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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 April 13, 2021 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur County Justice Center, Le Center, MN.

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

Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke

District Conservationist, Steve Breaker

Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

Board Conservationist, Jennifer Mocol-Johnson (virtually)

NRCS Team Lead, Chris Schmidt (virtually)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary’s report was read, discussed and approved.

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

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

The board and staff recapped the following items:

Legislative Day – Entinger, Traxler, Jirik, Schultz & Prchal attended virtually. SWCD needs were discussed with legislators, projects completed and the SWCD annual report was emailed to Le Sueur County representatives to view.

Building lease to USDA – Annual Cost Statement was completed and a motion by Traxler, second by Entinger to have Struck sign, submit to USDA showing the increase in costs from 2010 through 2020 and increase rent to $16.50 sq. ft.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Mike mentioned to the board that no renovations could be done on the SWCD building until a new lease was signed with the USDA (August 1, 2024 would be soonest). Being board and staff are attending more meetings virtually, it would be beneficial to have a conference room with a tv and a smart video camera. Mike will work with Le Sueur County IT employees on options.

Water Planner Position – Mike met with Commissioners O’Keefe & Rohlfing and Holly Kalbus to discuss Holly being housed in the SWCD office. Plans are still being worked on as to whether Holly would remain a county employee or would become an SWCD employee.

Chairman’s Meeting – Struck and Mike attended. Area meetings were discussed as well as election of officers and dues.

Trees will be arriving Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

Joe Jirik submitted a conflict of interest statement to the board regarding his business, Soil Health Solutions, which seeds cover crops. If Joe’s business seeds land that is receiving cost-share dollars for cover crops, Joe will not certify practices or work on the cost-share vouchers.

Mike, Nik and Karl are working on getting their JAA for cover crops.

Mike discussed the Conservation Partner Legacy Grant through the DNR. Motion by Entinger, second by Traxler to apply for funds if projects qualify.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

1W1P Cannon River – SWCD board members and staff adopt the CRWJPB formal Ethics, Conduct and Conflict Policy.

1W1P MN River – delegate representatives from Le Sueur County SWCD: Greg Entinger and Earle Traxler

Motion by Braun, second by Traxler to approve and sign Mitchell Sasse low interest loan application for well replacement. Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Entinger to approve signatures for cost-share contract #CWF-MDM-17-40-01 for Le Sueur County/Budin.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Entinger, second by Traxler to encumber $5580.00 for Eric Muellerleile cover crop cost-share contract #cc-2018-4JG.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Mike gave the board an update on the Le Sueur County drainage ditches that Nik has been working on.

Steve and Chirs gave an NRCS update. Steve discussed EQIP, CRP & CCRP, possibly increasing staff in office in the upcoming future due to the decreasing Covid pandemic numbers. Chris talked about CSP, EQIP, Le Sueur County’s Soil Con Technician, Geoff Popken and staff team offices in the area.

Jennifer Mocol-Johnson discussed cost-share training, BWSR slowly transitioning back in to the office in July, 1W1P, the staff freeze and legislation pertaining to the SWCD’s.

Mike and the board presented Sue Prchal with a 30 years of service award.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

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Date District Secretary