



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
Le Center, MN 56057

Tel. (507) 419-0365
Website: www.lesueurswcd.org

Minutes from January 10, 2023 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur Co. SWCD building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Struck at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck
Vice-Chairman, Greg Entinger
Secretary, Earle Traxler
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
NRCS Team Lead, Chris Schmidt
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Steve Rohlfig
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Dave Preisler
Pete Thelemann

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report from December 20, 2022 was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for December 2022 was read and approved with a motion by Entinger, second by Traxler.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Entinger to appoint Pete Thelemann to the board serving as Glendon Braun's replacement. Braun resigned from the board at the November 9, 2022 board meeting. Thelemann will service the 3rd SWCD District in Le Sueur County for the remainder of Braun's term, which is up 12/31/2024.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

The election of officers took place. Motion by Entinger, second by Gregor to have all offices remain the same for 2023 and elect Thelemann as PR&I.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to designate First National Bank of Le Center as the official bank of the Le Sueur County SWCD and the Le Sueur County News as the official newspaper for the Le Sueur County SWCD.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Mike discussed the 2023 Ditch Inspector Professional Service contract that he will be bringing to the county commissioners. Motion by Traxler, second by Entinger to sign the contract.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Commission Preisler requested a 3 year review of the hours the SWCD puts toward county ditch work.

1W1P

- The Le Sueur River 1W1P is in the 60 day plan review for comment period. The Le Sueur County SWCD can potentially receive funds if the District enters in to the planning process once it is completed.
- The Lower MN East 1W1P has been a slower process working with metro entities.
- Cannon 1W1P work plan being adopted.

Upcoming – Chairmen’s meeting February 1, 2023

Cannon 1W1P meeting February 1, 2023

February board meeting – outstanding conservationist lunch

Ditch inspector update: wild fire started in peat ground (CD29), working on a plan to put out fire, DNR involved.

Motion by Entinger, second by Gregor to sign the audit engagement letter for fiscal year ending 12/31/22 with Peterson Company.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Steve and Chris gave an NRCS report. They discussed payments made for construction projects, open positions in the area, ranking EQIP contracts and potential funding for NRCS through the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act).

Com. Rohlring updated the board on building remodels, the 5.2% levy increase, broadband and the general increase of county employee wages.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:17 am.

2-21, 23
Date

Barbara M. Rohlring
District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
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Tel. (507) 419-0365
Website: www.lesueurswcd.org

Minutes from February 21, 2023 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur Co. SWCD building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Jim Struck at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck
Vice-Chairman, Greg Entinger
Secretary, Earle Traxler
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Pete Thelemann

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report from January 10, 2023 was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for January 2023 was read. Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Recaps:

Jim and Mike attended the Area 6 Chairman's meeting. Items discussed were: the amount of in-person area meetings for 2023, likely 2; Area 6 scholarships; SWCD aide and more supervisor participation on other committees.

1W1P Cannon – officers elected, budget and dollars for projects

1W1P Lower MN E – planning phase, prioritizing watersheds

Upcoming:

MASWCD board meeting – cancelled due to storm

MACDE – Mike elected as President, employee dues \$25/employee. Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to pay each SWCD employees dues.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Legislative Days – March 7 & 8, 2023

Leadership Training – March 14-16, 2023

Nik gave the ditch update. He discussed the peat fire on CD29, rerouting JD38, ditch spraying, tree removal and clean outs.

Karl gave a RIM update. There was a new signup last fall and certain watersheds in the county were targeted. Interest in the program was good and 6 new applications were submitted to the BWSR.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.

3-14, 23

Date



District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
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Minutes from March 14, 2023 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur Co. SWCD building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Struck at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck
Vice-Chairman, Greg Entinger
Secretary, Earle Traxler
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Pete Thelemann

Others present: District Technician, Joe Jirik
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
District Manager, Mike Schultz
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Dave Preisler
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Steve Rohfling
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer's report was read. Motion by Entinger, second by Traxler to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Entinger discussed possibly paying off the SWCD storage building loan. Schultz will check on what is left on the loan at the bank.

Schultz and Schmidtke attended legislative days at the capitol. The number one priority for the SWCD's is consistent financial aid. Schultz gave the Le Sueur Co. SWCD's 2022 annual report to legislators representing Le Sueur Co.

The 2022 annual report was given to the board and discussed.

The 1W1P Cannon work plan has been approved.

The 1W1P Lower MN East will be having a meeting to discuss watershed priorities on March 16, 2023.

Kadel gave a ditch report. CD62 tree removal began. There will be a drainage work group session, with the commissioners, on April 6, 2023.

Breaker gave the NRCS report. He discussed the current general CRP sign up and working on obligating EQIP applications.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

5-9, 23
Date

Case Thayer
District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Minutes from May 9, 2023 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur Co. SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Struck at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck
Secretary, Earle Traxler
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Pete Thelemann

Members absent: Vice-Chairman, Greg Entinger

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Steve Rohlfing
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Dave Preisler
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report for March 14, 2023 was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for March 31, 2023 was read. Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Treasurer's report for April 30, 2023 was read. Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Guest reports:

Commissioners Rohlfig and Preisler discussed mining and gravel tax, remodeling areas of the courthouse, county ditch meetings, following the state ditch laws, road restrictions have been removed and debt services.

Steve gave a NRCS report. EQIP application projects, CRP re-enrolling contracted, spring construction and a new summer intern are items he discussed.

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to sign the agreement for \$6000.00 for administering the MAWQCP.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to sign the 2023 well monitoring agreement with the MDNR.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

The board discussed paying off the storage shed. Payoff is approximately \$87,000.00. This issue will be discussed at next month's board meeting.

Leadership training renewed for 2023-2024. The board is eligible to attend, sign up ends July 11, 2023.

Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to approve encumbering \$7149.75 for Luke Krenik Cannon River cost-share contract #23-LS-001 for WASCOB's.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Mike discussed the Waterville flood study and that it was introduced in both the House and Senate but did not make it to committee.

Lower MN East 1W1P has its priority areas completed, working on measurable goals and stated delays in the plan process due to the uniqueness of metro and non-metro counties.

Nik gave the board updates on the CD62 tree removal project having unexpected issues such as barbed wire removal. Also renting a tractor and purchasing a 7' wide mower so the SWCD can begin mowing the county ditch buffers. The tractor rental would be \$14.00/hour. The brush cutter will cost \$7828.00.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to rent the tractor and purchase the mower if the Le Sueur County Commissioners agree to the costs.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

The board received the draft drainage manual handout.

ISG will be hosting a drainage tour on May 25, 2023.

The outstanding conservationist tour will take place at the July SWCD board meeting.

There will be a local work group meeting on June 13, 2023 after the SWCD board meeting.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

6-13, 23
Date

Baile Waples
District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
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Minutes from June 13, 2023 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors.
Le Sueur Co. SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Secretary Traxler at 9:00 am.

Members present: Secretary, Earle Traxler
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Pete Thelemann

Members absent: Chairman, Jim Struck
Vice-Chairman, Greg Entinger

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
District Technician, Joe Jirik
BWSR Board Conservationist, Jeremy Maul
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
NRCS Team Lead, Chris Schmidt
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Dave Preisler
NRCS Soil Con. Tech, Kim Scheffler
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal
Landowners: Marty Shambour
Donna Kes

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report from May 9, 2023 was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for May 31, 2023 was read. Motion to approve by Gregor, second by Thelemann.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Marty Shambour and Donna Kes discussed issues they are having on their cropland. The neighbor adjacent to them has enrolled property into the CREP and Marty feels his drainage has been altered since the restorations were completed on the CREP. Mike will look further into this and get in contact with Marty.

Commissioner Preisler discussed tax equalization, bonding bill for flood mitigation in Waterville and remodeling bids.

Steve Breaker introduced Kim Scheffler to the board, he discussed EQIP funding, CRP status reviews, new CRP seedings and plans.

Chris Schmidt discussed the all employees meeting NRCS recently had, completing the quality assurance review, staff updates, more training for employees and funding for conservation steward positions.

The SWCD shed payoff was discussed. Schultz gave the board the estimated payoff but suggested waiting until fall to address this due to the SWCD lease coming due July 2024. The SWCD may need to update the building leased to USDA, which could take a considerable amount of funds.

1W1P Updates

- Cannon – there will be a policy meeting in August, Waterville flood study, water sampling and funds for CRP sign up incentives
- Lower MN East – setting goals, Entinger is the Vice-Chair, metro/non metro county relationship uniqueness
- Mankato – Motion to support Resolution #2023-1 by Gregor, second by Thelemann which is an application to BWSR for a planning grant to develop a watershed management plan.
Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Ditch mowing update – tractor arriving this week, mowing to begin next week. 1/3 of the county buffers planned to be mowed each year.

Deffered Comp - SWCD employees have the ability to a deffered comp plan with the MN State Retirement System. Employees contribute to their own plan, there are no funds deposited from the SWCD. Motion by Gregor, second by Thelemann to allow SWCD employees to use the SWCD payroll system for automatic withdrawel into the plan.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to approve payment for James Beckel cost-share contract #WASH-3 for \$14,413.00 for water and sediment control basins.

\$10,809.75 Lake Washington CWF

\$3603.25 Lake Washington Match

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

MASWCD Legislative Update

- SWCD aid
- Conservation delivery grants
- Flexibility of cost-share
- Funds for upgrading cover on easements

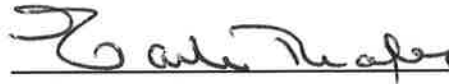
Upcoming meetings

- Local work group
- Area 6
- TSA

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

7/11/23

Date



District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Minutes from July 11, 2023 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors.
Le Sueur County SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Struck at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck
Vice-Chairman, Greg Entinger
Secretary, Earle Traxler
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Pete Thelemann

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
NRCS Soil Con. Tech, Kim Scheffler

Minutes from June 13, 2023 regular meeting were read and approved.

Gregor read the treasurer's report for June 30, 2023. The board discussed paying off the loan on the storage shed. Being a new office space lease is coming due with the USDA it may be wise to hold off paying off the loan until the SWCD is made aware of changes that need to be made to renew the lease. The board also would like to see an amount owed column every month on the treasurer's report for the storage shed. Motion by Entinger, second by Traxler to approve the treasurer's report as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Steve gave a NRCS report. They are wrapping up construction projects, working on continuous CRP contracts, completing some projects on non-cropland and he explained flat versus percentage cost-share rates.

The board asked for an update on Gary Pikal's CREP easement and the impact Marty Shambour believes it made on his property. Mike Schultz met on site with Shambour and BWSR will design a tile outlet for Shambour but will not pay for the construction. Both parties are working with attorney's to come to an agreement.

Motion by Entinger, second by Traxler to sign Paul Gregor's MAWQCP certification worksheet.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

The Waterville Flood Study is half completed. Funding has run out. State and federal agencies may need to partner to raise funds for completion. The Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners have partnered and are willing to match up to \$100,000 of the estimated \$400,000 cost. Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to also partner.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Entinger, second by Traxler to devote \$5000.00 towards the Upper Cannon Flood Study Grant, if funded, from Le Sueur County SWCD.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

The Le Sueur County SWCD will be receiving \$160,000 in aid from the State of Minnesota. This aid is replacing capacity dollars. In order to receive the aid, the board must accept and sign the 2023 Guidelines On Use Of SWCD Aid Payments resolution Minn. Stat. 477A.23, subd. 4(b) and post it on the SWCD website. Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to sign the resolution.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

1W1P Updates –

Cannon – JPB meeting August 2

Cost-share - Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to seek approval to raise cost-share to 75% instead of 50% in Le Sueur County.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Lower MN East – Draft version of plan available this fall, review plan and allow 60-day comment period.

Middle MN Mankato – application submitted and will likely be funded.

Mike discussed LIDAR with the board. There are add-ons available for purchase such as water flow, 3-D imagery of hills, etc. The cost would be approximately \$30,000 payable to Le Sueur County. The board is interested but would like more information.

Motion by Traxler, second by Entginer to encumber \$7095.00 for Randy Oldenburg cost-share contract #cc-2023-1 for cover crops and no-till.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Entginer to encumber \$14,175.00 for Randy Oldenburg cost-share contract #SH-2023 for cover crops and no-till.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Nik gave a county ditch update. He is mowing buffers along the county ditches and is about ½ done. Approximately 1/3 of the ditches will be mowed each year.

Gregor left the meeting at 10:30 am.

The regular board meeting was closed to discuss the 2024 budget Motion by Entinger, second by Thelemann to approve the 2024 budget.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

The board and staff attended the 2024 Outstanding Conservationist tour. Karl Heldberg was chosen as the 2023 Le Sueur County Outstanding Conservationist.

8-8-23
Date

8-8-23 *Carole Taylor*
District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
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Minutes from August 8, 2023 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors.
Le Sueur County SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Struck at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck
Secretary, Earle Traxler
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Pete Thelemann

Members absent: Vice-Chairman, Greg Entinger

Others present: District Technician, Joe Jirik
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
NRCS Team Lead, Chris Schmidt
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Dave Preisler

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes from July 11, 2023 were read and approved.

Treasurer's report was read. Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Guest reports -

Steve Breaker, NRCS:

Current workload;

Fall construction;

Cover crop seeding mixes and rates with landowners;

CRP opened up for haying in Le Sueur County.

Chris Schmidt, NRCS:

New employees;
Staff meetings and new trainings;
Kim Scheffler's extended employment;
Completion of EQIP contracts.

Commissioner Preisler:

Budget meetings to begin next week;
Remodeling bond for the courthouse having lower interest rates than expected (3.02% rather than 3.50%);
Le Sueur County road improvements are on schedule;
State Hwy 13 (near TCU high school) scheduled to be completed before school begins;
Discussing with MNDOT the need to push up improvements on State Hwy 13 south of Montgomery;
Waterville flood study, Holly at Environmental Services working on funds needed.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to hire Streamline for building of the SWCD's website.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Gregor, second by Thelemann to sign a 1-year contract with Dawn Ruhland for janitorial services. The contract is in effect until June 30, 2024.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to pay up to \$30,000 for Lidar improvements.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

1W1P:

Cannon – increasing cost-share from 50%-75% was brought to the JPB;

CRP incentive payments;

Flood Study \$20,000 match.

Lower MN East – will be an entity, not a JPB;

Draft plan by Fall.

Middle MN – no updates.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to sign the Non Structural Land Management Plan for the cover crop program to lessen the acreage for cost-share to 10 acres.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to encumber \$1260.00 for Ruhland Farms cover crop cost-share contract #CC-2023-2.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to encumber \$3465.00 for Josh Klehr cover crop and no till cost-share contract #CC-2023-3.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Karl updated the board on Marty Shambour and Gary Pikal drainage issues. Both parties are working with attorneys each wanting a different result. Until there is a change in the solution, this topic will not be on future board meeting agendas.

Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to trade in the 2016 F250 pick up for a ~~2024~~ 2023 F250 using remaining 2021 Capacity Funds.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Nik updated the board on ditch mowing, One-third of the county ditches were mowed which was the intention for 2023. The mower has been hauled back to the dealer due to seal bearings going out.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

9.12.23

Date



District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
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Le Center, MN 56057

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Minutes from September 12, 2023 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur County SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Struck at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck
Vice-Chairman, Greg Entinger
Secretary, Earle Traxler
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Pete Thelemann

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Steve Rohlffing
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Dave Preisler
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report for August 8, 2023 was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for August 31, 2023 was read. Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Guest reports-

Steve Breaker, NRCS

*summer construction wrapping up

*construction concerns over soil moisture

*preparing for fall construction projects

*CRP plans complete

*CRP payments based on top 3 soils, \$300 max. per acre

*rough idea of CRP that was mowed for emergency haying, reports coming in so will know more next month

Commissioners Rohlfig & Preisler

Courthouse remodel on track for completion

- *county budgets
- *county road projects
- *Lake Washington county park renovations close to completion

Schultz showed the board the SWCD's new website that is available now.

Schultz discussed the SWCD/USDA lease renewal process. The current lease will expire on June 30, 2024. USDA is requesting a 3 and 5 year interim extension. More information to follow.

Motion by Gregor, second by Traxler to sign the representation letter to Peterson Company for the 2022 audit.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Entinger, second by Gregor to sign Nathan Traxler's MAWQCP certification.

Affirmative: Gregor, Entinger, Struck, Thelemann

Abstained: Traxler

Opposed: None

Motion carried

1P Updates-

Cannon

- *CRP incentive payments
- *Soil health meetings
- *Logo complete and approved

Lower Minnesota East

- *JPB approved, working on joint power agreement for members
- *Dues discussed
- *Possible name change
- *Scott Co & WMO may not join the JPA/JPB but will participate to complete the plan
- *Scott SWCD will remain

Middle Minnesota

- *1W1P grant approved, plan to have 1st meeting in October

Le Sueur

Motion by Entinger, second by Thelemann to adopt and implement the Le Sueur River Watershed Compliance Watershed Management Plan.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Gregor, second by Traxler to encumber \$12,720.00 for Kurt Gostomczik strip/no-till and cover crop cost-share contract #cc-2023-4. Capacity 2023 funds.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Entinger, second by Thelemann to encumber \$26,400.00 for Steve Gostomczik strip/no-till and cover crop cost-share contract #cc-wash-2. Lake Washington CWF funds.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to encumber \$2020.00 for Cletus Gregor cost-share contract #23-LS-002 waterway project. Cannon 1W1P funds.

Affirmative: Struck, Traxler, Entinger, Thelemann

Abstained: Gregor

Motion carried

Motion by Gregor, second by Entinger to encumber \$6551.25 for Constance Brastad cost-share contract #1-22 water and sediment control basin. State cost-share funds.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Manager Updates-

Mike Schultz

*Leadership training complete, thanks board for opportunity, encourages others to attend

*Participating in the HR task force with MACDE & MASWCD

*Getting bids on retention wall at the back of the building, needs to be rebuilt

*Capitol investment tour October 12, 2023

*Budget and work session with Le Sueur County

*Health care renewal costs will likely come next month

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.

11.14.23
Date

Paul Taylor
District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
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Minutes from November 14, 2023 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur County SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Struck at 9:10 am.

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck
Secretary, Earle Traxler
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Pete Thelemann

Members absent: Vice-Chairman, Greg Entinger

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
NRCS Team Lead, Chris Schmidt
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report for September 12, 2023 was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for 9-30-2023 was read. Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to approve as read.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Treasurer's report for 10-31-2023 was read. Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to approve as read.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

NRCS Report by Steve and Chris:

- *Kim Scheffler full time Soil Con Tech in the Le Center Field Office
- *Fall construction
- *Prepping for 2024 construction with designs and surveys
- *personnel – new hires & positions open
- *JAA (job approval authority)
- *High interest for EQIP program

Old Business:

- *MASWCD resolutions were online voting only
- *BWSR Academy – all staff attended, successful
- *House Capitol Tour – tour of Upper Cannon watershed
- *Audit 2022 – completed, went well, board received report
- *Retaining wall on southwest side of office completed for \$3720.00

New Business:

*Lease with USDA: USDA requested a 3 and 5 year extension proposal, current lease expires July 31, 2024. Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to submit a proposal beginning August 1, 2024 for \$17.00/sq. ft. and increasing each year by 3% through July 31, 2029. USDA leases 3660 of office space from the SWCD.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

*Paying off SWCD storage shed loan: Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to use the SWCD's money market account to pay off the storage shed loan at First National Bank of Le Center. The remaining balance of the loan is approximately is \$79,000.00.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

*Tree sales are online only this year

*Mike discussed the Conservation Contracts Policy with the board. The policy defines projects and rates of funding. Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to adopt the Conservation Contracts Policy.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Cannon 1W1P:

- *SWCD Board Representative: Struck, delegate Gregor
- *Rates will be updated at the February policy meeting
- *Peer to peer meetings
- *CRP incentives

MN River East 1W1P:

- *SWCD Board Representative: Traxler, delegate Thelemann
- *Draft plan being reviewed and will go out for external review
- *No meeting this month

Middle MN 1W1P:

- *SWCD Board Representative: Entinger, delegate Thelemann

*Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to pay Harrison Ford \$58,360.00 for the F250 pickup that will arrive after the first of the year.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Cost-Share:

*Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to encumber \$2,955.63 for Steve Stangler cost-share contract #3-22 for a sediment control basin.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

*Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to encumber \$5,911.25 for Steve Stangler cost-share contract #23-LS-004 for a sediment control basin.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

*Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to sign Jerald Beckel 25-year watershed storage contract for \$84,437.50. Contract #LSC-WS-2023-A.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

*Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to sign Terry Guentzel 25-year watershed storage contract for \$10,687.50. Contract #LSC-WS-2023-B.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

*Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to sign Terry Guentzel 25-year watershed storage contract for \$19,531.25. Contract #LSC-WS-2023-C.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

*Motion by Gregor, second by Thelemann to pay \$840.00 to Mike Roche for decommissioning a well.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

*Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to approve 2024 benefits for SWCD employees. Costs to the SWCD are as follows and include an additional employee:

- Life and A&D \$1,712/year
- Dental \$7,388.00/year
- Long term disability \$2,366.00/year
- Health Insurance \$89,028.00-\$118,339.00/year

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

*Nik gave a ditch update. He is working on repairs, cleanings, beaver dams, buffer inspections and redetermination of benefits.

*The Personnel Committee met prior to the board meeting and reported on employee evaluations.

*The December board meeting will be on Thursday, December 14, 2023 due to the MASWCD annual convention on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

12.14.23

Date

Barbara Traxler

District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
Le Center, MN 56057

Tel. (507) 419-0365
Website: www.lesueurswcd.org

Minutes from December 14, 2023 regular meeting of the Le Sueur Co. SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur County SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Struck at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck
Vice-Chairman, Greg Entinger
Secretary, Earle Traxler
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Pete Thelemann

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
Soil Con. Tech, Kim Scheffler
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Steve Rohlfig
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report for November 14, 2023 was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for November 30, 2023 was read. Motion by Entinger, second by Traxler to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Traxler and Schultz gave an update on the convention. Future funding for soil health focusing on pollinators, soil health projects and water storage. Also discussed was SWCD aid and resolutions.

Breaker gave the NRCS update. He talked about construction and the fantastic weather we are having for completing projects. Staff are working on surveys for 2024 projects. EQIP certifications and payments are being worked on and there will be an increased payment rate in 2024.

Com. Rohlifing thanked the SWCD and NRCS staff their work in 2023. He discussed Le Sueur County receiving a FEMA grant for the Waterville Flood Study. The commissioners finalized the 2024 levy with an increase of 4.9% mentioning equipment, labor and products purchased have gone up. Com. Rohlifing also gave an update on the courthouse remodel.

Schultz gave an Area 6 meeting update in which soil health, 1W1P and staffing grants were the focus.

The SWCD paid off the storage shed from the money market account. Final payment was \$78,779.56.

A lease proposal was submitted to the USDA for the period August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2029.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to approve payment to Randy Oldenburg for cover crop cost-share contract #SH-2023 for \$14,175.00.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to approve payment to Randy Oldenburg for cover crop cost-share contract #CC-2023-1 for \$7,095.00. CAPACITY 2023 \$ 7095.00 SH 23 \$ 14,175.00

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to approve payment to Ruhland Farms for cover crop cost-share contract #CC-2023-2 for \$1,260.00. Funds from Capacity Grant 2023.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to approve payment to Josh Klehr for cover crop cost-share contract #CC-2023-3 for \$3,465.00. Funds from Capacity Grant 2023.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Gregor, second by Thelemann to approve payment to Kurt Gostomczik for cover crop cost-share contract #CC2023-4 for \$12,720.00. Funds from Capacity Grant 2023.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to approve payment to Steve Gostomczik for cover crop cost-share contract #CC-WASH-2 for \$26,400.00. Funds from Lake Washington CWF Grant.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to approve payment to Luke Krenik for cost-share contract #23-LS-001 for \$7,149.75. Funds from Cannon 1W1P Grant.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Theleman to approve payment to Cletus Gregor for cost-share contract #23-LS-002 for \$1,795.00. Funds from Cannon 1W1P Grant.

Affirmative: Struck, Entinger, Traxler, Thelemann

Abstained: Gregor

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to approve payment to Cletus Gregor for cost-share contract #2-22 for \$897.50. Funds from 2022 State Cost-Share Grant.

Affirmative: Struck, Entinger, Traxler, Thelemann

Abstained: Gregor

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Entinger, second by Gregor to approve Constance Brastad amendment #1-22 to increase cost-share payment from \$6,551.25 to \$6,690.00 due to furnishing and installing a 3rd above ground pipe support.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Entinger, second by Thelemann to approve payment to Constance Brastad for cost-share contract #1-22 for \$6,690.00. Funds from 2022 State Cost-Share Grant.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

South Central Service Coop has funds available for a summer intern program for the SWCD. Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to move forward and partner with SCSC to pursue the program. The position could pay a maximum of \$16.00 per hour.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Schultz informed the board of a Soil Health Supplemental Staffing Grant available to hire additional staff. Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to move forward applying for the grant.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Schultz discussed the funded FEMA Upper Cannon Flood Study.

Prchal discussed the option of placing money market funds in a CD. Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to take the remainder of money markets funds, which are approximately \$39,000.00 and take out a CD for \$50,000.00 using District funds for the difference.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to approve and sign Paul Gregor MAWQCP contract.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

South Central Service Coop provides the SWCD with \$1,400.00 for wellness activities.

1W1P

- Cannon - 2021 grant extension for 1 year
- soil health staffing grant
 - February policy meeting
 - well testing clinics

Lower MN East

- staff review of plan
- policy meeting

Middle MN

- working on Memorandum of Agreement
- Earle representative, Pete alternate

The board would like to invite Karl Heldberg's family to a lunch after the January board meeting to present them with a road sign for the outstanding conservationist award.

Struck and Entinger met with Schultz prior to the SWCD meeting and discussed the new Earned Sick and Safe Time Law in Minnesota beginning January 1, 2024. Motion by Traxler, second by Entinger to adopt the policy for accrual and carryover ESST.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to allow Schultz to seek legal counsel on issues that arise within the SWCD not exceeding \$5,000.00 annually.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

Earl Meyer

District Secretary

1-9-24

Date