

**COTTONWOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
JULY 22, 2021**

The Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the District Office, Windom, MN on July 22, 2021 through WebEx (video communications). The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Jeremy Nerem at 8:37 a.m.

Members Present in Office or
Media (WebEx):

Chairman, Tom Muller (WebEx)
Vice Chairman, Jeremy Nerem (Office)
Secretary, Cody Duroe (WebEx)
Treasurer, Clark Lingbeek (WebEx)

Others Present:

District Administrator, Kay Gross (Office)
Dave Bucklin, District Technician
Kari Clouse, Administrative Program Assistant (Office)
Becky Buchholz, Farm Bill/Program Assistant (Office)
Tom Appel, Cottonwood County Commissioner (Office)
Karen Boysen, NRCS CST Leader (Office)

Absent:

PR&I, Daryl Tasler

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

AGENDA: Motion by Duroe, second by Lingbeek to approve the agenda as with the addition of a Lawns to Legumes contract final payment for Margaret Horkey.

Roll Call Vote: Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Duroe, second by Muller to approve the June 24, 2021 Board Meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote: Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

JULY FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion by Lingbeek, second by Duroe to approve the July Financial Report as presented and submit for audit.

Roll Call Vote: Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Motion by Duroe, second by Muller to approve and pay July accounts payable totaling \$45,702.75.

Roll Call Vote: Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

Update 2017-2019 Financials

RCRCA: Lingbeek

GBERBA: Lingbeek, Bucklin and Gross

DES MOINES 1W1P: Muller and Gross

SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TSA: Muller and Gross

SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TSA VOUCHERS and FINANCIAL REPORT:

Motion by Muller, second by Lingbeek to approve the Southwest Prairie June Monthly Financials, July vouchers and July Administrative Report.

Roll Call Vote: Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

MASWCD and AREA V: Lingbeek
COTTONWOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Commissioner Tom Appel

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Kay Gross
LAWNS TO LEGUMES COST-SHARE CONTACT APPROVAL

Dave Holmen L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-34 Des Moines 24 Pollinator Project Cost \$500.00 C-S \$450.00

Motion by Duroe, second by Muller to approve the Lawns to Legumes Cost-Share Contract Dave Holmen L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-34 (\$450.00).

Roll Call Vote: Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

LAWNS TO LEGUMES COST-SHARE CONTRACT FINAL PAYMENT

Margaret Horkey L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-05 Great Bend 23 Pollinator Project Cost \$87.90 C-S \$78.81

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Muller to approve the Lawns to Legumes Cost-Share contract final payment for Margaret Horkey L2L-FY20-Cottonwood-05 total cost \$87.90 and cost-share payment of \$78.81.

Roll Call Vote: Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

WELL SEALING COST-SHARE CONTRACT

Penelope Horkey	2021-04	Great Bend 29	Well Sealing	Cost \$1,000.00 C-S \$500.00
Delores Muller	2021-08	Dale 15	Well Sealing	Cost \$1,594.74 C-S \$525.00
Cottonwood County	2021-09	Midway 3	Well Sealing (2)	Cost \$1,350.00 C-S \$675.00

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Muller to approve and authorize the 2021-04 Well Sealing Cost-Share Contract for Penelope Horkey (\$500.00), 2021-08 Well Sealing Cost-Share Contract for Delores Muller (\$525.00) and Well Sealing Cost-Share Contract 2021-09 for Cottonwood County (2) (\$675.00).

Roll Call Vote: Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR MONITORING STATION FUNDING – Discuss in August
DNR OBSERVATION WELL PROFESSIONAL and TECHNICAL SERVICE CONTRACT

Motion by Nerem, second by Muller to approve the DNR Observation Well Professional and Technical Service Contract for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

STAFFING NEEDS

FAIR DEMONSTRATION SITE – No Booth

BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGE

Motion by Duroe, second by Lingbeek to approve the August 2021 SWCD Meeting date change to Tuesday, August 24 starting at 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call Vote: Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR COMPENSATION INCREASE TO \$125/MEETING AUGUST 1, 2021

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Duroe to approve the increase of Supervisor per diem to \$125/meeting per day starting August 1, 2021.

Roll Call Vote: Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

**AUGUST MEETING DATES
SUPERVISOR MEETINGS**

August 5 - RCRCA/Area II Meeting – Redwood Falls/Virtual; August 19 - Des Moines 1W1P Policy Board Meeting – Windom/Virtual; August 24 - SWCD Board Meeting – Office/WebEx and August 25 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – Office/WebEx

SWCD EMPLOYEE MEETINGS

August 5 - Farmfest – Redwood County; August 11 - Des Moines Steering Team Meeting – Windom; August 11-14 - Cottonwood County Fair – Windom; August – 18 - County Feedlot Officers Meeting – WebEx; August – 19 - Des Moines Policy Board – Windom; August 24 - SWCD Board Meeting – Office/WebEx; August 25 - GBERBA Technical Committee – WebEx; August 25 - GBERBA Executive Board Meeting – WebEx.

Motion by Lingbeek, second by Nerem to approve the Supervisor and Employee meetings and expenses for the month of August 2021.

Roll Call Vote: Muller – Yes Nerem – Yes Duroe – Yes Lingbeek – Yes

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

NRCS – Karen Boysen, NRCS CST Leader – Report Given

Two applications funded through EQIP for Cottonwood County. Smart Ag ranking general CSP applications through this process. Local Work Group Meeting today. Seven applications with six screening high through CSP renewals. RCPP MAWQCP – no applications. Covid-19 protocols still have the office doors locked and no change until a phased return after October 1.

**SENIOR TECHNICIAN – Dave Bucklin – Written Report
FARM BILL/PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – Becky Buchholz – Written Report
AREA 6 CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST – Herman Bartsch – Written Report
AREA 5 CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST – Danielle Evers – Written Report
PROGRAM TECHNICIAN – Lee Tapper – Written Report
MN CONSERVATION CORP MEMBER – Dru Larson – Written Report
PLANNING and ZONING TECHNICIAN – Alex Schultz – Written Report**

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned by the Chairman at 10:10 a.m.

Next Meeting will be on TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office (by WebEx).

District Supervisor

District Administrator

COTTONWOOD COUNTY LOCAL WORK GROUP LISTENING SESSION
Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District
Thursday, July 22, 2021 – WebEx by Phone, Computer or In Person

Jeremy Nerem, Cottonwood SWCD Supervisor
Tom Appel, Cottonwood County Commissioner
Becky Buchholz, Farm Bill/Program Technician
Dave Bucklin, District Senior Technician
Mike LaMaack, Bank Midwest

Karen Boysen, NRCS Team Lead
Taylor Le Texier, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Herman Bartsch, Cottonwood SWCD MAWQCP Area 6 Specialist
Kay Gross, District Administrator
Dominic Jones, Red Rock Rural Water System

Called to order by SWCD Vice Chairman Jeremy Nerem at 11:00 a.m.

Introductions and Overview of Meeting

Review of Previous Year EQIP Priority Concerns

Soil Erosion, Water Resource Protection and Wildlife Habitat Improvement with Top Practices identified were cover crops and grass waterways.

FY2022 Survey Results

Survey Responses – 41 received

Erosion Control (30)

1. Sheet & Rill

Water Resource Protection (29)

1. Nutrient Transport (fertilizer)

Soil Quality (17)

1. Organic Matter Depletion

Wildlife Habitat Improvement (13)

Livestock (8)

Air Quality and Forest Management (4 each)

Review of Other Survey Results

Road Block Survey Totals

Lack of Funding (15)

Not Very User Friendly Programs (6)

Lack of Information Given to Producers (3)

More Contract Flexibility (2)

Staff Shortage (2)

Multiple with one vote

What can NRCS/SWCD Do Better to Serve Landowners

Field Days, Trainings, Demonstrations (14)

Better Program Explanation (6)

Increase Communication Virtually (3)

More CREP/RIM and More Consistent Funding (each 1)

Other Survey Comments

Rotational Grazing Incentives

More Funding for Nonstructural Streambank Protection

Higher Funding Priority for Completed 1W1P

Less Federal Paperwork Requirements

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.