

DOUGLAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

March, March 10, 2025 – 8:00 A.M.

The Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at the Douglas SWCD Conference Room on Monday, March 10, 2025. Chairman Barsness called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Members attending were: Barsness, Dropik, Froemming, Rutten, and Ledermann. Also, in attendance were NRCS District Conservationist- Cole Montgomery, County Commissioner Way, BWSR Staff Jason Weinerman and Don Baiumpaa, Staff attending Haggenmiller, Albertsen, Anderson, Arceneau Rice and Olson.

Pledge was recited.

Minutes of the regular February 20, meeting was discussed. Motion by Froemming to approve the minutes with correction to Haggenmiller's wage, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read. Motion by Froemming to approve the Treasurer's Report 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 reviewed the replacement of Kristy Dam and that they reviewed the 10-year plan.
- C. Sauk River Report** – Rutten reported that they reviewed 2025 funding and project process. JD2 flow has been very dry the past two years.
- D. Chippewa River Report** – Ledermann reported they have \$135,000 for CRP, \$300 per contract
- E. Long Prairie Report** – Dropik reported their next meeting is scheduled for April 17.
- F. Water Quality Legacy Fund** – No Report
- G. Douglas County Commissioner Report**- Commissioner Way attended Ditch Training 101 in Willmar, they will be installing a 4 way stop on Highway 27 and Nevada Street.

Old Business

- A. Strategic Planning with BWSR** – Jason Weinerman from BWSR will go over the Strategic Planning with Supervisors and Staff after the meeting.
- B. Area II Meeting March 19th in Litchfield**
- C. Staff Extra Workload Compensation** Motion by Froemming to pay staff \$2 per hour at the end of the year minus any Annual Leave, Sick Leave, Comp Time or Holiday used starting March 3rd, 2025 (1720) for their extra workload, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.

New Business

- A. NRCS Field Office** Cole Montgomery mentioned that staffing is all speculation at this point – he will know more the next couple of months. Programs IRA funding for active contracts will be honored. Near finished on obligating our first round of EQIP Preapprovals. Totaled about \$1.8 million in Douglas County. Hava a couple Ag Waste

project left that I am waiting on final design for to be able to proceed. We asked for extra program dollars for EQIP CSP ranking deadline is coming up on March 20th Aison and I have been meeting with folks to get those done, pretty much almost all finished up with those, started mailing letters, and calling folks for those that have practices lined up to go this spring,

- B. Area II Envirothon Donation Request** Motion by Ledermann to donate \$150 to Envirothon, seconded by Rutten. Motion carried.
- C. Tree Planters Wages -** Motion by Dropik to raise wage by \$1 and keep the \$2 an hour at the end of season, seconded by Froemming. Motion carried.
- D. Non-Structural Cost Share Policy Update** Motion by Rutten to approve the Non-Structural Cost Share Policy Update, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.
- E. CD23 Stormwater Pond Fix/Erosion** Motion by Rutten to approve to fix CD 23 erosion on the Stormwater Pond, seconded by Dropik. Motion carried.
- F. Conservation Tech Interview Dates** -Barsness and Rutten will sit on interviews on Tuesday, March 18th.
- G. Cost Share Application FY 25 Cost Share Section 28 Brandon Township Cover Crops 8 Acres Cost Share Flat Rate\$35.00per acre Total Cost Share \$280.00 using FY 25 Soil Health Cost Share.** Motion by Froemming to approve FY 25 Cost Share Section 28 Brandon Township Cover Crops 8 Acres Cost Share Flat Rate\$35.00per acre Total Cost Share \$280.00 using FY 25 Soil Health Cost Share, seconded by Barsness. Motion carried.

Bills to Pay. During the month of March, the Douglas SWCD issued Checks #11741-11764 for a total of \$66,058.70 including eFile (State Withholding) and EFTP (Federal Withholding). Motion by Froemming to pay the bills, seconded by Ledermann. Motion carried.

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

Secretary,

Bill Dropik, Secretary