

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 29, 2023 Pizza Ranch-Marshall, MN

Attendance: Russell Hoogendoorn, Staff; Mike Skoglund, Staff; Jake Harrison, Staff; Shelly Lewis, Murray; Tom Muller, Cottonwood; Kay Gross, Cottonwood; Jerry Nelson, Yellow Medicine; Paul Posthuma, Murray; Allen Deutz, Lyon; Paul Langseth, Nobles; Dawn Madison, Contract Position; Rick Maurer, Redwood; Michael Croatt, Lac Qui Parle; Jeanne Prescott, Redwood; Tony Dwire, Lincoln; Quintin Peterson, LQP; Doug Bos, Rock; Dan Bartosh, Jackson; Dale Sterzinger, Lincoln; John Shea, BWSR; Ed Lenz, BWSR; Jason Beckler, BWSR.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Additions to Agenda: A motion was made by Nelson seconded by Croatt to approve the agenda with the addition of:

Discuss Environmental Fair using the TSA MCIT coverage for the event to be held in Marshall, MN on September 26-27, 2023.

Motion carried.

Minutes: A motion was made by Muller seconded by Croatt to approve the minutes of January 18, 2023.

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Lewis gave an update of the budget and treasurer's report. A motion was made by Muller seconded by Nelson to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit.

Motion carried.

TSA equipment purchases: A motion was made by Nelson seconded by Posthuma to ratify the purchases of tires in the amount of \$1,092.00.

Motion carried.

TSA MCIT Insurance: A motion was made by Posthuma seconded by Langseth to approve the Environmental Fair using the TSA MCIT Insurance for the event to be held on September 26-27, 2023 at the Marshall Fairgrounds.

Motion carried.

Contract Position Report:

New employees:

We have a few new Technicians of note in Yellow Medicine, Pipestone, and Lac Qui Parle SWCD counties. Kyle Reitmaier, Shannon Bootsma, and Jake Monnens are all new employees that I will try to be working with before and after I return this June to onboard them. Thus far I have gotten up to Jake a couple times,

met with Shannon once and I am working on a date to meet with Kyle to at least get him started and start running through some of the training sites. I also have just gotten a request to assist Ben Bauer with the Redwood SWCD to work on getting a JAA request together.

Training updates:

Jan 20- Our Beef Livestock training took place on the snow date at the Bakken site with good attendance. Thanks to our training budget I am able to provide a snack or lunch on each of these trainings and any needed supplies.

Feb 2- We quickly pulled together the final planned tour at the Randy Spronk site for our Hog Production tour. Each tour had good attendance and great questions and participation. We will look into further tours on Sheep (Nicole has a site for us lined up), and poultry either this fall or next winter based on interest.

Feb 8th & 9th- Russ and I assisted Aaron Peters with a WASCOB training for newer designers of WASCOBs. We had good attendance and I think many of the newer techs really got more comfortable with a base design.

Feb 14th-I worked with Kristin Brennan, Loren Clark, Herman Bartsch, and the Gberba watershed to hold a JAA training for SH. This was held at Tom Mullers shop. In the morning, Herman led off with a equipment review and then Tom took all participants out and reviewed his equipment. After lunch we went to the Windom DNR office where Kristin and Loren went through JAA and Rusle 2. They all did a really great job with the participant's and we are extra appreciative of Tom for lending both his site, his equipment, and his knowledge in this training. We had all seats reserved for this training within 24 hours of registration opening with a wait list and it was very well received.

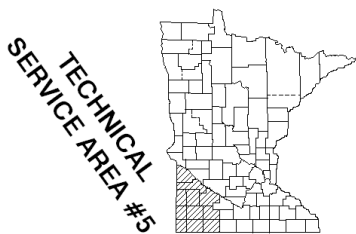
Other than helping organize and assist with the larger trainings I completed more one on one work with getting to go up to Lincoln and work with Sam and Courtney from Lyon county on a wascb design, and the above renewed focus on new hires. I also have been working with Rock SWCD and the Rock cover crop team on setting up a new field day for those that want to dive deeper into the biology of the soils and advance there knowledge. This field day is planned for August.

Finally, I am hoping to pull together some outside speakers to help our area with advancing their soil health knowledge. Currently many staff are taking the basic cover crop webinar and classroom time that was held in Marshall March 27th or 28th. With that I want to increase overall knowledge to prepare our staff for incoming soil health funding that has been talked about in the state. I am also hoping to come up with a day to work on basic understanding of watersheds. I have talked to Russ and he is looking to help lead this with me. We also are looking at possibly a survey practice yet this spring. My time to take leave is coming soon and I will be off fulltime starting April 13th. This winter has posed some challenges for roads, and bad weather so I am sure like many of you I am looking forward to spring type weather.

Coordinator Report:

2021 NACD – Technical Assistance Grant

Fourth quarter reporting (October - December) has been completed.



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Grant Amount - \$125,000	Used - \$82,538.48	Need to Use -
\$42,461.52		
Match Amount - \$31,250	Staff Time Given \$38,704.61	Staff Time Needed -
Exceeded Match		

We will be reporting early in April (so Dawn can help me)!!!!!!

Explanation of Match Requirement:

Match can be obtained by local SWCD staff that completed site inspections and any work on EQIP funded projects.

All hours can be used, that are not match for other grants, up to the point where projects are funded through other grant opportunities. Until funding is set, the projects have an opportunity to be funded by EQIP – those hours we can use.

NACD Technical Assistance Grant – Application 2023 – Agronomist Position

Nothing has been sent out on funding opportunities.

TSA Engineering Staff

Hiring is still on hold at this time.

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 assisting with area trainings and soil health events.

All Livestock 101 trainings have been completed. Thank you so much Dawn for putting these together!!!

Ecological training focusing on Conservation Crop Rotation, No-Till, Reduced Till, introduction to RUSLE2 and WEPS was held on February 14. We may repeat this training later in 2023 because of the high number of interested staff.

MAWQCP Technical Assistance

Continued work with local landowners to receive Worksheet and ultimately Certification through MAWQCP.

Danielle also has JAA for Ecological Services if that service is needed by your office.

Also, a new incentive has been approved requesting landowner referrals from local agronomists. The incentive would result if an MAWQCP worksheet is completed. Incentive would be \$50/referral for worksheet completion or \$100/referral for certification completion.

STATE MANAGERS MEETING

State TSA Managers meeting will be held in early 2023.

TSA Manager Meeting

Next TSA Manager's Meeting will be held in May/June 2023.

TSA Board Meeting

The next schedule TSA Board meeting will be held in June starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Lyon County Government Center.

SWPTSA Staff Report: The TSA has 165 projects on the books. The TSA has taken 11 projects off the books since the January board meeting. The staff attended a Joint Engineer meeting in March. The meeting was cut short due to the blizzard.

The TSA is doing some side inlet designs.

They will be attending a meeting regarding String Lake because the outlet to the lake is failing.

Jake Harrison passed his Drone test and is now certified to fly the Drone.

Harrison and Skoglund attended a Frontier Survey meeting at Breezy Point Resort in March.

The TSA was asked to do a Drone presentation at the Environmental Fair on September 26-27 in Marshall.

The side by side and trailer came in a week ago.

BWSR Report: Ed Lenz updated the Board on money that is in the Clean Water Funds in the amount of 12-14 million for Soil Health and in the Governors bill for 27 million. The funds are not approved yet. Jason Beckler reported on a pilot program with CRP incentives. The incentives are for Continuous CRP only but can be new or renewal. The new RIM/CREP rates for Minnesota have been sent out. In regard to Soil Heath-Think Bigger than Cover Crops.

Other Business: None

Next Meeting: The SWPTSA Board will meet at **10:30 a.m.** on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at the BWSR office conference room.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Paul Posthuma
Secretary SWPTSA

Date