

**DOUGLAS SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES  
Monday, July 8, 2024 – 7:30 A.M.**

The Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at the Douglas SWCD Conference Room on Monday, May 13, 2024. Chairman Barsness called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Members attending were: Barsness, Dropik, Rutten, and Cleary. Also, in attendance were Commissioner England, NRCS District Conservationist- Cole Montgomery, Staff attending Haggenmiller, Albertsen, Rice and Olson.

**Pledge was recited.**

**Minutes of the regular June 10, 2024, meeting** was discussed. Motion by Cleary to approve, subject to audit, seconded by Rutten Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** was read. Motion by Cleary to approve, subject to audit, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.

**Reports**

- A. Coordinator's Report** – Haggenmiller handed out his monthly report.
- B. Pomme de Terre Update** – Barsness reported they met on June 14, 2024 and talked about the funding. Paid bills and talked about the new coordinator position that is starting today. MPCA and BWSR are using effortless modeling tools, there will be a CRP incentive of \$100/acre within the watershed, and a couple big Dam removal projects will be happening.
- C. Sauk River Report** – Rutten reported they met on June 25 for a Ditch Authority meeting to address concerns about sediment getting back in ditch. No decision was made at this time, and discussion got tabled for future meeting. U.S. Army Corp Study started on June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Chippewa River Report** – Cleary reported there was no June meeting, and the next meeting will be July 18.
- E. Long Prairie Report** – Dropik Reported there was no meeting in June, and next meeting was in July.
- F. Tree Update** – Rice Reported that tree planting has been slow with all the rain, and most sites are very wet. All trees are currently in the ground and planted. Two sites left for fabric installation and two sites for tree tubes is left.
- G. Water Quality Legacy Fund** – Froemming was not present. No report given.
- H. DCLA** – SWCD staff were not in attendance, meeting agenda was sent out very late.
- I. Area II Meeting Update** – Staff and supervisors in attendance talked about the Buckthorn removal project that was highlighted at Barsness Park. Haggenmiller also mentioned there was two resolutions up for discussion and a vote. 1. To have a

survey required on all parcels and properties instead of guessing or using ancient maps with black lines drawn on them. 2. Maintain collaboration with NRCS and SWCD in co-located offices. Both were passed and are moving on to the state Association.

**J. Douglas County Commissioner Report-** England mentioned there are three individuals running for his current commissioner position. There is also a group of department heads that meets every month for two-three hours to have a same page meeting so everyone has a better understanding of what is all going on. Those department heads also go on a rotation with open line on the radio to have open forums and discussions.

### **Old Business**

**A. SWCD Governance 101** –Dropik has signed up for this.

**B. Leadership Training – Olson** – Motion by Rutten for Olson to attend Leadership training that will be starting this August and ending next year in August. Seconded by Dropik. Motion Carried.

### **New Business**

**A. NRCS Field Office Update** –Cole Montgomery mentioned they are not expecting any more EQIP funding coming in. Currently there is seven more contracts to finish up that have been approved. If additional money comes down the line it would most likely be IRA money. Warm and cool planting season deadlines are fast approaching. One was extended due to the excessive amount of rain. Spring money has been distributed and paid out in 100% for contracts. Sept. 6, 2024 will be the next EQIP Deadline. CSP has had 100% of money allocated has been obligated for Douglas County. Local work Group information was compiled with the help of Albertsen and sent off. Lots of trainings coming up for staff which include prescribed grazing, irrigation and more.

### **B. Long Prairie River Watershed Collaborative Fiscal Agreement**

- Motion by Rutten to approve the fiscal agreement for the Long Prairie River Watershed that Todd County SWCD will remain the Fiscal Agent. seconded by Dropik Motion carried.

### **C. MASWCD Award Program Nominations**

- Conservation Cooperator and Teacher of the Year
- Discussion on pooling a list together and coming up with a list of conservation cooperators and coming up with a teacher or two to nominate. In previous years there was only one nomination. Discussion tabled to be reconvened at the August board meeting.

### **D. Cost Share Amendment-**

- Shoreline Restoration Project Ida Township Section 22 Increase Cost Share \$295.92 because of using native plugs vs native seed using Lake Ida Phase II Funds.
- Motion by Dropik to approve amendment for native plugs vs original seed cost. Seconded by Rutten. Motion Carried.

**E.**

## **F. Cost Share Payment**

- Shoreline Restoration Project Ida Section 22 Total Cost \$24,229.56 Cost Share at 75% which is \$18,172.17 using Lake Ida Phase II Clean Water Funds. Motion by Rutten to approve Lakeshore Restoration Ida Township Section 22 Total Cost \$24,229.56 Cost Share \$18,172.17 using Lake Ida Phase II Clean Water Funds., seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.
- Shoreline Restoration Project Alexandria Township Section 15 Total Cost \$21,065.00 Cost Share at 60% which is \$12,639.00 using Lake Carlos 319 Funds. Motion by Dropik to approve Lakeshore Restoration Alexandria Township Section 15 Total Cost \$21,065.00 Cost Share \$12,639.00 using Lake Carlos 319 Funds., seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.

**G. Fair Schedule** – Albertsen passed around the fair schedule to sign up with. Some were unsure of their calendars and said they would call or let staff know.

**Bills to Pay.** During the month of July, the Douglas SWCD issued Checks #11470-11500 for a total of \$125,640.60 including eFile (State Withholding) and EFTP (Federal Withholding). Motion by Cleary to pay the bills, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.

**Adjournment.** Motion by Barsness to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Cleary. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 AM.

Secretary,

Bill Dropik, Secretary