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###### Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD Tel. (507) 419-0365

*181 W Minnesota St Website:* [*www.lesueurswcd.org*](http://www.lesueurswcd.org)

*Le Center, MN 56057*

Minutes from May 12, 2020 regular board meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur County SWCD building, Le Center, MN.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the board meeting was held by conference call. Cletus Gregor was in office.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Struck at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck

 Vice-Chairman, Greg Entinger

 Secretary, Earle Traxler

 Treasurer, Cletus Gregor

 PR&I, Glendon Braun

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz

 District Technician, Joe Jirik

 Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

 Ditch Inspector, Nik Kadel

 District Conservationist, Steve Breaker

 NRCS Team Lead, Chris Schmidt

 NRCS Summer Intern, Kara Fairchild

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary’s report was read and approved.

Treasurer’s report was read. Motion by Traxler, second by Entinger to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Schultz updated the board on how the office is working during the pandemic. The SWCD is considered essential. An office preparedness plan has been completed discussing safety measures. Motion by Entinger, second by Gregor to approve the preparedness plan and to post on SWCD bulletin board and place on the SWCD website.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Schultz asked the board if employees could receive mileage reimbursement if they are working from home and needing to go to a field site that is closer to their home rather than driving to the office and picking up an SWCD pickup. Staff would need prior approval from Schultz prior to the field visit. Motion by Gregor, second by Traxler to allow.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Braun, Struck and Gregor are up for election. Prchal will meet with each supervisor during the filing period (May 19, 2020 through June 2, 2020) for them to complete their Affidavit of Candidacy.

The Outstanding Conservationist tour is usually held in June as part of the regular board meeting. The board agreed to wait until closer to June meeting time to see if the tour will still take place.

Le Sueur County ditch spraying will begin shortly. Kadel explained to the board that 1/3 of the county ditches are set to be sprayed with a tractor and boom. Letters will be sent out to all those affected.

Schultz discussed the county ditch contract between the SWCD and Le Sueur County. The commissioners have signed the agreement which begins January 1, 2020 and runs through December 31, 2020. Each year the contract will be updated to reflect current compensation rates. Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to enter into the contract with Le Sueur County.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Entinger to approve and pay Kevin Vetter state cost-share contract #4-18 in the amount of $138.38 for a sediment basin.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Braun to approve and pay Kevin Vetter capacity cost-share contract #CAP-2019-4A in the amount of $4101.00 for a sediment basin.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Braun, second by Gregor to approve and pay Kevin Vetter state cost-share contract #3-19 in the amount of $756.84 for a sediment basin.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Entinger, second by Gregor to approve and pay Kevin Vetter state cost-share contract #2-20 in the amount of $1397.53 for a sediment basin.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Entinger, second by Traxler to approve and pay Mark Pettis state cost-share contract #1-19 in the amount of $14,991.65 for sediment basins.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Steve gave the NRCS report. He virtually introduced Kara Fairchild, the NRCS summer intern. He discussed CRP plans and contracts, Karl completing conservation planning, EQIP ranking and scoring. He mentioned that EQIP has a mortality signup for farmers having to euthanize their animals due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There will be a local work group meeting today at 11:00.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:57 am.

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Date District Secretary