

# SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

“Helping bring YOU clean water”



Murray SWCD

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## Supervisors

### Chair

Gary Brinks  
District II  
(507) 763-3775

### Vice Chair

Shannon Cohrs  
District III  
(507) 380-0997

### Secretary

Mona Henkels  
District IV  
(507) 360-6348

### Treasurer

Roger Steinman  
District V  
(651)368-0744

### PR & I

Paul Posthuma  
District I  
(507) 879-3102

## Staff

District Manager  
Ken Bickner

District Secretary  
Shelly Lewis

District Technician  
Craig Christensen

## Members Present:

Gary Brinks- Chairman  
Mona Henkels-Secretary  
Roger Steinman-Treasurer  
Paul Posthuma-P.R.&I.

## Member Absent:

Shannon Cohrs-Vice Chairman

## Others Present:

Ken Bickner-District Manager  
Craig Christensen-District Technician  
Shelly Lewis-District Secretary  
Brian Christiansen-BC  
Jim Jens-County Commissioner  
Jason Beckler-BWSR  
Mike Kluis-Landowner  
Glen Hart-Landowner

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

Introductions were made.

**Additions to Agenda:** The chairman asked if there were any additions to the agenda. The addition of approval for Mona to attend the Farm Bill Assistant interviews was added.

**Minutes of August 11, 2016:** A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Posthuma to approve the August 11, 2016 Minutes.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

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

**Salaries:** A motion by Posthuma seconded by Steinman to approve Supervisor's vouchers and Murray SWCD salaries for August, 2016.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

**Murray County Landowners:** Introductions were made for the 2 Murray County Landowners. Mike Kluis and Glen Hart joined the meeting to discuss the Buffer Program. They wanted to know what their options were for the buffer program instead of putting in a 50-foot buffer. They were given a sheet with information on alternative practices. A discussion followed. They were also given an application for the Ag Water Certification program.

**County Commissioner Report:** Jens reported on meetings he attended which included a Buffer meeting in Marshall, Water Management Plan, preconstruction roof meeting, and an AMC policy meeting. The courthouse will be getting a new roof.

**DC Report:**

ENGINEERING: 5 erosion control EQIP applications.

EQIP: 2017 EQIP application deadline 8/19/2016. 27 applications to date. Anticipate a ranking period deadline in December or January. Hopefully pre-approvals this spring of 2017. EQIP post cards were sent to all producers. NRCS is certifying some EQIP cover crop.

1026/spot-checks:

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): 29- 2017 CSP renewals. Interviews and field verifications done. NRCS is waiting for land control statements from the producers. Quality assurance reviews will be completed after the middle of September.

CRP: Working on CRP eligibility and CRP contracts. The contracts need to be completed by Friday.

Soil Health: Lauren Biegler will be part of the National Soil Health Teleconference on October 6, 2016.

EEO/CIVIL RIGHTS:

**Jason Beckler-BWSR:** Jason Beckler-Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) updated the Board on the BWSR verification. The grant funds have been released so the Murray SWCD should receive the grants soon.

**Manager's Report:** Ken reported that around 500 Buffer Letters were sent to landowners. The Murray SWCD has been getting at least 20 contacts a day in the office. The grant funds for the Murray SWCD have been reinstated. Ken will be attending WCA training in Little Falls next week.

**Farm Bill Assistant Position with Pheasants Forever:** Ken reported on the farm bill assistant position. They had 6 people interview for the position on September 7, 2016. Motion was made by Steinman seconded by Posthuma to approve Henkels attending the interviews for the Farm Bill Assistant Position on September 7, 2016.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

**Appropriation with County or entering into an agreement:** The Board discussed both an appropriation with the County and entering into an agreement. A motion was made by Steinman seconded by Henkels to form a committee who will include Henkels and Posthuma to work on the agreement between the Murray SWCD and the County.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

**Consultant:** A motion was made by Henkels seconded by Steinman to retain CJ Newberg Consulting, LLC with an estimated cost of \$7,500.00 for his services, to apply for PRAP which will cover ½ of the cost and take the remainder of the cost out of the Murray SWCD Special Projects account.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

**2017 SWCD Budget:** The SWCD Board needs to approve the Murray SWCD 2017 Budget before it is presented to the County. The Board reviewed the 2017 Budget. A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Henkels to approve the Murray SWCD 2017 Budget.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

**FY 2017 State of MN BWSR 2014 Flood Recovery-DRAP Phase 3B:** A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Henkels to authorize the chairman to sign the FY2017 State of MN BWSR 2014 Flood Recovery-DRAP Phase 3B grant agreement in the amount of \$79,250.00. This grant is to fund conservation practice repair projects as a result of the storm event known as DR-4182.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

**FY2014 State of MN BWSR Programs and Operation Grant:** A motion was made by Steinman seconded by Henkels to approve chairman signing the FY2014 State of MN BWSR Programs and Operation Grant Agreement when it becomes available.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

**Bills:** A motion by Posthuma seconded by Henkels to pay 4 Murray SWCD bills in the amount of \$567.06 for September and 8 Murray SWCD bills in the amount of \$1,560.41 from August.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Henkels to close the meeting at 4:15 p.m. to discuss 3-month evaluation on the District Manager.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

**Next Meeting:** October 13, 2016.

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Approved by Mona Henkels, Secretary of District Supervisors

Date