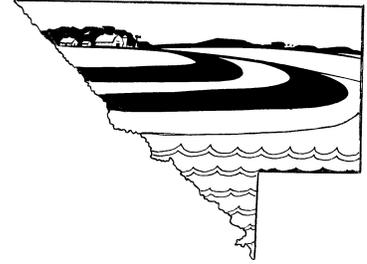


# CHIPPEWA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

629 NORTH 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
COURTHOUSE  
MONTEVIDEO, MINNESOTA 56265

Telephone 320-269-2139



## Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Board Meeting via Zoom March 1, 2021

Minutes of the Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District, Courthouse, NRCS/SWCD office, Montevideo, MN 56265.

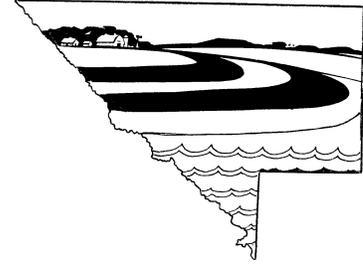
1. Meeting was **called to order** by Chairwoman Michelle Overholser at 3 p.m.
  - Members **present**: Michelle Overholser, Steve Jacobson, Calin Eisenlohr, Steve Sunderland, Jerry Schwitters
  - Others **present**: SWCD staff: Desirae Jarett, Zach Bothun, Tom Sletta, Tom Warner; NRCS staff: Shantel Lozinski; County Commissioners: Matt Gilbertson and Candice Jaenisch
2. M/S/P Sunderland, Eisenlohr approve the agenda. All in favor.
3. M/S/P Eisenlohr, Sunderland approve the February meeting minutes. All in favor.
4. Paid bills were presented for ratification.
5. Unpaid bills were presented to be paid.
6. Committee/Meeting reports: Michelle Overholser noted that she attended Chippewa River meeting and Steve Sunderland noted that he and Jerry attended Hawk Creek 1W1P policy committee meeting
7. **NRCS Report**-Shantel Lozinski:
  - NRCS monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: wrote a CRP/CREP plan for a CP23A; mailed AGI letters for EQIP applicants, FSA is no longer sending to IRS; continuing to work through EQIP plans/designs, updating for 2021 applications; Willmar team has \$539,474 for EQIP-Chippewa has 24 applications; original date for EQIP ranking was 3/5, but there is a software update that is needed before ranking applications so date will likely be pushed back; 1026s for drainage, backlog of less than 25 requests currently-FSA has about 100 HEL determinations that will need to be worked on; CSP general/classic sign up deadline March 26-2022 re-enroll deadline March 26<sup>th</sup>; mailed CSP letters out the last two weeks to let people know what to do if they want to re-enroll; Women's Field Day planning meeting will be held March 9<sup>th</sup>; joint NRCS/MASWCD LWG training each Wednesday for 4 weeks starting March 3. Shantel also gave an update on the Covid numbers in Chippewa County-currently at .363 per 10,000.
8. **Staff Reports**-
  - **District Manager** monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: contacted landowners with erosion projects; sent prioritized landowner project list to WCTSA for survey/design; got information for 2018 LCG reconciliation; working with MAWQCP certified farms about money available for approved practices; filled out cost share approval letters, mailed to landowners; met with landowners on tree projects; lined up Zoom meetings with Representative Tim Miller and Senator Andrew Lang; proofed annual report; went over job approval authority with Lawrence Svien with BWSR.
9. **Technical Manager** monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: Tree plans and estimates wrapped up; seeding schedule updated weekly-21 sites totaling 175 acres, sites

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include CREP, CRP, buffers, pollinator plots, and grass plantings between trees; planned and attended Hawk Creek – Middle MN 1W1P Policy Committee and Steering Team meetings-wrapped up the Measurable Goals section of the plan (largest part), currently working on the Implementation Programs and Plan Administration and Coordination sections. The goal is to have all sections completed by the end of March while the Policy Committee discusses organizational structure for implementation. We are in the process of requesting an extension from BWSR in case we need more time to write the Plan Administration and Coordination section. The planning grant ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. Zach also noted that the Next Policy Committee meeting is this Wednesday (3/1/21) at 1:30 pm via GoTo Meeting. Zach attended the Chippewa River Watershed Association Technical Advisory Committee meeting was cancelled for February. Joint Powers Board meeting (Zoom) on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Topics discussed were: Reorganization of board, cleaning up items leftover from the previous CRWP JPB, staff, grants. Both groups have been discussing Pope SWCD running the fiscal and coordination duties, reviewing bylaws for coordination duties, future website updates, banking, media outlets, etc. Zach updated our Ecological Job Approval Authority from the old ABC system to the new numbering system for tracking our Individual Development Plans (IDP) in eLink. Zach attended Area II lead contacts meeting via Zoom (2/25/21). He gave a West Central Technical Service Area (WCTSA) Update: grant expenditures overview, project prioritization and ranking due to high demand, updated equipment.

10. **District Technician** monthly activities and updates reported include but are not limited to: LQP LTT Meetings-discussed priority areas in Chippewa County, native grass seed harvest; tree planting proposal; CREP eLink reporting; CREP/RIM easements application scoring; refile WCA folders; buffer reviews on computer; and seeding proposals.

#### 11. **New Business**

- Desirae presented bank signer changes.
  - M/S/P Sunderland, Jacobson approve to remove Jeff Johnson and add Jerry Schwitters and Zach Bothun to banking. All others will remain on account as well. Powers granted will stay the same as well as the requirement of two signatures.
- Desirae notified the board that MACDE will not be renewing their Zoom membership (expires this month). Board discussed the free and small teams options within Zoom as well as a few other options such as WebEx, Microsoft Teams, etc. It was decided that while we hope to begin in person meetings again, we feel the need to have a Zoom account is still there and can be used for other purposes besides board meetings.
  - M/S/P Jacobson, Schwitters approve to purchase our own one year Zoom Small Teams account.

12. **Important Upcoming Dates:** Legislative Days-March 18; supervisor expense reports due March 31

13. **Adjourn**

**Next Meeting: April 5, 2021 at 3 p.m.**