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

Le Sueur County SWCD Tel. (507) 357-4879 Ext. 3

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

*Le Center, MN 56057*

Minutes from January 10, 2017 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. SWCD building, Le Center, MN.

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

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck

 Vice-Chairman, Alvin Dietz

 Secretary, Earle Traxler

 Treasurer, Cletus Gregor

 PR&I, Glendon Braun

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz

 District Technician, Joe Jirik

 Farm Bill Technician, Nik Kadel

 District Conservationist, Steve Breaker

 Soil Conservationist, Sharlyn Handcock

 Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary’s report was read and approved.

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

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Braun, Struck and Gregor took the Oath of Office.

Election of Officers took place. Motion by Gregor, second by Braun to keep all positions the same for the calendar year 2017.

Affirmative: Struck, Dietz, Gregor, Braun

Opposed: Traxler

Motion carried

The board discussed the 2017 lease for the Le Sueur County Clubhouse. Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to keep the lease at $700/month for 2017.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to amend Charles Puffer cost-share contract (#CP-15-259) date to 3/1/2018 for finalization of the project. Amendment #WMO-16-31.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Dietz, second by Traxler to amend Shawn Onken cost-share contract (#C15-3594-07) payment from $30,600.00 to $31,242.00. Amendment #17-C15-01.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Cost-share contract #C15-3594-07 for Shawn Onken is complete and a motion by Gregor, second by Traxler to make payment in the amount of $31,242.00.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Cost-share contract #C15-3594-01 for Steve Rutt is complete and a motion by Traxler, second by Dietz to make payment in the amount of $27,873.00.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to amend Shawn Onken cost-share contract (#C15-3594-08) from $22,253.00 to $27,300.00. Amendment #17-C15-02.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Cost-share contract #C15-3594-08 for Shawn Onken is complete and a motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to make payment in the amount of $27,300.00.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Gregor, second by Braun to approve low interest loan for Roland Ceplecha for a wildlife pond.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Braun to sign the 2017 Capacity Grant with BWSR in the amount of $118,000.00.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

The personnel policy was handed out to each board member and discussed.

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to approve the Ditch Specialist job description and have Schultz meet with County Commissioners to work on hiring for the position.

Affirmative: Struck, Gregor, Traxler, Braun

Opposed: Dietz

Motion carried

Steve gave the NRCS update. He handed out a packet to each board member and discussed civil rights, harassment policies, Memorandum of Understanding between NRCS and the SWCD and the Gateway program.

Jirik gave an update on the penalties that are out for comment if buffers are not installed by their due dates. Penalties begin with $100/parcel for the first 6 months and move to $500/parcel for the next 6 months. If buffers are not installed at that time then the penalties would be $100/parcel/day for the first 6 months and $500/parcel/day for the remaining 6 months.

The board designated First National Bank of Le Center as their official bank for 2017 and the Le Center Leader as their official newspaper for 2017.

Vouchers were reviewed and filled out.

Board met the 2016 Outstanding Conservationist’s, Oak Farms, at Lake Front restaurant to present them with a plaque and thank them for conservation efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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Date District Secretary

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Le Sueur County SWCD Tel. (507) 357-4879 Ext. 3

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

*Le Center, MN 56057*

Minutes from February 9, 2017 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. SWCD building, Le Center, MN.

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

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck

 Vice-Chairman, Alvin Dietz

 Secretary, Earle Traxler

 Treasurer, Cletus Gregor

 PR&I, Glendon Braun

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz

 District Technician, Joe Jirik

 Farm Bill Tech, Nik Kadel

 District Conservationist, Steve Breaker

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary’s report from January 10, 2017 was read and approved.

Dietz discussed U of M presentation about conservation issues. Polluted waters, lack of cover crops, chronic wasting in deer and pollinators were items Dietz commented on.

Steve gave the NRCS report. He talked about 2017 EQIP ranking and scoring, large erosion projects that need funding and CRP workload and the CRP cap of acres.

Schultz brought the Le Sueur Co. SWCD Personnel Policy to the board for approval. Motion by Gregor, second by Dietz to approve the policy, effective immediately.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

One Watershed One Plan was discussed. There are 14 LGU’s in the Cannon River Watershed and will be meeting every few months. Motion by Traxler, second by Braun that Gregor be the primary board rep and Struck the secondary board rep from Le Sueur County SWCD.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

The 2017 Capacity Grant will be used for the following items:

$38,000 District Technician position

$28,800 Cost-share dollars and CAD

$30,000 Cover crop (county wide)

$10,000 ATV & trailer

Struck and Braun will attend the Area 6 Chairman’s meeting.

The board received a copy of the Nicollet Wildlife DNR report.

Two furnaces in the building were replaced and new a/c units and a heat pump were discussed.

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to sign the Master Joint Powers Agreement with BWSR. This agreement will be the way the SWCD receives reimbursement for easements.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Gregor, second by Traxler to approve Tom Gregor 7.95 acre hayable buffer grant from the Cannon River Watershed.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Le Sueur County has talked about the need for more space for the Clubhouse. Ideas have been building a new building to the west of the grocery store.

The Le Sueur County fair board has been contacted about storage space for district equipment.

The Le Sueur County SWCD will be holding a workshop on March 21, 2017 at the 4-H building.

The board discussed the Le Sueur County Ditch Specialist position. The position description was reviewed and will be posted. Funding for the position will come from Le Sueur County Ditches and the SWCD. Motion by Braun, second by Traxler to have the Personnel Committee interview and hire the Ditch Specialist position at pay grades allowed.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

The board discussed if the Ditch Specialist position is an internal hire that the personnel committee have the ability to release the Farm Bill Technician position for hire. Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to allow personnel committee to do so.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Vouchers were reviewed and filled out.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Dietz, second by Braun at 11:47 am.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

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Date District Secretary

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*Le Center, MN 56057*

Minutes from March 14, 2017 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. SWCD building, Le Center, MN.

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck

 Vice-Chairman, Alvin Dietz

 Secretary, Earle Traxler

 Treasurer, Cletus Gregor

 PR&I, Glendon Braun

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz

 Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel

 District Technician, Joe Jirik

 Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

 District Conservationist, Steve Breaker

 Leroy Heyda

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary’s report was read and approved.

Treasurer’s report for January 2017 was read. Motion by Traxler, second by Braun to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Treasurer’s report for February 2017 was read. Motion by Traxler, second by Braun to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Braun to amend Shawn Onken cost-share contract #C15-3594-07 to $33,981.00 due to additional tile.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Braun to approve Shawn Onken final payment of $2739.00 for cost-share contract #C15-3594-07.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Gregor, second by Dietz to hire Peterson Company to complete End of Year 2016 audit.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Jirik explained the SWCD workshop that is being held on March 21, 2017 at the 4-H building in Le Center. Different sessions will be held every 15 minutes and a pizza lunch will be provided.

The Le Sueur SWCD is participating in a cover crop meeting on March 30, 2017 at the KC Hall in New Prague with Scott, Rice and Carver SWCD’s and Scott Watershed Mgmt. Organization.

Le Sueur SWCD is hosting the Area 6 meeting on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at Traxler’s Hunting Preserve.

Schultz explained the Nonstructural Land Mgmt. Program Policy to the board and cost-share that is available for cover crops and buffers.

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to adopt the erosion control and water mgmt. program policy which is for cost-share not to exceed 75% flat rate for cover crops and buffers.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Schultz discussed Nik Kadel being hired as the Le Sueur County Ditch Specialist and that the Farm Bill position will be posted soon.

The board nominated Traxler to work with the office staff and the fair grounds staff regarding a storage building for SWCD equipment.

One Watershed One Plan for the Cannon River was discussed.

Steve gave the NRCS report. He talked about finalizing EQIP applications for terraces, waterways and grade stabilization structures. He discussed CRP and wetland restorations. Jeremy is completing on site reviews for projects and expiring CRP contracts will be the priority for funding.

Dietz introduced Leroy Heyda to the board.

Vouchers were reviewed and filled out.

Motion by Dietz, second by Traxler to adjourn at 10:45 a.m.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

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Date District Secretary