

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

“Helping People Help the Land”



Murray SWCD

2740 22nd St. Suite 3

Slayton, MN 56172

Phone: 507-836-6990 EXT 3

murrayswcd.org

Supervisors

Chair

Gary Brinks

District II
(507) 763-3775

Vice Chair

Shannon Cohrs

District III
(507) 380-0997

Secretary

Mona Henkels

District IV
(507) 360-6348

Treasurer

Karen Hurd

District V

PR & I

Paul Posthuma

District I
(507) 879-3102

Staff

District Administrator

Shelly Lewis

Program Manager

Craig Christensen

District Technician

Aaron Crowley

Members Present:

Gary Brinks-Chairman
Shannon Cohrs-Vice Chairman
Mona Henkels-Secretary
Karen Hurd-Treasurer

Member Absent:

Paul Posthuma-PR&I

Others Present:

Shelly Lewis-District Administrator
Cheryl Heard-District Conservationist
Craig Christensen-Program Manager
Aaron Crowley-District Technician

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

Additions to Agenda: The chairman asked if there were any additions to the agenda. A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to approve adding the following to the agenda:

Approve Contract & Payment for MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program
BWSR Grant Reconciliation for DRAP Phase 2
1W1P
WCA update
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Minutes of December 12, 2019: A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Henkels to approve the Murray SWCD December 12, 2019 minutes.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried

The monthly Statement of Treasurer was read and filed for audit.

Salaries: A motion by Henkels seconded by Cohrs to approve Supervisor's vouchers and Murray SWCD salaries for December 2019.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

DC Report: Cheryl Heard
District Conservationist Report

Personnel

230 – EEO-Civil Rights

- REVIEW of MOU with SWCD
 - Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist dated Feb 2017
 - Copies for each board member and SWCD employee

EQIP

- Continue to take new applications
- 17 EQIP Contracts in 2019
 - \$812,614.00
- 2019 Cover Crops for Fallow Fields
 - \$34.02/ac or \$51.03/ac
 - 66 applications
 - 7 Contracts

WRP/WRE/ACEP

-

EWP - Emergency Watershed Protection Program

- Flooding and Erosion areas that threaten life

CSP

- Continue to take new applications
 - 20 applications for 2019 General sign-up have been ranked
 - Zero Funded

CSP -GCI – Grassland Conservation Initiative

- Ag producers with eligible base acreage of a whole farm # that has been in grass over a nine-year period, rather than planted with commodity crops.
- Eligible producers will receive a letter from FSA providing information on the new initiative and how to apply.
- \$18/ac for up to 5 years.
 - None eligible in Nobles County

CRP

- General sign-up planned to start in December
 - Training to be held in November
- CREP – Contact Catelyn
- Re-enrollment – maxed at 15 years
 - Soil rental rates – range \$89 - \$191; many soils at \$177. Avg at \$131.20
 - No SIP, PIP, or SRR 20% incentive

WETLAND N/HEL Compliance

- Backlog of tiling requests – get your requests in early
- Several reports of potential violations –
 - Wetlands – no new tile
 - Farmed Wetland (FW) – existing drainage, can replace at same size, same depth only, no new drainage
 - PC/NW – Prior Converted/Not Wetland

Election of Officers: A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Henkels to approve the following officers for 2020:

Gary Brinks- Chairman

Shannon Cohrs-Vice Chairman

Mona Henkels-Secretary

Karen Hurd-Treasurer

Paul Posthuma-PR&I

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Employee Evaluations: The Personnel Committee updated the Board on the Employee Evaluations. All Employees had favorable evaluations.

COLA & Step for 2020: Murray County is giving a 2.5% COLA & Step to employees for 2020. A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Cohrs to give the Murray SWCD employees a 2.5% COLA & Step for 2020.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

2020 IRS Mileage Rate: A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to approve following the IRS 2020 mileage rate at 57.5/mile.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Committee Assignments for 2020: A motion was made by Cohrs seconded by Henkels to approve the following Committee Assignments for 2020:

Local Comprehensive Water Plan- Paul, Gary (alternate)

Heron Lake Watershed-Mona, Shelly (alternate)

SW Prairie Joint Powers Organization-Paul, Shannon (alternate)

State Revolving Fund-Gary, Shelly (alternate)

Personnel Committee-Gary and Mona (alternates: Karen, Shannon, Paul)

RCRCA-Paul, Shannon (alternate)

Buffer Committee-Brinks and Christensen

Budget Committee-Posthuma, Hurd (Alternate)

Missouri 1W1P-Hurd, Brinks (Alternate)

Des Moines River 1W1P- Hurd, Henkels (Alternate)

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Financial Depository for 2020: A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Cohrs to approve Minnwest Bank of Slayton as the Murray SWCD financial depository for 2020.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Capitalization & Depreciation: A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to set the Murray SWCD capitalization at \$5,000.00 and use straight line depreciation for 2020.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Contract for Services with TSA: A motion was made by Henkles seconded by Hurd to approve the Contract for Services for being Financial Coordinator/Administrative Assistant for the Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area and be the host district for the Junior and Senior SWPTSA technicians.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

2020 Dues: A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Brinks to approve the following 2020 dues:

MASWCD-\$3,121.63

SWPTSA-\$3,400.00

SWMASWCD-\$400.00

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Murray SWCD updated personnel policy: A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Cohrs to approve the updated personnel policy for the Murray SWCD.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol: A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Cohrs to approve attendance at the MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol on March 24-25, 2020.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

2020 Rent Contract with new landowner: The 2020 rent contract with the new landowner will be tabled until the Murray SWCD February 13, 2020 meeting.

Ag Certification Contract: A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Henkels to approve the MN AG Water Quality Certification Program contract and payment authorization for Jason Miller.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

WCA update: Aaron updated the Board on current WCA issues.

Des Moines River One Watershed One Plan: Craig updated the Board on the Des Moines River One Watershed One Plan. The lead for the 1W1P will be Jean and Sara from the Murray County Environmental Office. The fiscal agent is Jackson SWCD.

Bills: A motion by Cohrs seconded by Henkels to pay Murray SWCD bills from December 13, 2019-January 9, 2020 in the amount of \$26,026.02.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 13, 2020.

Approved by Mona Henkels, Secretary of District Supervisors

Date