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
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
Shannon Cohrs
District III
(507) 380-0997

Staff

District Administrator
Shelly Lewis

Program Manager
Craig Christensen

District Technician
Travis Radke

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

Others Present:
Shelly Lewis-District Administrator
Craig Christensen-Program Manager
Cheryl Heard- NRCS
Megan Howell-Farm Bill Assistant

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. None added.

Minutes of September 13, 2018: A motion was made by Cohrs seconded by Hurd to approve the Murray SWCD September 13, 2018 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 Brinks to approve Supervisor’s vouchers and Murray SWCD salaries for September 2018.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

District Conservationist Report:

Cheryl Heard
(District Conservationist) Report
October 11, 2018
Personnel
• Cheryl Heard is Acting DC -Maybe hear Nov-Jan about position
• State Conservationist – Troy Daniell

EQIP
• Continue to take new applications for EQIP

WRP-WRE
• 2 WRE applications finishing up applicant eligibility

CSP
• 17 General Sign-up Contracts
• 26 applications applying for renewals • 18 continued with enhancements

• 262 active contracts
• CSP Payments started
• Continue to take new applications

CRP
• CREP -can’t submit – 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 (10 month wait for CWD)

SWCD
• MOU – Memorandum of Understanding with NRCS
• ESE – Drainage Water Management – Nov 15 in Slayton
Farm Bill Assistant Report:

CREP
Applications Funded:
6 (Thompson, Van Scharrel(2), Crowley, Bergman, and Davis)
Applications waiting to be submitted when sign up opens up again:
2 (STAMCY and Nelson)
Offers that are interested but I am still working with the landowners to determine whether or not they are going to apply:
2 (Cody Gerber and Harms)
Potential CREP applications that resulted in ineligibility or lack of interest in the landowner:
15 (Matt Jackels, Toni Bullerman, Dean Lammers, Keith Doeden, Don Determan, Jerris Van Roeckel, Wayne Carlson, Brett Muecke, Mark Ausen, Brad Halbur, KSG Swanjord, Bill Johfs, Olson, Harms)

RIM
3 haying plans
Working on trying to get one RIM landowner to utilize funding PF has to enhance RIM sites. We would be doing a tree removal and a burn.
RIM Inspections (15)
Flyer to promote PF RIM Enhancement Program
Carl Pilegaard- Pollinator enhancement seeding on 30 acres in Pipestone County, 11 acres in Murray County.

CRP
58 contracts written for the CCRP sign up
-Met with CRP Participant to help manage her CP42 Pollinator site.

WIA
Renewed 12 sites in the county and added 2 new sites.
Recorded a podcast with the DNR promoting WIA in Murray County and grasslands month!
Sent out letters to landowners with WIA that are eligible for $20,000 worth of enhancements on their properties for being a part of the WIA program.

Prairie Coteau Conservation Focus Area Technical Team
Joined the Prairie Coteau CFA technical team to help the DNR, local SWCDs, The Nature Conservancy, MN Land Trust, Ducks Unlimited, and other various partners protect, enhance, and monitor the Prairie Coteau region in Murray County.

Murray County Public Land
Assisted the DNR with soil sampling and soil temp readers at Lake Maria on a research project involving the benefits of cover crops to wildlife.
Working on a tree removal WMA

State Envirotthon:
Presented the wildlife portion of the MASWCD Envirotthon at Lake Shetek.

WRP Monitoring
Conducted WRP Monitoring in Murray, Nobles, and Jackson Counties. (20 sites)

Trainings/Meetings:
BWSR Pollinator Training
DNR’s Precision Conservation
Prairie Coteau CFA
BWSR CREP Meeting-Mankato
DNR Plant Training

2019 Office Lease Agreement: A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Hurd to approve the 2019 Office Lease Agreement for office space from January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019. The rent amount for office space is the same for 2019.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.
Memorandums of Understanding: The Board reviewed the following Memorandums of Understanding:

2. FY 2018-19 Agreement with SWPTSA for Financial Coordinator & Host District for Shared Technician- 6/30/2019
3. Storage Space Lease for Darrell Hungerford thru December 31, 2019
4. Cooperative Agreement between SWPTSA for use of the District’s ATV-indefinite period of time
5. Agreement with U.S. Corp of Engineers for planning and carrying out projects-indefinite period of time
6. Joint Powers Agreement with Murray County Commissioners for Administering the Wetland Conservation Act-indefinite period of time
7. Mutual Agreement between the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the District to achieve common natural resources goals and objectives-indefinite period of time
8. Agreement with DNR Waters for Ground Water Level Monitoring
9. Agreement with Murray County on IP Storage Building thru 12/31/2029
10. Rent Lease Agreement with Darrel Hungerford for office space rent thru 12/31/2019
11. West Fork Des Moines River Memorandum of Agreement
12. Rock River Watershed Memorandum of Agreement
13. NRCS USDA Acknowledgment of Section 1619 Compliance (Data Privacy)
15. Cooperative Working Agreement & Operational Agreement with the NRCS

A Motion was made by Cohrs seconded by Posthuma to accept the Memorandums of Understanding.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.

MASWCD Convention: A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Brinks to approve Supervisors, Employees and Outstanding Conservationists attending the MASWCD Convention on December 9-11, 2018.
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried.
**Great Plains No-Till Drill:** A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Cohrs to approve purchasing a Great Plains No-Till Drill in the amount of $42,250.00 from Jaycox Implement, Inc. The funds to purchase the drill will be taken out of the FY16 Capacity Grant, FY17 Capacity Grant, and FY18 Buffer Law Grant.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

**2014 Flood Relief Phase 2 Grant:** A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Cohrs to approve signing the FY2016 State of Minnesota 2014 Flood Relief Phase 2 Grant amendment to extend the date of the grant to December 31, 2019.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

**Landowner Complaint:** Christensen received a Landowner complaint regarding a tiling issue with his neighbor. The neighbor signed a 1026 to do drainage and was approved with setbacks in the wet area. The Landowner then complained, and it triggered a NRCS 569 determination which came back no violation on the property.

**Environmental Fair:** The 2018 Environmental Fair was held at the Murray County Fairgrounds in Slayton. The event was held on September 26, 2018 with 1500 kids from 23 different schools attending the environmental fair. The committee is looking into holding the 2019 Environmental Fair at the Shetek Bible Camp.

**2019 Calendars:** A motion was made by Hurd seconded by Cohrs to purchase 2019 sticky calendars to be put in the Murray SWCD December newsletter.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.

**2019 NACD Membership:** A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Hurd to approve 2019 NACD membership for $775.00.

Affirmative-Unanimous

Opposed-None

Motion carried.
**Highway Department Bill:** A motion was made by Brinks seconded by Cohrs to pay the bill from the highway department for a closed road sign because the road was under water from a CREP project in the amount of $261.30 and send the bill to BWSR for reimbursement.
Affirmative-Hurd, Brinks, Cohrs
Opposed-Posthuma
Motion carried.

**Bills:** A motion by Cohrs seconded by Hurd to pay Murray SWCD bills from September 14-October 11, 2018 in the amount of $3,905.44. (see attachment).
Affirmative-Unanimous
Opposed-None
Motion carried

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, November 8, 2018.

Approved by Gary Brinks, Secretary of District Supervisors

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