

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 26, 2017
9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices

8:00 am - FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:

Dave Hubner; Scott Saehr; Helen McLennan; LeaAnn Nouis - Review the proposed 2017 Budget. They felt it was explained well and justified and could be recommended to the full board.

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Bill Faber, Scott Saehr, Marvin Stangl, Dave Hubner

Commissioner: Randy Winscher

Staff: Ringwelski, McLennan, Hanson

ABSENT: Claud Dahmen

9:00 am - RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

1. Oath of Office: Scott Saehr, Dave Hubner, and Bill Faber read their oaths and were sworn in.
2. Official Date, Time, Location: Fourth Thursday of Each Month, 9:00 a.m. MSC by Hubner/Stangl to remain as 2016.
3. Per Diem and Mileage: MSC by Stangl/Hubner to keep the following rates:
 - \$75 Full Board or Exceeding Half Day Meetings
 - \$25/Committee or Payroll
 - Mileage at IRS Established Rate (\$.535 as of 1/1/2017)
4. Official Publication: MSC by Saehr/Hubner to remain the Morrison County Public Record.
5. Annual Resolution Approving Morrison County Local Water Plan as District's Annual Plan. MSC by Hubner/Saehr to approve the LWP as the Annual Plan (resolution vote)
6. Grant Agreements / Contracts Signature Approval: For FY2017 Morrison SWCD's District Manager, Helen McLennan, in the absence of SWCD Board Members, may sign grant agreements and/or contracts. MSC by Stangl/Hubner to approve.
7. MASWCD Membership Approval 2017: MSC by Saehr/Hubner to approve.
8. Minimum Fund Balance Approval: The minimum Fund Balance for FY2017 will be 3 months of Operating Expenditures. MSC by Stangl/Hubner to approve.
(ie: Operating Exp. For FY2017, divided by 12, times 3 months) - see handout attached
9. Capital Assets Policy of Threshold Approval: In the FY2017 Capital Assets Policy Report, \$500 and above will remain the level of threshold documented, for depreciation, for all purchases by Morrison SWCD. MSC by Hubner/Saehr to approve.
10. Delegated Check Signers: MSC to approve Claude, Marvin, and Scott for normal payroll signature for first payroll of the month, but with any of the three allowed to review the bank statement in the absence of the Treasurer.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING to Follow:

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

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

STAFF REPORTS:

Josh Hanson gave the board the Civil Rights packet and reviewed all of the changes. He also shared the breakdown of the 45 EQIP applications covering a gambit of practices. There are 19 CSP applications so far for the 2017 first sign up.

Alan Ringwelski reported on the two environmental reviews done for the hog barns, Brian Boser and Curtis Plante. Otherwise, the buffer program had been taking most of his time.

Helen McLennan said that LeaAnn was busy with year-end reporting. Lance had finished the required e-link reporting for all of the programs. Both Lance and LeaAnn were way ahead of their scheduled deadlines. Helen was also doing the year end reports for the Wetland Conservation Act and the Ag BMP program.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Randy Winscher shared that the county is still discussing the possibility of a redetermination of County Ditch 1. There has been no comments on the proposed reconstruction plans and therefore they were going through with the planning process. He shared that the Brisk murder had consumed thousands of hours and files for the Terry Brisk murder. He also stated that our Sen. Gazelka and Rep. Kresha are authoring bonding bills for the continuation of the Paul Bunyan Trail.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. RCPP Recap: Work Plan and Process for the NRCS Award of \$2.87 million: Helen shared what this funding would be used for but as yet, the details of the budget and how it's going to run is under discussion. Money will not be available until July so there's time to deal with the details.
2. Development Review Team Meetings: It's been a busy month with 6 applicants reviewed with a couple that likely will be difficult to be approved for variances.
3. Buffer Letters to Landowners and Process for Handling the Landowners Questions: Several hundred letters were mailed out and response has been steady but so far, results had been quite good with many people proving compliance.
4. Little Rock Watershed Summary: Helen shared the meeting held in Rice for the PAT Committee. The irrigators are very mistrustful of DNR and feel the analysis is skewed and that DNR will do what they want regardless of their input.
5. Landowner Threat to Staff (WCA Issue): A call from Dave Stich had been placed due to the WCA violation status of his Restoration Order and Court Appearance. Alan had taken the call and felt it was very threatening so the matter was turned over to the sheriff's department.
6. Local Water Plan Status: The draft has been received and hopefully can be reviewed the following week and then distributed to the task force and partners for review.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Budget Approval for 2017 – MSC by Saehr/Hubner to approve as presented.
2. Envirothon Contribution: Area 2 - \$150, MSC by Stangl/Saehr to approve.
3. Drainage Conference: February 13th - St. Cloud Convention Center. Mike, Alan and Helen will be attending.
4. Area 2 Meeting: Proposed for April 5th or 6th
5. State Cost Share Application: MSC by Hubner/Stangl to approve.
#8-17 Monty Steffens Reforestation \$904.00
6. Audit Review: Copies of the audit were distributed and will be discussed next month.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Dave Hubner, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 23, 2017
9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Bill Faber, Dave Hubner, Scott Saeher, Marvin Stangl

Commissioner: Randy Winscher

Staff: McLennan, Ringwelski, Hanson

BWSR Staff: Maggie Leach

Absent: Claud Dahmen

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: MSC to approve as presented by Stangl/Hubner

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

STAFF REPORTS:

Josh reported that there are 44 new EQIP contracts and 19 CSP.

Alan said he was working with three Little Rock projects and why the repair on Dale Scholl would be funded at 100%. He is also working on sediment basins for Joe Kuchinski. Further recruitment is being done for MAWQP. The Buffer Law has generated a lot of landowners. Already starting do WCA determinations with the ground being bare now.

Helen said the MHB has approved \$20,000 for the further rain gardens for the City of Little Falls. She is working on the Other Waters recommendation map for the Buffer Law. She's still trying to find funding sources for the Weyerhauser Museum Site. Alan is working on a 319 application and MHB is in consult with other possibilities. There will be a landowner outreach on March 16th, 2017, at Camp Ripley for the Sentinel Landscape program.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Randy said they had been to the cities visiting with area legislators and the buffer law is stirring up a lot of conversations. The county is also dealing with the continuance of the Mud Fest rally that always stirs up controversy.

BWSR REPORT: Maggie shared several updates on legislative initiatives, the buffer law "soft date" for enforcement notification. She also spoke about the changes to grant reconciliation and oversight and the thresholds. She answered several questions from the board and staff.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mill Park meeting with the City of Little Falls and MN DNR: Helen and Alan had attended a meeting with the DNR, City of Little Falls and Minnesota Power regarding the desire to have a fish ladder adjacent to the dam in Little Falls to enhance the recreational opportunities of the Mill Park facility. The cost of a structure is minimal and they already have much of the funding. There was some resistance by Minnesota Power but the project will likely go forward.
2. Water Plan Feedback and Comments – A lot of feedback had been received and Mike is compiling before the task force meeting on March 8th. After any amendment recommendations then the revised plan will be posted for agency comment following a public hearing. After all that, it will be ready to present to BWSR.
3. Buffer Law Update:
 - a. Response to Letters: Over 400 letters were sent out. 82 shown to be in compliance, 32 site visits scheduled to date. So far only a couple of resisting landowners.
 - b. County Enforcement Discussion still going on and now that it appears more time will be given to help in the decision making process.
4. Richard Varriano Project Update and Process: Bid opening is Monday, February 27, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. If more money is needed, the project may still fail to be done.
5. Audit Approval: MSC by Stangl/Hubner to approve the 2015 Audit Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. ACUB Easement Changes: Jody Gottwalt Request to Amend Easement Boundary
Lance discussed the wishes of the buyer of an existing easement and asked for board approval of the request. MSC by Saehr/Stangl to approve.
2. Cost Share Contract Applications: MSC by Hubner/Saehr to approve the following:

a. Kyle Hoggarth	#8-17	Field Windbreak	\$ 746.50
b. Joseph Lanners	LR49-02-16	Terraces	\$ 7,151.25
c. Carly Winscher	LR49-03-16	Terraces/Sed Basins	\$27,678.00
d. Dale Scholl	LR49-04-16	Streambank Repair	\$22,858.50
3. WCTSA Registration: Thursday, April 6, 2017, Litchfield, MN. Marvin is the only board member that indicated he could attend.
4. Governor Dayton's Announced Goal for 25% Improved Water by 2025.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Local Water Plan Meeting: March 8, 2017 - 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
@ MC Government Center, Meeting Room 1
- Area 2 Meeting: April 6, 2017, Litchfield, MN

Meeting Adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Dave Hubner, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 23, 2017
9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Bill Faber, Dave Hubner, Scott Saehr, Marvin Stangl

Commissioner: Randy Winscher

Staff: McLennan, Ringwelski, Hanson

BWSR Staff: Maggie Leach, BC

Absent: Claud Dahmen

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: MSC to approve as presented by Stangl/Hubner

TREASURER'S REPORT: MSC by Stangl/Saehr to approve as presented. Helen shared that LeaAnn had submitted all Year End reporting before the deadline even though there was some issues with formats and formulas in the PERA changes that caused her and other districts some headaches.

STAFF REPORTS:

Josh said they were working up the 16 CSP contracts before the June deadline. The CRP annual letters were being sent out.

Alan said the Buffer Law was still taking quite a bit of the time with a fairly steady stream of people coming in or calling. This past week was rush by some landowners to hurry and order trees in spite of the district cancelling back by March 1st deadline. LeaAnn was able to find trees to fill their orders.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Randy Winscher said they agreed to cap the Mud Fest attendance at 2500 and the sheriff felt that was maximum. They are still dealing with their conflict with the Bureau of Indian Affairs over tax exempt status on new land purchased by the tribe.

BWSR REPORT: Maggie Leach shared the draft "6 pack" of alternative practices. The Capacity dollars did not get recommended for their general fund, but rather still drawn from the Clean Water Fund and they were still hoping for that to be changes, which would give a bit more freedom in use. The BWSR Board has a new chairman.

Some discussion was held about the buffer requirements for properties owned by salvage yards.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sentinel Landscape Open House Report (March 16, 2017) the meeting was fairly well attended and Commissioner Dave Frederickson had attended the afternoon meeting as well as the open house. Lance was honored by a presentation of Commander Scott St. Sauver with a Public Service Award.
2. Local Water Plan Update: The District has requested the county board to schedule a public hearing for early April. Then the plan and comments will be sent to the State agencies for review and a BWSR hearing for June 14, 2017.
3. Producer's Open House Results (March 22, 2017) - Only 7 people attended who were mostly concerned with the Buffer Law. The paper failed to publish the notice so news didn't get out very well.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bid Award Approval: Honer Excavating (Varriano Project) - The two bids submitted were: Becker Excavating for \$29,768.00 and Honer Excavating for \$18,513.50. A motion to approve the low bid of Honer Excavating was made by Saehr/Stangl and carried on a resolution vote. The contracts were signed by Board Chairman Bill Faber and attested by Board Secretary Dave Hubner.
2. State Cost Share Applications: MSC by Hubner/Stangl to approve the following:
 - a. Platte Township #07-17 Roadside Erosion Control \$2,500.00
 - b. Jody Gottwalt #9-17 Field Windbreak \$ 640.00
 - c. Carly Winscher #10-17 Reforestation \$1,536.00
 - d. Tom Friedrich #11-17 Reforestation \$1,512.00
3. WCA Recap on Violations or Projects:
 - a. Stich – Open – Helen explained that the landowner refused certified mail, refused to accept phone calls by the assistant county attorney and the conservation officer. It's going to be in the hands of the County on how to proceed.
 - b. Johnson – Satisfied as of March 21, 2017.
 - c. Radziej – Open – Will finish this spring.
4. Vehicle Purchase Options: Helen presented two vehicle options that she had shopped. MSC by Hubner/Saehr to approve the purchase of the 2015 Ford Escape at a cost of \$25,395.75 which includes tax and license.
5. Summer Intern Status: Helen said she had hired Amy Heinen, one of Bill's students to begin in May and there was another possible candidate, a former student that maybe would be needed or recommended to RT Vision.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Mississippi Sartell and Brainerd Watersheds Joint Meeting - March 29, 2017, Brainerd
2. Area 2 Meeting, Litchfield, April 6, 2017 (Marvin, Helen, Mike, and Tom Girtz)
3. Varriano Site Development Scheduled - Tuesday, April 4, 2017
4. Little Falls Fish Ladder Project Planning
5. Tree Week - April 24th – 28th, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Dave Hubner, Secretary

MORRISON SWCD BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 27, 2017
9:00 a.m.

USDA County Offices

PRESENT:

Supervisors: Bill Faber, Dave Hubner, Scott Saehr, Marvin Stangl

Commissioner: Randy Winscher

Staff: McLennan and Hanson

BWSR Conservationist: Maggie Leach

The board shared a prayer and memorial to Claude Dahmen, a 50 year SWCD Supervisor who passed away April 5th, 2017, after fighting a battle with cancer.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: MSC to approve as presented by Hubner/Saehr

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

STAFF REPORTS:

Josh stated that 21 EQIP contracts had pre-approval and they are processing the 2018 CSP rankings.

Helen shared the discussion held with the City of Little Falls, MN Power, and the DNR regarding the desire to install a fish ladder at Mill Pond Park adjacent to the Little Falls Dam. MN Power is not willing to amend anything until the license expiration in 2022.

The Sentinel Landscape team will be attending a conference in New Orleans in mid-June. Helen is attending on behalf of ACUB but the district will be totally reimbursed by Dept. of Military Affairs. The team consists of BWSR Bill Penning, TNC Todd Holmann, Helen, and Lanette Dietrich of NRCS state office, and Josh Pennington and Jake Kitzman from Camp Ripley. The purpose is to share implementation of the newly designated sentinel landscape and share ideas of how to get consistency among the teams approach.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Randy Winscher shared that the county board had held the public hearing for the water plan and had been surprised how the room filled with landowners, primarily all large scale farmers in the county but it was approved for going forward without any negative reactions.

They had a request from Fish Trap Lake for Aquatic Invasive control assistance but the timeline had expired so they will be meeting with that LID board for further review.

The county had selected the Clint Kathrein family to receive the County Farm Family of the Year Award.

BWSR REPORT: Maggie Leach shared additional information of the process for the LWP review. She also gave the board newer materials on alternative practices and county enforcement decision guidelines for the Buffer law. Comments are being requested at this time. She reinforced that if a county declared they accepted enforcement, and later decided not to continue, there's an avenue out as well.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. MASWCD Legislative Report: An alert was received April 26, 2017, to contact legislators regarding the Capacity Dollars and to make them a part of the BWSR general fund and not be from the Clean Water Fund.
2. WCA Update: No changes on the two ongoing violations on Stich and Radziej properties. Helen shared the alarm being raised by two landowners worried about duck habitat too close to their poultry barns. There are no rules to address and the property owners were informed that WCA didn't address the issue with rule.
3. LWP Public Hearing Report: (Already shared in Commissioner Winscher report). The plan has now been posted for the 30 day state agency review process.
4. Varriano Contractor / Engineer Preconstruction Meeting Report: A slight modification was agreed to at the site and the contractor will construct as soon as conditions cooperate. Hopefully the project is completed by the June deadline but an extension has been requested if the site is too wet.
5. Area 2 Meeting Report – Marvin shared that the meeting was informative and he felt the presentation by Helen and Mike on the Drainage Management project was well done and well received. He also shared that the board should name a new representative to replace Claude Dahmen.
6. Cost Share Payment Approval: MSC to approve by Stangl/Saehr.

Michael Fussy #02-17 Sed-Basins \$1,901.00

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Audit Contract for 2016 Audit: Peterson Company Ltd. - \$2,250 MSC to approve by Hubner/Stangl.
2. ACUB Audit - May 16th – 17th The DOD will be auditing files in the district office and also at Camp Ripley and BWSR St. Paul.
3. Cost Share Application – Craig Stangl - #12-17 WASCB \$2,500 MSC by Hubner/Saehr to approve the application. Marvin Stangl abstained due to relationship status.
4. Nitrate Clinic – May 8th – 12th
The board asked questions about the equipment and participation of the clinics.
5. Shift in Slate of Officers Due to Loss of Claude Dahmen and Replacement Options. Tree Memorial. MSC by Stangl/Hubner to move Saehr to the Treasurer's position. Options for appointment were discussed and the board decided to delay until May or June to consider their options.

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Dave Hubner, Secretary