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
Mona Henkels
District IV
(507) 380-8348

Vice Chair
Paul Posthuma
District I
(507) 679-3102

Secretary
Gary Brinks
District II
(507) 763-3775

Treasurer
Karen Hurd
District V

PR & I
Shannon Cohrs
District III
(507) 380-0997

Staff

District Administrator
Shelly Lewis

Program Manager
Craig Christensen

District Technician
Travis Radke

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

Others Present:
Shelly Lewis-District Administrator
Kelly Pfarr- District Conservationist
Megan Howell-Farm Bill Assistant

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.
SWMASWCD Area V meeting update was added.

Minutes of February 8, 2018: A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Cohrs to approve the Murray SWCD February 8, 2018 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 Posthuma to approve Supervisor’s vouchers and Murray SWCD salaries for February 2018.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

**DC Report:** Kelly Heather Pfarr
(District Conservationist) Report
March 8, 2018

EQIP
- 25 Active Contracts
- 1 RCPP application for FY18
- 37 applications for FY18 — which is 38 total e 19 applications that are eligible and ranked.
  Will move forward with potential funding

WRP/WRE/ACEP
- 2 WRE applications to be sent to the state office

CSP
- Received 19 Applications for the 2018 signup

CRP
- CREP sigil-up underway — Contact Megan Howell with Pheasants Forever o Only applications being accepted by FSA are for CREP acres
- Farm Bill capped at 24 million acres o No new cropland applications being accepted at this time due to the CAP o Will accept applications on pasture grassland acres only o Waiting to hear from Washington on their plan for CRP and opening up acres
- Have around 166 CRP that are potential re-enrollments

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

**Farm Bill Assistant Report:** Jan 1-March 8 2018

**CREP**
- Submitted for funding:
  - CP21- Van Scharrel- funded
  - CP21- Crowley- not funded yet
- Working on submitting:
  - CP21
    - Bergman
  - CP23a
    - Nelson
    - Thompson
- Estimates sent out:
  - Chris Lewis
  - Bill Nelson
  - Jim York
  - Nasers
  - Thompson
  - Ulk
  - Crowley
  - Bergman

WIA
- New Sites to be submitted for funding:
  - Karssen
  - Gunnink
  - Timmerman- Adding 30 acres to existing site
- Working on renewing sites coming out this year (12).
  - Gowery, Johnson, Metz, Bakken, Timmerman-renewing thus far and I will be reminding the rest next week.

Walk-in Access Habitat Enhancement Program
- Bakken- 152 acres
  - Spring burn
  - Tree removal
  - Grazing plan after fire to control invasive cool season grasses.
- Metz 75 acres
  - Tree removal project

State Envirothon
- Working on creating the wildlife section presentation, exam, and key for the state envirothon this year.

RIM
- Wrapping up 4 RIM easements
  - Lorang
  - Stenke
  - Jakkie’s Farms
  - Paplow

U of M Pollinator Project Areas Submitted
- Jeremy Steinle
- Bruce Freeburg
- Steve Sundquist
- Paul Malone
- Barry Burger
- Johnny Blowers
- Greg Kvilhaus
- Steve DeSmet
- *4 more at Pheasant Fest (various counties within the study area) but I do not have their contact information because I had them contact Christina directly.

PF Stuff
- Pheasant Fest- Worked the landowner help desk and banquets for fundraising
- Bio-Briefing- Presented research to the team that I helped conduct in Iowa.
DNR
- Working on recording a podcast promoting hunting, the Walk-In Access Program, and grassland conservation.

Trainings/Meetings
- CRP Conservation Planning Training
- Farm Bill Assistantship Training
- Cover Crop
- Seed Mix Training
- U of M Pollinator Project Meeting

Update on State Managers Meeting: The District Administrator attended a State SWCD Manager’s Meeting in St. Cloud. There were 42 SWCD Managers from all around the State. MCIT put on a training on the employment law. The Department of Human Rights gave a presentation on The Minnesota Human Rights Act. The Managers broke up into smaller groups and discussed numerous topics.

SWACD Meeting: A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Cohrs to approve Employees attending the Area V Employee’s Training on March 27, 2018 at the Murray County 4H Building in Slayton from 8:30-4:00. Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Managing the Human Resource Training: A motion was made by Cohrs seconded by Posthuma to approve the District Administrator attending the Managing the Human Resource Training in St. Cloud on May 9-10, 2018. Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Des Moines River Watershed: A motion was made by Hurd seconded Brinks to approve attendance at the Des Moines River Watershed update session on March 26, 2018 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Fulda American Legion. Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Buffer Cost-Share: A motion was made by Cohrs seconded by Hurd to approve payment to Michael Edwards for 3.2 acres @ $300.00/acre for a total of $960.00. Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.
Annual Report for Newspaper: A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Cohrs to approve purchasing a ½ page in the Murray County News at a cost of $450.00 for the 2017 Murray SWCD Annual Report.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

2018 Environmental Fair: A motion was made by Cohrs seconded by Hurd to approve $500.00 donation to the 2018 Environmental Fair to be held at the Murray County Fairgrounds on September 26, 2018.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Update from BWSR Grant Verification: The Murray SWCD had a verification on FY16 Capacity Grant & FY17 Capacity Grant on Wednesday March 7, 2018. The District Administrator updated the Board on the verification.

FY18 Capacity Grant Amendment: A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Cohrs to approve signing the FY18 Capacity Grant Amendment for an additional $18,000.00.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Flood Recovery Cost-Share: A motion was made by Cohrs seconded by Hurd to approve the following application:
Dan Krueger Flood Recovery Cost-Share Phase 2 Waterway $6,809.40
Technical is provided by the Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Cottonwood River/Redwood River (WRAPS) meeting: A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Cohrs to approve attendance at the Cottonwood River/Redwood River WRAPS meeting for elected officials on Monday, March 19, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. at the Southwest Research & Outreach Center in Lamberton.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.
Local Work Group Meeting: A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Cohrs to have the Local Work Group Meeting on April 12, 2018 at 1:00.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Other Business: A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Hurd to approve Henkels attending the Murray County Commissioners meeting on March 20, 2018.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Posthuma updated the Board on the SWMASWCD Area V meeting which was held on February 15, 2018 in Marshall.

Bills: A motion by Hurd seconded by Cohrs to pay Murray SWCD bills for March in the amount of $23,700.84 (see attachment).
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2018.

Approved by Gary Brinks, Secretary of District Supervisors  4-12-18
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