

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District
Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

A meeting of the Rock County Soil and Water District Board was held Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 8:00 AM at the Prairie Service Center with the following members present: Roger Hoff, Gene Cragoe, Dave Esselink, Jim Veldkamp, Josh Ossefoort, Director Eric Hartman, Assistant Director Doug Bos, Office Manager Mary Thompson. Absent: County Commissioner Stan Williamson

Chair Hoff called the meeting to order and asked for any additions to the agenda. Statement of Economic Interest and Conservation Agronomist position were added. With additions, motion to approve by Cragoe, second by Veldkamp. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Election of Officers and Committee Appointments

Chair – (currently Roger Hoff)

Vice-Chair – (currently Josh Ossefoort)

Secretary – (currently Dave Esselink)

Treasurer – (currently Gene Cragoe)

Motion by Esselink to for all officers to remain the same, second by Cragoe. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

TSA – (currently Roger Hoff)

KLR – (currently Dave Esselink)

Waterplan Committee - (currently Dave Esselink; alternate Josh Ossefoort)

PR & I – (currently Jim Veldkamp)

Motion by Veldkamp to for all committee members to remain the same, second by Cragoe. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Official Depository

The board approved Security Savings Bank as the official depository for 2023. Motion by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Official Newspaper

The board approved the Rock County Star Herald as the official newspaper for 2023. Motion by Esselink, second by Veldkamp. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

NRCS Update

Nothing to report.

2022 SW Prairie TSA Year End Report

Tabled until February.

Cons Agronomist Position

Bos provided information on the Conservation Agronomist Position stating this position provides a variety of technical and administrative assistance to support all aspects of the programs and activities of New Vision Coop and project partners of the Missouri River Watershed in a direct effort to accelerate stewardship of agricultural lands and to bridge the gap between public/private sectors. This position will cover the service area of New Vision Coop and the Missouri River Watershed. The Rock SWCD will receive some funding for providing guidance to this position.

2022 Ag BMP Overview

Thompson presented the overview of loans issued in 2022 stating there were 12 loans totaling \$ They were comprised of 8 - Ag Waste projects, 2 - Con Till projects and 2 - Sewage projects. Rock SWCD currently has 11 projects pending. 7 Ag Waste, 1 Conservation Tillage, 2 Wells and 1 Septic. Five of them are awaiting repayments in order to be fully funded. Three pending projects are ready to commence but will need to wait for April repayments. Immediate need to fund is \$68,188.78. Two projects will be ready to commence in June but will have to wait for October repayments in order to have enough funding. Funding needed is \$357,500.00. The Ag BMP program has been stressed because of the high interest rates. Richard Gruenes, MDA Program Coordinator, is working with state legislators for more funding to be appropriate to Ag BMP.

Bills for Approval:

Thompson presented the bills for approval. Motion to approve by Veldkamp, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

01/17/2023 392	MN ASSOC OF SOIL & WATER CONSERV DIST	\$5,274.28
01/17/2023 3445	MN COUNTIES INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRUST	\$2,233.00
01/17/2023 391	SWMN ASSOC OF SOIL & WATER CONSERV DIST	\$400.00
01/17/2023 2784	SECURITY SAVINGS BANK	\$157.50

Total \$8,106.03

Financial Statements

Hartman presented the December financial statements. Thompson stated the \$1,189,848.00 in cost share checking for the 2022 Wellhead Protection Partner Grant – Rock County Rural Water West will be returned. Staff approached two landowners for a project to implement this money and both declined. Unfortunately, that left us with no place to use the money. Motion to approve by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Statement of Interest

Hartman stated he had received the letter from the MN Campaign Finance Board regarding the Statement of Interest requirements for public officials who served in 2022. Each official must review their statements of economic interest in January 2023. Individual letters were mailed in December. The purpose of this letter is to serve as a reminder.

Minutes

December 20, 2022 minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no oppose, motion carried.

Upcoming Meeting

Tuesday February 21, 2023

Motion to adjourn by Cragoe, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Thompson
Office Manager