

SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TECHNICAL SERVICE AREA

2740 22ND ST. SUITE #4

SLAYTON, MN 56172

OFFICE: (507) 836-6061 CELL: (507) 829-5359 FAX: (507) 836-6697

Meeting of March 2, 2022

Webex

Attendance: Russell Hoogendoorn, Staff; Mike Skoglund, Staff; Jake Harrison, Staff; Shelly Lewis, Murray; Craig Christensen, Murray; Kay Gross, Cottonwood; Clark Lingbeek, Cottonwood; Daniel Christenson, Lincoln; Dale Sterzinger, Lincoln; Chessa Frahm, Lac Qui Parle; Mike Croatt, Lac Qui Parle; Dawn Madison, Contract Position; Doug Bos, Rock; Roger Hoff, Rock; Jeanne Prescott, Redwood; Kyle Krier, Pipestone; Cal Spronk, Pipestone; Tyler Knutson, Yellow Medicine; Jerry Nelson, Yellow Medicine; Steve Prairie, Lyon; Mark Hiles, BWSR; Ed Lenz, BWSR; Doug Goodrich, BWSR; Jason Becker, BWSR.

Lingbeek called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Additions to Agenda: A motion was made by Hoff seconded by Croatt to approve the agenda as emailed. Roll Call:

Affirmative: Christenson, Prairie, Spronk, Lingbeek, Nelson

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Minutes: A motion was made by Christenson seconded by Hoff to approve the minutes of January 2, 2022. Roll Call:

Affirmative- Prairie, Spronk, Lingbeek, Nelson, Croatt

Opposed-None

Motion carried

Budget/Treasurer's Report: Lewis gave an update of the budget and treasurer's report. The Budget/Treasurer's report is approved subject to audit.

Contract Position update:

Accomplishments from Jan 1 to March 2nd, 2022

New employees:

We have a new Technician in Lyon County SWCD. Courtney Snyder started on January 3rd and Lee Tapper relocated to Rock SWCD and began on that day as well.

Training updates:

I have continued to go up to Lincoln to assist Sam with engineering design training, provided training to Austin in Lincoln on ECS tools. I have also added Courtney to the training focus with ECS practices as well. January was a bit challenging to train due to seasonal cold and covid outbreaks both in house and in the offices but I think we are clear now.

The main training work has continued as one on one training for design, rusle 2, CRP practice overview and eligibility, and folder review for Devin. His next step is to meet with Eric to showcase his proficiency in engineering design to gain his JAA in WASCB and Waterway.

Other training or assistance was to help refresh the new Rock Cty on building a mgmt. system in RUSLE 2 to include covers and working in Rock with The Rock Soil Health Team and SWCD to plan their next mtg intended for March 16th. LQP is working to have a event as well. And Lincoln, Nobles, Jackson, Redwood, Lyon, Yellow Medicine SWCDs have all worked to help put on the I90 and Hwy 14 tours that have occurred recently as well. Kudos to all those that helped put on those events.

Upcoming trainings: I am Hoping to pull together a tech training yet this month. Details to come to field techs as the opportunity is figured out.

Coordinator Report:

2020 NACD – Technical Assistance Grant

Quarterly reports and Final report have been submitted for October – December 2021. Funds have been expended and match has been met.

2021 NACD – Technical Assistance Grant Application

Quarterly reports have been submitted for October – December 2021.

We will not be requesting funding for round 2022.

TSA Engineering Staff

Personnel reviews were completed and approved for step increases for Engineer, Senior Technician and Engineering

Technician. There was discussion at the January Policy Board Meeting about hiring, but at this time the process is on hold.

Soil Health/Training Contract Position

Dawn Madison is continuing to work with District staff in gaining Job Approval Authority and also working with the

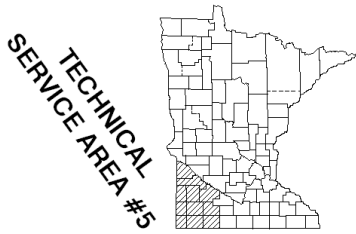
Administration on reporting the NACD grants. Dawn is working with local local staff on their job approval authority

and assisting with area trainings and soil health events.

We completed a review of our contract position and were very happy with the work being completed and the

responses from our member Districts. We look forward to extending our contract two more years this August.

MAWQCP Technical Assistance



SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TECHNICAL SERVICE AREA

2740 22ND ST. SUITE #4

SLAYTON, MN 56172

OFFICE: (507) 836-6061 CELL: (507) 829-5359 FAX: (507) 836-6697

Danielle Evers is spearheading the Hwy 14 Soil Health Tour which will make stops in our Area (Lake Benton and Lamberton) with additional stops in New Ulm and Waseca. The tour will be beginning March 1 (Lake Benton), March 2 (Lamberton), March 3 (New Ulm) and March 4 (Waseca).

STATE MANAGERS MEETING

State TSA Managers meeting was held on February 8th. A review of area TSAs were give by each Manager and

Workload Analysis Services – Red River Valley Conserservation Service Area was distributed and discussed. A copy has been forwarded to our area staff.

TSA Manager Meeting

Meeting will be planned for early 2022.

TSA Board Meeting

The next schedule TSA Board meeting will be held in September 2022 date and time will be determined at a later date.

SWPTSA Staff Report: The TSA has 172 projects on the books. Skoglund and Harrison attended a 2 day Drone training on February 28-March 1, 2022 in St. Peter. They will be taking the test to become certified.

BWSR Report: Beckler updated the Board on BWSR putting on a spring training on March 29, 2022, via the web. According to the forecast there will be a general fund surplus. There may be some increase funding for programs. BWSR is starting to fill some position vacancies.

Other Business: none

Next Meeting: The SWPTSA Board will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the BWSR office on Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

Paul Posthuma
Secretary SWPTSA

Date