

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

“Helping bring YOU clean water”



Murray SWCD

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Supervisors

Chair

Shannon Cohrs
District III
(507) 380-0997

Vice Chair

Mona Henkels
District IV
(507) 360-6348

Secretary

Paul Posthuma
District I
(507) 879-3102

Treasurer

Karen Hurd
District V

PR & I

Gary Brinks
District II
(507) 763-3775

Staff

District Administrator

Shelly Lewis

Program Manager

Craig Christensen

Members Present:

Shannon Cohrs- Chairman
Mona Henkels-Vice Chairman
Paul Posthuma-Secretary
Karen Hurd-Treasurer
Gary Brinks-P.R.&I.

Others Present:

Craig Christensen-District Technician
Shelly Lewis-District Secretary
Cheryl Heard-Soil Conservationist (SC)
Roger Steinman-2016 District Supervisor
Doug Goodrich-Board Conservationist (BC)
Gary Watson-Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations (ASTC-FO)

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

Additions to Agenda: The chairman asked if there were any additions to the agenda. The following items will be added to the agenda: Letter to the Editor, Gary Watson- Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, and planning session with Consultant.

Minutes of December 8 & 27, 2016: A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Cohrs to approve the December 8 and December 27, 2016 Minutes.

Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

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

Salaries: A motion by Cohrs seconded by Steinman to approve Supervisor’s vouchers and Murray SWCD salaries for December 2016.

Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations: Gary Watson updated the SWCD Board on NRCS' contribution to the Farm Bill Assistant position located in the Murray SWCD office. The NRCS will not be able to provide space for the Farm Bill Assistant because they have no more space available. The NRCS will be able to supply a computer and vehicle when the contract is approved.

Murray SWCD Personnel Policy: A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Cohrs to approve the Murray SWCD Personnel Policy subject to changing the Family Leave Act language.
Affirmative- Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

DC Report:

ENGINEERING: The NRCS is hoping for funding through EQIP for projects.

EQIP: There are 26 applications to date. There are 2 grazing, 3 structural, 1 pollinator, and 20 cover crop applications. The eligibility deadline is the end of January 20, 2017. The obligations will be made in March, 2017.

1026/spot-checks:

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): 27- 2017 CSP renewals. NRCS is still working on 2016 CSP payments. There are 38 2017 CSP applications to date. No application deadline yet.

CRP: The NRCS is working on CRP eligibility. There are some safe acres and EI acres coming soon.

NRI: The NRI has been completed with 72 total points.

Well Records:The Board reviewed 19 well and boring sealing records, 5 well and boring construction records, and 3 well and boring records. They will be filed in the District Depository.

Letter to the Editor: Supervisor Posthuma requested discussion on the Letter to the Editor that was submitted to the newspapers by Supervisor Brinks. The letter stated the mission of the Murray Soil and Water Conservation District, the services the District offers to Murray County, and concerns the Murray SWCD Board has with the County Commissioners recent funding denial. The discussion followed with no motion.

Oath of Office:The Oath of office was signed by Karen Hurd, Mona Henkels and Shannon Cohrs.

Election of Officers:A motion was made by Cohrs seconded by Brinks to have Cohrs-Chairman, Henkels-Vice Chairman, Posthuma-Secretary, Hurd-Treasurer, and Brinks-PR&I.
Affirmative- Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

IRS Mileage Rate:A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Cohrs to approve the 2017 IRS Mileage Rate of 53.5 cents.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

2017 Committee Assignments:A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to have the following 2017 Committee Assignments:

- 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)

Affirmative- Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

2017 Financial Depository:A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Brinks to approve Minnwest Bank-Slayton as the 2017 Financial Depository for the Murray Soil and Water Conservation District.

Affirmative- Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

2017 Capitalization threshold & straight line depreciation:A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Henkels to set the 2017 Capitalization threshold at \$5,000.00 and use straight line depreciation.

Affirmative- Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

2017 Murray SWCD Annual Plan:The Board reviewed the 2017 Murray SWCD Annual Plan. A motion made by Brinks seconded by Henkels to approve the 2017 Murray SWCD Annual Plan with corrections.

Affirmative- Unanimous
Opposed- None
Motion carried.

State Cost-Share final financial reports for FY14 & FY15: A motion made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to approve the State Cost-Share Final Financial Report for FY14 & FY15 with slippage of \$280.95 from FY15. The slippage will be sent back to BWSR.

Affirmative- Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

2017 SWCD Local Capacity Services Grant Agreement: A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Henkels to approve the chair signing 2017 SWCD Local Capacity Services Grant Agreement.

Affirmative- Unanimous
Opposed- None
Motion carried.

The Board discussed the 2017 SWCD Local Capacity Services Grant Agreement. A motion made by Henkels seconded by Brinks to add a Drill and take out the excavator in the 2017 work plan for the grant.

Affirmative- Unanimous

Opposed- None

Motion carried.

Contract for Services for Financial Coordinator/Administrative Assistant: A motion made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to approve the 2017 Contract for Services for Financial Coordinator/Administrative Assistant for the Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area (SWPTSA).

Affirmative- Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area Shared Engineering Technician & Staff Host District: A motion made by Posthuma seconded by Hurd to approve the 2017 Contract for Services for Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area Shared Engineering Technician and Staff Host District.

Affirmative- Unanimous

Opposed- None

Motion carried.

Memorandum of Understanding: A motion made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Murray SWCD and Pheasants Forever, Inc. and the Local Partners Agreement between Murray SWCD and Pheasants Forever.

Affirmative- Unanimous

Opposed- None

Motion carried.

Murray SWCD 2017 Dues: A motion made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to approve payment of 2017 dues to Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)-\$2,645.46, Southwest Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWMASWCD)-\$400.00, Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area (SWPTSA)-\$3,978.00, and the Southwest Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (SWMACDE)-\$10.00.

Affirmative- Unanimous

Opposed- None

Motion carried.

FYI RCRCA Cost-Share: The SWCD Board was informed of available cost-share for the installation of effective BMPs consisting of Water & Sediment Control Basins, Grassed Waterways, Streambank Stabilizations, and Grade Stabilizations/Small Dams through Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA).

FYI-call from Senator Weber: Craig received a call from Senator Weber regarding a farmer who was not happy with the Buffer that needed to be put in.

FYI-CREP III: The Board was informed CREP III will be starting next week.

Update on Murray SWCD District Technician: The Murray SWCD has received 7 applications to date for the Murray SWCD Technician.

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Bills: A motion by Brinks seconded by Posthuma to pay 18 Murray SWCD bills in the amount of \$19,279.18 for January and 9 Murray SWCD bills in the amount of \$544.69 from December.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2017.

Approved by Mona Henkels, Secretary of District Supervisors

Date