

**DOUGLAS SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES  
Monday, January 13, 2025 – 8:00 A.M.**

The Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at the Douglas SWCD Conference Room on Monday, January 13, 2025. Chairman Barsness called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Members attending were: Barsness, Dropik, Froemming, Rutten, and Lederman. Also, in attendance were Commissioner Way, NRCS District Conservationist- Cole Montgomery, Staff attending Haggemiller, Albertsen, Arceneau, Rice and Olson.

**Pledge was recited.**

**Re-Organization of the Board of Supervisors.** Motion by Froemming to have one change from 2024 in 2025 Officers, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried. Barsness-Chairman, Rutten-Vice-Chairman, Ledermann-Treasurer, Dropik-Secretary.

**Minutes of the regular December 9, 2024, meeting** was discussed. Motion by Rutten to approve subject to audit, seconded by Dropik Motion carried.

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

**Reports**

- A. Coordinator's Report** – Haggemiller handed out his monthly report.
- B. Pomme de Terre Update** – Barsness reported they met on Friday, December 13. Viewed video on Lake Marsch Dam, discussed construction on third largest Dam.
- C. Sauk River Report** – Rutten reported meeting was cancelled
- D. Chippewa River Report** – Cleary provided a written report mentioned they reviewed funding, also Pope SWCD is going to hire a Watershed Coordinator for Chippewa River Watershed Association.
- E. Long Prairie Report** – Dropik reported their meeting was cancelled until March.
- F. Water Quality Legacy Fund** – Next meeting is on Wednesday, January 15.
- G. Douglas County Commissioner Report-** Way reported Rush went over the new ordinances. Discussion on growing canvases.

**Old Business**

- A. Strategic Planning with BWSR** – scheduled for March 10

**New Business**

- A. NRCS Field Office** Cole Montgomery mentioned Rangeland Conservationist Alison Guzik started on January 2, 2025. There was no change to the EQIP

ranking deadline. Cole assessed and ranked about 65 -70 applications that wanted to proceed and were prioritized. Hoping that we receive more funding in March or April. ACT -Now (High Tunnels SD, 1 HT application funded. Hoping for a 2<sup>nd</sup> that is just on the edge. CSP planning will be coming soon those must rank applications by mid-March. Cole reviewed the Civil Rights Responsibilities.

- B. 2025 Meeting Schedule** – Haggenmiller handed 2023 meeting schedule Motion by Rutten to approve 2025 meeting schedule, seconded by Froemming. Motion carried.
- C. Set Supervisors Compensation** Motion by Barsness to leave compensation at \$125, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.
- D. Set Mileage Rate** Motion by Rutten to follow the Federal Mileage Rate of .70¢/mile for 2025, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.
- E. Designate Depositories** Motion by Ledermann to designate Bremer Bank as the Douglas SWCD depository, seconded by Froemming. Motion carried.
- F. Assign Committees**
  - 1. **Chippewa River Watershed Group** – Ledermann, Alternate - Froemming
  - 2. **Pomme de Terre Watershed Group** – Barsness, Alternate-Ledermann
  - 3. **Sauk River Watershed Group** – Rutten, Alternate- Dropik
  - 4. **West Central Area II Joint Powers** – Froemming, Alternate Ledermann
  - 5. **Long Prairie Watershed Group** – Dropik, Alternate Froemming
  - 6. **EQIP Local Work Group**–Barsness, Froemming
  - 7. **Douglas Legacy Fund**-Froemming
- G. Dues**
  - National Association of Conservation Districts - \$774.00 & MN Assn of Conservation Districts - \$7,431.37 Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust - \$10,839.00** Motion by Froemming to approve dues, seconded by Rutten  
Motion carried.
- H. Conservation Partner Legacy Grant Approval – Dittberner Creek** – Haggenmiller mentioned we received \$342,577 Grant.
- I. Employee Handbook Update** - Motion by Froemming to approve handbook creating regular part-time & part-time types of employment, seconded by Rutten  
Motion carried.
- J. Work Schedule Modification Request- Anderson** Motion by Barsness to approve Anderson going to regular part-time, working 40 hours per pay period with a review after 3 months, 6 months and in November with possibility of terminating work schedule. A set schedule will be established, and all benefits will be pro-rated, seconded by Rutten Motion carried.
- K. Area II Meeting March 19,** will be in Litchfield.
- L. MASWCD Legislative Day March 3-4**

**M. Low Income Septic Cost Share Rates** Motion by Ledermann to approve Septic Cost Share Rates seconded by Froemming. Motion Carried.

**N. BWSR PRAP Review – After February 1**

**O. Cost Share Payment** Forest Stewardship Plan Long Prairie Forestry #1 Carlos Township Section 15 Total Cost \$840.00 Cost Share 75% \$630.00 Using Long Prairie Forestry Funds Motion by Rutten to approve Forest Stewardship Plan Long Prairie Forestry #1 Carlos Township Section 15 Total Cost \$840.00 Cost Share 75% \$630.00 Using Long Prairie Forestry Funds, seconded by Froemming Motion Carried.

**P. Ian Olson Review –** Appreciates the great work. Motion by Froemming to increase wage by \$1.47 per hour, seconded by Ledermann. Motion Carried.

**Q. Jerome Haggemiller Review -** The Board appreciates the great work, Motion by Rutten to increase wage by \$2.42 per hour, seconded by Froemming. Motion Carried.

**VIII. Bills to Pay.** During the month of January, the Douglas SWCD issued Checks #11685-11715 for a total of \$400,255.41 including eFile (State Withholding) and EFTP (Federal Withholding). Motion by Rutten to pay the bills, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.

**Adjournment.** Motion by Barsness to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.

Secretary,

Bill Dropik, Secretary