addition to what is owed to Bev Nordby.
6. Campaign Financial Reporting letter was distributed to the three supervisors up for re-election.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Governor Dayton Executive Order on Pollinator Habitat: Helen shared the Executive Order issued regarding the decline of pollinator habitat.
2. State Cost Share Application: MSC by Brutscher/Stangl to approve:

Mike Fussy	#02-17	\$2,500
Joe Lanners	#11-16	\$2,000
3. Problematic Site Visits: Helen and Alan described the situation with the following landowners in Mt. Morris Township on a shared easement road.
  - Downs Tyler
  - Larry Gerwing
  - Daryl
  - Nathan Kirt
  - Mark Nimzic
  - Larry Pangrac
4. Kimman Project on Grouse Addition – Judy Jensen Referred by Gene Young: Alan described what had happened with a new home in a platted division owned by Jim Kimman. Since the landowner was misled, the district doesn't want to treat it as a violation but the developer will likely get cited.
5. Auger's Resort – Conditional Use Condition Requirements: Helen and Alan had visited the site for the third time to try to meet the request by the county to do a vegetative management recommendation. The district was recommending rip rap and a buffer, or a wider buffer. It was clear that the landowners weren't willing to do much of anything.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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Tom Brutscher, Secretary

# MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, October 27, 2016

9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices

## **PRESENT:**

**Supervisors:** Dahmen, Faber, Brutscher and Stangl (Absent: Supervisor Hubner)

**Commissioner:** Randy Winscher

**Staff:** McLennan and Ringwelski

**BWSR:** Maggie Leach, BC

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES:** MSC by Stangl and Faber to approve as read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** MSC by Brutscher/Faber to approve as presented.

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

Alan said there was a large scale turkey operation potentially being planned in Lakin Township by Jesse Sauer. WCA delineations were being done by he and Mike for the Public Works Department. He and Helen are working on the BuffCAT parcels.

Helen waived her report.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Randy Winscher spoke of the hearing with the two LIDs for Lake Alex and Shamineau. He had also attended some meetings about the Buffer enforcement and the county was not sure they wanted to assume enforcement and not many counties were going to.

**BWSR REPORT:** Maggie Leach had just spent three days with the BWSR Academy which was very well attended. She gave a correction to the "other waters" requirement that will be recommended. Although they will be included as an amendment to the LWP, it will not be mandatory. She was going to help Lance through some E-link questions he had following the meeting. Maggie also shared that counties that accept Buffer Law enforcement will be able to create their own system. It's hoped that more information will be available for the AMC and the MASWCD Conventions.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Cost Share Payment Approvals: MSC by Faber/Stangl to approve the following. Pictures were shared with the board of the city rain gardens. They hope to do several more if CWF funds are received this year.
  - a. City of Little Falls      CWF13-186      Rain Gardens      \$15,219.24
  - b. Shawn Winscher      LR 49-01-16      Cover Crop      \$ 1,500.00
2. Nitrate Summary from October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Clinic and MDA Report: Helen shared the report from MDA and showing the constant of 15-17% of wells tested being over 10 ppm with the exception of Agram which was 52%. Helen shared that one of the strategies that will be in the new LWP will be to encourage and promote private well RO or distillation systems to protect private drinking water supplies.
3. Township Annual Meeting – Mike and Helen attended and demonstrated what the culvert data was looking like and would provide to them and the new Buffer Law implementation and timelines.
4. Buffer Law Update – BuffCAT Mapping Tool Parcel Identification: Helen showed an example of a BuffCAT map and how she and Alan are doing the first round review to determine who may already be in compliance and who will likely need further review.
5. WCA Violation Status Report – Only Dave Stich and Randy Radziej remain unresolved at this point. Ten (10) other violations had completed the Restoration Orders.
6. Water Plan Writing Contract: John Sumption, not to exceed \$6,000, was approved on a motion by Brutscher/Stangl. (Helen was authorized to sign the contracts.)
7. BWSR Academy Reposts – Alan and Mike presented information from the various sessions they had attended.
8. Little Rock Creek Area Sustainable Plan Summary to Date: Helen shared the draft report furnished by DNR stating the results of the year-long meetings and their findings.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Convention: December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> - Bill Faber will attend.
2. Tree Open House – Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> - Review 2017 Tree Order Form
3. The Board accepted Helen's resignation effective Dec. 30, 2016 on a motion by Dahmen, second by Stangl. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

# MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, November 17, 2016

9:00 a.m.

## USDA County Offices

### **PRESENT:**

**Supervisors:** Dahmen, Faber, Brutscher, Stangl and Hubner

**Commissioner:** Randy Winscher

**Staff:** McLennan, Hanson and Ringwelski

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES:** MSC by Stangl and Hubner to approve as read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** MSC by Faber/Brutscher to approve as presented.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

Josh (NRCS) December 30<sup>th</sup> is their deadline for current CSP plans. New CSP enrollments will be taken until February 3<sup>rd</sup>. They currently have 12. There are 49 re-enrollments. They are currently trying everyone's paperwork for payment.

Alan said they are working on 4 delineations. One for Little Falls Township and 3 for the County. There are numerous Planning and Zoning issues to conduct site visits. Several larger tree planting have come in and he's drafting their plans.

Helen said she will be meeting with the County Board on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to review enforcement decision of the Buffer Law. She pointed out to the board that they had been submitting a tree of the week to familiarize landowners with specie selection. Right now conifers are emphasized for Christmas tree possibilities. She has also followed up on local election contacts.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Randy Winscher shared the information regarding the tribal issues with land they wish to have established as non-taxable. The loss in revenue to the county would be \$16,000 or more. They are also discussing a bond issue for as much as \$14,000,000 for needed upgrades and repairs to the courthouse. They are still undecided about the consolidation of the Planning and Zoning and Assessor's offices.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Morrison County 2017 Allocation Approval: The county board awarded the increase requested of \$23,275, for a total of \$118,275. This will enable a leverage increase from the state and the SWCD will perform a like amount in wetland delineations
2. Varriano Project Update: SHPO had agreed with the re-design which will eliminate the need for a Phase 2 Cultural Survey. The project must be completed by early June, 2017. Bid letting will be done in early 2017.
3. LCCMR Drainage Management Plan Update Discussions with Public Works: Helen and Mike met with County Engineer Steve Backowski and John Kostreba to get a clear understanding of what the final product should look like. There is a strong possibility that Mike will re-locate to employment closer to Osakis and if that occurs soon, the position will have to be filled once more.
4. Camp Ripley Interviews to Backfill Position of Environmental Director: Helen assisted in the panel for Jay Brezinka's vacated position.
5. Technical Evaluation Panel Findings with Randy Radziej: After over a year, it appears that an agreement has been reached for restoration but it's questionable regarding being able to get it completed yet this year.
6. Other WCA Violation Status – Dave Stich partial restoration done but still more to do before a Satisfaction will be sent. The township ROW ditch was a safety concern.
7. Tree Open House – Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Buffer Law Update – A mailing list is being created and letter will begin in January. It appears that perhaps a quarter or more of the 6500 parcels will require further review.
2. Board Changes and Re-Organizational Meeting Plans: Bill will be next year's chairman and asked to establish the committee assignments before the Dec. 22 meeting.
3. State Cost Share Application: Gordon Meyer #3-17 Reforestation \$462.00 MSC by Stangl/Brutscher to approve.
4. MSC by Brutscher/Stangl to approve Helen's request to retire effective November 30, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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Tom Brutscher, Secretary

**MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016**

**9:00 A.M.**

**USDA COUNTY OFFICES**

**PRESENT:**

**Supervisors:** Dahmen, Faber, Brutscher, Stangl and Hubner

**Commissioner:** Randy Winscher

**Staff:** Ringwelski and Hanson

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES:** MSC by Stangl/Faber to approve as read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** MSC by Brutscher/Hubner to approve as presented.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Alan said that Brian Boser is applying for a CUP to build a hog barn in Buckman Township and he will be doing an Environmental Review. Tree sales were going well. Lance is working on completing a dozen ACUB easements and doing the E-link reporting requirements.

Josh said there were 47 re-enrollments for CSP. 200 CSP payments were made in December and some farmers were deferring payment to January. There are 15 new applications and 43 new EQIP applications with a variety of practices. Some discussion was held about warbler habitat.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Randy shared the discussion with the Shamineau LID wanting to include out-lot owners which were not indicated in the original assessment. The Fishtrap Lake zebra mussel issue is growing tremendously. The board had reviewed docks being pulled and how covered they were. The county is wrestling with how to fund the improvements on the courthouse without a levy increase and how they hope to transition into it once the present debt is retired.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. RCCP - \$2,873,880 was awarded and the contracts have been signed.
2. Local Water Plan Update: John Sumption should have a draft available to review before the end of December. An LWP will be held in January or February.
3. Tree Open House Summary: Over 10,000 trees were sold which was more orders but less trees than previously but a very busy day in spite of nasty weather.
4. LCCMR Status Report: Approval of Second Set of Equipment: MSC by Stangl/Faber to approve the second set of Arrow Equipment with the supporting software and computer equipment.
5. Buffer Law Status: A meeting with the County Board was held in late November. Approximately 1200 letters will be sent to landowners in January and February to start the discussions with landowners that show needing further review. Approximately 6,700 parcels were reviewed through BuffCAT.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. State Cost Share Approvals: MSC by Faber/Brutscher to approve the following.
  - a) Leon Weiss #04-17 Reforestation \$ 828.00
  - b) Ray Ginter #05-17 Reforestation \$ 462.00
2. Rain Gauge Network 2016 / Nitrate Testing – Alan Ringwelski presented the rain gauge network results for the year. Bill said he would be happy to join the network and was given a gauge so we will have Scandia Valley included in the future. Alan also reviewed the nitrate mapping done from the two clinics that were held this year. Results were consistent with previous years showing 17-22 % of wells tested do not meet drinking water standards of 10 ppm.
3. Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice:
  - a. Line 3 Pipeline Replacement Project
  - b. The board all received this notice and have an opportunity to comment.
4. Tri-City Gravel Pit (Ripley Township) The gravel pit is expanding and working with the county and neighborhood concerns.
5. Slate of Officers for 2017:
  - a. The slate of officers were approved for 2017 as follows:

Chairman:	Bill Faber
Vice Chairman:	Marvin Stangl
Secretary:	Dave Hubner
Treasurer:	Claude Dahmen
Public Relations:	Scott Saehr



6. Committee Assignments for 2017:

- a. Bill was asked to go ahead and assign committees so a Finance Committee could be named to establish the 2017 budget.

Finance Committee: Scott / Dave

Personnel: Bill / Marvin

Water Plan: Dave / Bill as alternate

WCTSA: Claude

7. Check Signers for 2017:

- a. A new signature card will be signed at the January meeting so Scott and Marvin can be normally the check signers but all board members can sign as needed.

8. Contract for District Manager for 2017:

- a. MSC by Brutscher/Hubner to have Bill offer Helen McLennan a phased retirement employment opportunity for 2017 changing the pay to hourly and granting back 44 hours of Sick Leave that was forfeited. No PERA would have to be paid and due to the LWP, the Buffer Law, and the LCCMR project it was felt changing management at this time would be difficult to transition management at this time. PERA requires a 30 day break in employment so the waiting period expires 12/30/2016.

9. Staffing and Vehicle Needs for 2017 (Capacity Dollars): Due to the buffer law and the LCCMR project interns would need to be hired in the spring to stay on track and another vehicle would be needed. Direction was granted to explore vehicle purchases locally. Bill stated that he could likely find interns through his classes at Central Lakes Community College.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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Dave Hubner, Secretary