

**Minutes of the meeting of the  
Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Monday, December 18, 2023**

A meeting of the Rock County Soil and Water District Board was held Monday, December 18, 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, County Commissioner Stan Williamson, Director Eric Hartman, Assistant Director Doug Bos, Office Managers Mary Thompson and Shayla Rock

Chair Hoff called the meeting to order and asked for any additions to the agenda. With no additions, motion to approve by Esselink, second by Cragoe. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

**One Watershed One Plan Project Updates**

Thompson stated there were three payments approved at the December meeting for one strip till/no till contract, one cover crop contract and one structural contract for a basin project.

**Soil Health Stacking Options**

Bos gave an overview of the new stacking options for soil health through the Missouri River Watershed (One Watershed One Plan) funding. There will be approximately 2 million for implementation of structural and soil health practices in 2024 and 2025. Appropriations at this point in time are for 1.2 million to structural practices and \$800,000 for soil health. Producers have the option of bonuses for stacking practices and for keeping the same practice on the same field for 3 years. Contracts will have a \$50,000 cap. \$40 per acre for single species cover crop, \$60 per acre for multi-species cover crop, \$30 per acre for strip till/no till, \$10 per acre bonus for stacked practices of cover crop and strip till/no till on the same acres, \$20 per acre bonus for stacked practices that are kept on the same acres for 3 years.

**Annual Convention Overview**

Doug Bos and Arlyn Gehrke attended the annual convention held December 11-13 in Bloomington. Gehrke gave a presentation on the MS4 Front tracking system that is being used by the 6 counties in the Missouri River Watershed plan. Software is aimed at tracking project funding and reaching goals defined in the Missouri River Watershed Plan. Rock County is working with Houston Engineering to further develop the software. Bos stated there were a lot of good conversations regarding MS4 Front and its future use by other watersheds. There were also good conversations regarding the interest and promotion of soil health practices. Bos and Gehrke accepted the Outstanding Conservationist Award on behalf of Art and Scott Ehde.

**2024 Meeting Dates**

Thompson presented the 2024 meeting dates. Meetings will remain the third Monday of the month with no regular meeting in May or October due to harvest and planting. The September meeting will be moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month to allow board discussion of the resolutions on the annual ballot prior to voting. Resolution information is received the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September.

Motion to approve by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

**2024 Annual Plan of Work**

Hartman presented the Annual Plan of Work that outlines the work of the SWCD. Motion to approve by Ossefoort, second by Veldkamp. All ayes, no oppose, motion carried.

**2024 Budget**

Hartman presented the 2024 budget. After discussion, motion to approve by Cragoe, second by Ossefoort. All ayes, no oppose, motion carried.

**Drill Update**

Hartman gave an update on the possibility of a new drill. He contacted Titan and Pfeifer’s for pricing. There is an approximate government discount of \$8,000. Great Plains is still the best make. Estimates were for the same size drill we have now which is 7.5 feet. Availability is approximately 4 months and approximate to boot is \$25,000. A public notice call for bids is drafted. Motion to move forward with the public notice for bids and the purchase of a new drill by Ossefoort, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

**Bills for Approval:**

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

Voucher Totals by A/P Date and Vendor

A/P Date	Vendor Number	Vendor Name	Total Amount
12/18/2023	2295	HOUSTON ENGINEERING INC	\$11,526.50
12/18/2023	12060	LUVERNE/CITY OF	\$29.00
12/18/2023	999999000	MADISON/DAWN	\$1,200.00
12/18/2023	18751	ROCK COUNTY LAND MANGEMENT	\$1,200.00
12/18/2023	100	SUNSHINE FOODS	\$6.98
12/18/2023	20015	TOLLEFSON PUBLISHING	\$115.50

**Total: \$14,077.98**

**Financial Statements**

Hartman presented the November financial statements. Motion to approve by Veldkamp, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

**Minutes**

November 20, 2023 minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Cragoe. All ayes, no oppose, motion carried.

**Upcoming Meeting**

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

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

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Thompson  
Office Manager