

## SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TECHNICAL SERVICE AREA

2740 22ND ST. SUITE #4

SLAYTON, MN 56172

OFFICE: (507) 836-6061 CELL: (507) 829-5359 FAX: (507) 836-6697

### Meeting of March 29, 2017

#### **BWSR Conference Room-Marshall, MN**

**Attendance:** Russell Hoogendoorn, Staff; Mike Skoglund, Staff; Shelly Lewis, Murray; Dale Sterzinger, Lincoln SWCD; Kay Gross, Cottonwood; Jeff Johnson, Lac Qui Parle; Allen Deutz, Lyon; Paul Posthuma, Murray; Daniel Christianson, Lincoln; Jerry Nelson, Yellow Medicine; Eugene Cragoe, Rock.

Chairperson Deutz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Chairperson called for additions and/or corrections to the agenda. Discuss SWPTSA website was added.

**Minutes:** A motion by Johnson seconded by Nelson to approve the January 11, 2017 minutes. Motion carried.

**Budget/Treasurer's Report:** Shelly gave an update of budget and treasurer's report. The Budget is approved subject to audit.

**Equipment Purchases:** The Board discussed Equipment Purchases with the Enhanced Technical Services Grant Part 2. A motion was made by Christiansen seconded by Nelson to approve purchasing 2-4 Wheelers, tracks for one, 3 Rod Mounts for Pickup, and a Power Washer. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Johnson seconded by Posthuma to allow extra purchases up to \$1,500.00 out of the Equipment Grant. Motion carried.

**Personnel Policy Update:** A working draft has been completed for the TSA Personnel Policy Handbook. Kay is waiting on a quote from the Attorney to review the TSA Personnel Policy. A motion was made by Christiansen seconded by Nelson to approve hiring the Attorney to review TSA Personnel Policy in the amount up to \$1,000.00. Motion carried.

**TSA Website:** The SWPTSA does not have their own website. The Murray SWCD has a page on their website for the SWPTSA. The Citizen Publishing out of Windom will create web site page for \$279.00. A motion was made by Johnson seconded by Nelson to approve having the Citizen Publishing create a website page for the SWPTSA in the amount up to \$400.00. Motion carried.

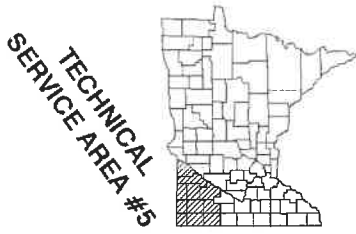
**SWPTSA Staff Report:** The TSA Staff handed out reports on the projects being worked on to date. There are 147 projects being worked on with 40-45 of them being constructed. The SWPTSA has a project in every County except Yellow Medicine. The SWPTSA staff did presentations at the Lyon and Nobles SWCD Board meetings.

**BWSR Report:** The BWSR staff is at a training in St. Cloud. The report was sent as follows:

## **TSA 5 BWSR Update:**

- *Tentative* date for a New SWCD Supervisors Training with BWSR is June 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Jeremy Maul was hired as the BWSR Southern Region BC. His work area is Chippewa, Renville, Redwood, Brown, and McLeod Counties.
- MN CREP signup is still expected to start in April. Contact Tabor Hoek for more details.
- BWSR has released several guidance documents regarding alternative practice scenarios for landowners. These guidance documents can be found on the BWSR Buffer Webpage.
- Deadline to submit a One Watershed, One Plan application is April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Nearly 74 percent of Minnesota's counties are already 60–100 percent compliant with the Buffer Law.
- BWSR has put together Area Training Teams for every NRCS/TSA area in MN. Each Area Technical Training Team includes a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 representatives from each BWSR, NRCS, and SWCD/TSAs. The Area Training Team for Area 5 got together on March 13 to discuss training needs in Area 5. The group identified area training needs and priorities for 2017. Contact your BWSR Board Conservationist or Megan Lennon with BWSR for more information.
- Moving forward, whoever signs the Financial Report generated in eLINK must be an elected or appointed official of the grantee, or a person (likely staff person) specifically delegated the authority by board motion or resolution. This applies to Counties, SWCD's and WD's.
- A meeting is being held by BWSR which will be supported by the Freshwater Society to help evaluate the structures of Technical Service Areas across the state in terms of workload, structure, and management. A set of recommendations has been created by a work group designed to address current and future demand for TSA operations given the demand for accelerated conservation implementation. The group is now seeking input from staff and supervisors alike. The meeting will be in Mankato on April 4<sup>th</sup> (11:30 am to 3:30 pm) Contact your district office for details.
- The Missouri River One Watershed, One Plan effort is underway and is nearing the Work Plan phase of the project. Look for public notices and open houses in the coming months to kick-off the effort and have a chance to make suggestions and ask questions. Contact BWSR in Marshall or check out the One Watershed One Plan section of the BWSR website if you want more details.

**Next Meeting:** The next SWPTSA meeting will be on Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at BWSR conference room in Marshall, MN.



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The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

*Paul Posthuma*

*6/28/17*

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Paul Posthuma  
Secretary SWPTSA

Date