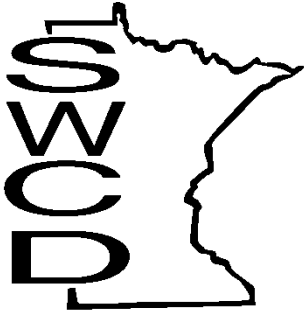


# SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

“Helping People Help the Land”



Murray SWCD

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murrayswcd.org

## Supervisors

### Chair

**Mona Henkels**

District IV  
(507) 360-6348

### Vice Chair

**Paul Posthuma**

District I  
(507) 879-3102

### Secretary

**Gary Brinks**

District II  
(507) 763-3775

### Treasurer

**Karen Hurd**

District V

### PR & I

**Anthony Conrad**

District III

## Staff

### District Administrator

**Shelly Lewis**

### Program Manager

**Craig Christensen**

### District Technician

**Aaron Crowley**

## Members Present:

Paul Posthuma-Vice Chair

Gary Brinks-Secretary

Karen Hurd-Treasurer

Anthony Conrad-P.R. & I.

## Member Absent:

Mona Henkels-Chair

## Others Present:

Shelly Lewis-District Administrator

Craig Christensen-Program Manager

Allisa Wendland-Soil Conservationist

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 Hurd seconded by Brinks to approve the agenda with the addition of discussing the Treasurer’s Report.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

**Minutes of March 11, 2021:** A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Brinks to approve the Murray SWCD March 11, 2021 minutes.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried

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

**DC Report:**

Cheryl Heard

District Conservationist Report – Murray County

April 8, 2021

Personnel – New Pheasants Forever in Nobles County, Will Gallman

230 – EEO-Civil Rights - FOIA - Districts, supervisors, and partners may sign a new version of the FOIA Section 1619 in the near future. FOIA (Freedom of Information Act). All federal information is solely for the purpose of the federal programs. Any request of information will go through the proper channels of approval. (DC, Area Staff, State Staff).

EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program State Fund Codes within the county

- High Tunnel, Beginning Farmer, CAP (Conservation Activity Plan), Honeybee Pollinator

Area Fund Pools – Farmstead Local Fund Pools – Cropland, Pasture \$431,579.00 to disburse Murray County has 3 preapprovals at this time.

Continue to take new applications

- Sign-up 1 ended Friday, Nov 20, 2020
- Sign-up 2 ended Friday, March 6, 2021
- Now Applications will go for FY22 funds

In 2020, Murray County Funded 6 contracts in regular sign-up for \$199,145.00  
WRP/WRE/ACEP

EWP - Emergency Watershed Protection Program

- Flooding and Erosion areas that threaten life
- No new news

CSP

- Continue to take new applications • 165 applications for 2021 General  2 screened High Priority to be assessed.

- 60 Applications up for the 2022 Renewal  These are any contract holders with a 2017 contract currently in their last year of the contract.

CRP

- Continuous sign-up is available o Contact FSA/Megan/NRCS

- CREP – Contact Megan
- General sign-up – has been extended with no deadline

WETLAND N/HEL Compliance

- Backlog of tiling requests – down to about a month’s response
- 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

LOCAL WORK GROUP – Due July 30

- Need to set a date
- Maybe later in June/July and this can be done in person? -Otherwise, offsite or virtual with use of surveys etc
- Each county will still hold their own meeting

**Salaries:** A motion by Brinks seconded by Hurd to approve Supervisor’s vouchers and Murray SWCD salaries for March-2021.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None.

Motion carried.

**2021 MASWCD Legislative Briefing:** The board was updated on the 2021 MASCD Legislative Briefing. Lewis gave an overview of the 2021 Legislative Priorities for SWCDs.

**Ag Certification:** The Board reviewed the Ag Certification update for March 2021.

**2021 Environmental Fair:** There will be no Environmental Fair in 2021 due to the pandemic. The committee is looking at doing a book about swcds.

**Legislative Meeting with Schomacker & Weber:** Lewis attended the legislative meeting with Schomacker and Weber via Zoom.

**District Administrator:** Lewis updated the Board on the MASWCD Legislative Briefing, Environmental Fair, meeting with legislators.

**WCA Update:** Crowley updated the Board on WCA. There is a project on the west side of Lake Sarah next to the county park where someone wants to build a new house and raise the road. Crowley is also reviewing a proposal solar site east of town for wetlands. He has had a couple of tilling requests to look at.

**Program Manager:** Christensen reported on cost-share applications. The Francis Hamilton cost-share application was sent to Redwood for special funds. The Jeff Lais cost-share application was sent to Nobles for 1W1P funding. Christensen surveyed with the Drone on 100 acre field near Pete’s Corner that TSA will design a project to fix it.

The drills and packers have been busy going out to landowners.

Christensen received a call from the highway department to seed oats as cover crop until they can get the new highway department built. Christensen went out on Monday and finished up on Tuesday to seed oats on the land.

**Murray SWCD Treasurer’s Report:** The Board discussed the Treasurer’s Report. Lewis will send a breakdown of deposits and expenses before the Murray SWCD Board meeting each month.

**Bills:** A motion by Hurd seconded by Brinks to approve the Murray SWCD bills from March 12, 2021-April 8, 2021 in the amount of \$2,769.79.

Affirmative-Unanimous  
Opposed-None  
Motion carried

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 13, 2021.

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Approved by Gary Brinks, Secretary of District Supervisors

Date