

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

“Helping People Help the Land”



Murray SWCD

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murrayswcd.org

Supervisors

Chair

Mona Henkels
District IV

Vice Chair

Paul Posthuma
District I

Secretary

Jason Miller
District II

Treasurer

Karen Hurd
District V

PR & I

Anthony Conrad
District III

Staff

District Administrator

Shelly Lewis

Program Manager

Craig Christensen

Resource Specialist

Devin Ryan

Members Present:

Mona Henkels-Chair
Paul Posthuma- Vice Chair
Karen Hurd-Treasurer

Member Absent:

Jason Miller- Secretary
Anthony Conrad-P.R.&I.

Others Present:

Shelly Lewis-District Administrator
Craig Christensen-Program Manager
Devin Ryan-Resource Specialist
Allisa Wendland- District Conservationist

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m.

Additions to Agenda: The chairman asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Posthuma to approve the agenda with the following addition:

Motion to approve Cost-Share contract application and forward to Des Moines River Watershed for funding.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

Minutes of March 14, 2024: A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Henkels to

approve the Murray SWCD minutes of March 14, 2024.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None
Motion carried.

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

Salaries: Motion by Posthuma second by Hurd to approve Supervisor's vouchers and Murray SWCD salaries for April 2024.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None.

Motion carried.

DC Report:

Personnel

- New District Conservationist Slayton Field Office- Allisa Wendland

230 – EEO-Civil Rights

EQIP thus far in FY24

- 6 Contracts
 - \$1.1M
 - 2695ac
 - IRA and Non-IRA
 - 117 applications evaluated
- Still having preapprovals happening

WRP/WRE/ACEP

-

EWP - Emergency Watershed Protection Program

-

CSP

- 235 applications, after ranking priority tool oldest 15 that ranked high were evaluated
- 4 renewal contracts
 - 1865ac
 - \$428,000
- 1 Classic application in preapproved status

CRP

- Starting to work re-enrollments and continuous under batching periods
 - Brian Christiansen came in as an earth team volunteer and completed all FY24 status reviews

RCPP

- 1 in preapproved status, 7 evaluated

WETLAND N/HEL Compliance

- Backlog of tiling requests –10mos or so
 - New NRCS guidance July 3, 1996 and newer are considered certified
 - Anything prior July 2, 1996 certified only if it was appealed and an onsite visit was completed

Supervisor Election: Lewis informed the Board that Henkels, Hurd, and Miller are up for election. The filing period is May 21- June 4, 2024.

Local Work Group Meeting: The Local Work Group meeting will be held on June 13, 2024 in the Murray SWCD Conference room at 1:00 p.m.

Area V Meeting: A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to approve attendance at the SWMASWCD Area V meeting on June 14, 2024, at the Windom Community Center, Windom, MN.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Ag Certification: The Board reviewed the Ag Certification update.

MACDE Administrative Conference: A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to approve Lewis attending the MACDE Administrative Conference in Baxter on June 25-26, 2024.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Resolutions: The Board discussed any new resolutions. There are none currently.

SWCD Governance 101: A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Posthuma to approve attendance at the SWCD Governance 101 at the Arrowood Resort & Conference Center, Alexandria, MN on July 16 & 17, 2024.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Murray SWCD Fair Booth: A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Posthuma to approve paying for a SWCD booth at the Murray County Fair on August 14-17, 2024.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

New SWCD Employee: The board discussed hiring a new SWCD Employee due to the workload that is here and coming down. A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Henkels to hire a person with the starting range of \$27.00-\$30.00 based on experience.
Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Des Moines River 1W1P application: A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to approve the following contract application be forwarded to the Des Moines River 1W1P for funding:

Paplow Farms-Waterway
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

District Administrator Update: Lewis updated the Board on the following:

- End of Month, end of the quarter, eLINK posting in grants
- Des Moines River 1W1P meetings
- TSA Meeting Soil Health Meeting
- Tree pickup day-May 3
- County Commissioner meeting-April 16

Program Manager Update: Christensen updated the Board on the following:

- 1W1P meetings
- Working on Easements for CREP & RIM (new RIM signup accepted)
- Planting trees
- BWSR engineering staff came down and did a tour of the CREP projects
- Drill has been busy

Resource Specialist: Ryan updated the Board on the following:

- Attended Cottonwood 1W1P meeting
- Working on field day
- Working on cost-share projects
- Working on WCA

Bills: A motion by Posthuma seconded by Hurd to approve the Murray SWCD bills from March 15, 2024-May 9, 2024, in the amount of \$19,543.18.

Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

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

Next Meeting: June 13, 2024