

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

"Helping People Help the Land"



Murray SWCD

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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) 380-0997

Treasurer

Karen Hurd
District V

PR & I

Mona Henkels
District IV
(507) 360-6348

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

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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/ac for up to 5 years.
 - None eligible in Murray County

CRP

- June 3 CRP opened for Continuous Program
 - General supposedly to follow this fall
- CREP – Contact Megan Howell with Pheasants Forever
- Re-enrollment – maxed at 15 years
 - Soil rental rates – range \$89 - \$191; many soils at \$177. Avg at \$131.20
 - 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

Murray SWCD Minutes July 11 | 2019

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:

| | <u>2:00-6:00</u> | <u>6:00-closing</u> |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Wednesday, August 14 | Shelly | Gary |
| Thursday, August 15 | Karen | Shannon |
| Friday, August 16 | Craig | Mona |
| Saturday, August 17 | Aaron | |

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 2:55p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 8, 2019.



Approved by Shannon Cohrs, Secretary of District Supervisors

8-8-19

Date