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
Paul Posthuma
District I
(507) 879-3102

Vice Chair
Gary Brinks
District II
(507) 763-3775

Secretary
Shannon Cohrs
District III
(507) 380-0697

Treasurer
Karen Hurd
District V

PR & I
Mona Henkels
District IV
(507) 360-5348

Staff
District Administrator
Shelly Lewis

Program Manager
Craig Christensen

District Technician
Aaron Crowley

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

Others Present:
Shelly Lewis-District Administrator
Craig Christensen-Program Manager
Aaron Crowley-District Technician
Cheryl Heard-District 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 Brinks seconded by Henkels to add Doug Goodrich (BWSR) to the agenda.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Minutes of June 13, 2019: A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Henkels to approve the Murray SWCD June 13, 2019 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 Henkels to approve Supervisor’s vouchers and Murray SWCD salaries for June 2019.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

**District Conservationist Report:**
Cheryl Heard
District Conservationist Report
July 11, 2019

**Personnel**
- Karen Boysen took position in Fairmont
  - Cheryl, Donna, and Allisa will be assisting in Nobles county as well.

**230 – EEO-Civil Rights**

**EQIP**
- Continue to take new applications
- Murray’s 1st round (Sign-up 2) – 56 applications – Sign up deadline 1/18/2019
  - 47 Eligible & Ranked
  - 19 funded
  - 4 pasture just recently preapproved (including dam repair potentially)
- 2nd group (Sign-up 3) Sign-up deadline 4/19/2019
  - May 17, 2019 is the Ranking deadline – 7 ranked. Have not heard additional funding yet
    - 3 funded due to ranking score
- 2019 Cover Crops for Fallow Fields
  - July 12 – deadline
  - $34.02/ac or $51.03/ac
  - 179 applications

**WRP/WRE/ACEP**
- 2 WRE applications in process

**EWP - Emergency Watershed Protection Program**
- Flooding and Erosion areas that threaten life

**CSP**
- Continue to take new applications
  - 29 applications for 2019 General sign-up have been ranked

**CSP - GCI – Grassland Conservation Initiative**
• Ag producers with eligible base acreage of a whole farm # that has been in grass over a nine-year period, rather than planted with commodity crops.
• Eligible producers will receive a letter from FSA providing information on the new initiative and how to apply.
• $18/acre for up to 5 years.
  o None eligible in Murray County

CRP
• June 3 CRP opened for Continuous Program
  o General supposedly to follow this fall
• CREP – Contact Megan Howell with Pheasants Forever
• Re-enrollment – maxed at 15 years
  o Soil rental rates – range $89 - $191; many soils at $177. Avg at $131.20
  o No SIP, PIP, or SRR 20% incentive

WETLAND N/HEL Compliance
• Backlog of tiling requests – get your requests in early
• 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

Upcoming events
• Aug 12-16 Cheryl on Leave for County Fair

Doug Goodrich (BWSR): Doug updated the Board on upcoming Grants. The WCA grant for 2020 will have a no match required. The State Cost-Share starting in FY17 can now be used for preconstruction at $150.00/acre not to exceed 10 acres. There will be a cover crop exhibit at Farmfest in August.

CREP Outreach & Implementation Grant: A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to approve the FY19 MN CREP Outreach and Implementation Grant Agreement.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

Pond Clean out by Fulda: Craig updated the Board on the request from Heron Lake Watershed District for funding a pond clean out by Fulda. The total cost of the pond clean out is $15,000.00. A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Hurd to contribute $5,000.00 toward the project and take the funds out of Beaver Creek account ($1,000), Vehicle ($1,000), Drill ($1,000), Equipment ($1,000), and Tree ($1,000).
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.
**Update on Cost-Share projects:** Craig updated the Board on Cost-Share projects which are waiting to be constructed.

**Cost-Share Application:** A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Henkels to approve the following cost-share application:

- William Maher #18-01 FY18 Capacity Pond $13,605.17
- NRCS-Technical
- Affirmative-Unanimous
- Opposed-None
- Motion carried.

**BWSR Academy:** A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Cohrs to approve employee attendance at the BWSR Academy on October 29-31 at Breezy Point.

- Affirmative-Unanimous
- Opposed-None
- Motion carried.

**Wetland Conservation Act:** Aaron updated the board on current WCA issues. He is currently working with John Hansel (BWSR) on a wetland violation. Aaron has been looking at a couple tile requests per day for WCA issues.

**Ag Certification Program:** The Board reviewed the update for the Ag Certification Program.

**Governance 101 Training:** A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Henkels to approve attendance at the Governance 101 Training in Bloomington on September 12-13, 2019.

- Affirmative-Unanimous
- Opposed-None
- Motion carried.

**SWCD Managers Meeting:** A motion was made by Henkles seconded by Hurd to approve Lewis attending the SWCD Managers Meeting on September 18-19 in Baxter, MN.

- Affirmative-Unanimous
- Opposed-None
- Motion carried.

**FYI Resolution:** The Board was updated on the passing of the Murray SWCD resolution at the Area V meeting.

**Murray SWCD 2020 Budget:** The Board reviewed the Murray SWCD 2020 Budget. A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Henkels to approve the Murray SWCD 2020 Budget and approve Posthuma attending the County Commissioners on July 29, 2019 to present the budget.

- Affirmative-Unanimous
- Opposed-None
Motion carried.

**SWMACDE Training:** A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Cohrs to approve employees attending the SWMACDE training on August 6, 2019 at the Murray County 4-H Building.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

**Murray County Fair Drawing:** A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Hurd to purchase 4-$25.00 gift certificates at Jim’s Market for the drawing at the Murray County Fair.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

**Fair Sign Up:** The work schedule for the Murray County Fair August 14-17 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Worker</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 14</td>
<td>Shelly</td>
<td>2:00-6:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 15</td>
<td>Karen</td>
<td>2:00-6:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, August 16</td>
<td>Craig</td>
<td>6:00-closing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, August 17</td>
<td>Aaron</td>
<td>6:00-closing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gary</td>
<td>6:00-closing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shannon</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mona</td>
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</tbody>
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**Outstanding Conservationist:** The Board discussed the Murray SWCD outstanding conservationist. A decision will be made at the August Board meeting.

**Bills:** A motion by Cohrs seconded by Brinks to pay Murray SWCD bills from June 14, 2019- July 11, 2019 in the amount of $5,534.18.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried

A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Hurd to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, August 8, 2019.

Approved by Shannon Cohrs, Secretary of District Supervisors 8-8-19