

Thursday, January 21, 2021 MCSWCD Board Meeting Minutes - ZOOM

In attendance were:

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SUPERVISORS

- ✓Dallas Conder, Chair
- ✓Whitney Schlege, 2nd Chair
- ✓Keith McConnell
- ✓Georgia Davis
- ✓Ryan Conway

STAFF/PARTNERSHIP

- ✓Martha Miller, District Mgr.
- ✓Cara Bergschneider, NRCS DC
- ✓Allison Shoaf, NRCS SC
- Nathan Stoelting, ISDA DSS

GUESTS

- Justin Conard

Motion to approve the December 29, 2020 meeting minutes as presented was made by GD / 2nd by WS / Passed

Motion to approve to pay claims and accept the financial report as presented by GD / 2nd by WS / Passed

Motion to move PSS Funds into General Fund and dissolve PSS Fund line by KM / 2nd by WS / Passed

After discussion on postage for mailing books

Motion to use the royalty monies for mailing books both inside and outside of Monroe County and to revisit this again in 2 months at the March meeting was made by WS / 2nd by GD / Motion Passed 4-1

Motion to retain Old National Bank as the depository for 2021 was made by KM / 2nd by WS / Passed

Motion to approve the Annual Financial Report as presented was made by the Committee GD / 2nd RC / Passed

RC the Delegate for the 2020 IASWCD Business Meeting gave a report about the resolutions that were voted on at the 2020 IASWCD Business Meeting; both resolutions passed. One resolution allows SWCDs to use alternative options for holding an in person Annual Meetings due to public safety; and the other resolution to allows districts to set their own per diem amounts. (NOTE the 2nd resolution will require legislative action to officially be changed.)

Sycamore Land Trust requested a letter of support for a LARE (Lake And River Enhancement) Grant application to address stream bank stabilization and erosion on one of their properties.

Motion to send letter was made by KM / 2nd by WS / Passed

After discussion it was decided to move the 2020 Annual Meeting to March 11, 2021 and be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled board meeting via ZOOM due to COVID. The Annual Report will be in a video format with a simple written format available upon request. This video will launch on March 11, 2021.

A motion was made by WS to hold the Supervisor Elections with a combination online and mail in option. There will be an online voting option via the website using a secured google form it will be accessible on the SWCDs website. For a paper ballot that can be mailed in via the US Mail, one can access this form also on the SWCD Website or they can request a paper ballot by contacting the office. Mail-in ballots are to be opened and counted and then added to the electronic ballots on a recorded ZOOM meeting on March 11 / 2nd KM / Passed

After discussion a motion to hold the February and March meetings on the 2nd Thursday's of each month and then revisit official meeting dates moving forward at the March meeting was made by KM / 2nd by RC / Passed

After discussion of the IASWCDs political support request it was left that Martha would make contact with current representatives requesting their support to reinstate the CWI funds to 100%.

Lawrence County SWCD has received a 319 Planning Grant for the Lower Salt Creek and Martha requested board approval to be involved in this project on the steering committee- the board approved.

After discussion on providing a Critical Area Seed Program again this year. It was determined that the board would like to execute this program again this year using the same guidelines as last year.

Motion was made by WS to use \$5000 of the 2021 Stormwater Funds for this project. Martha is to get the seed mix from last year and contact Luke Rhodes about cost and delivery options / 2nd by GD / Passed

NRCS Report

- We have spent the last month mainly working on EQIP applications. There is a due date to have all EQIP applications ranked and a payment estimate submitted for preapproval by March 3rd. The first round of applications will be selected for funding on March 8th and we anticipate applications to be selected for approval throughout March. All contracts will be obligated by April 30th.
- A hybrid 'Late Winter/Early Spring Cover Crop and Tillage Transect' will be conducted by May 1st this year. This is in lieu of completing a fall cover crop transect and spring tillage transect due to covid restrictions. The Brown County transect was completed today and the Monroe County transect will be completed at a later date (due to Monroe having more winter hardy cover crops than Brown County).

- The Bloomington Service Center is still at Phase 1 of USDA’s phased reopening process meaning that employees may work in the office (up to 10 people) but the office is closed to customers. Business is to be conducted over the phone, e-mail or in another digital form. The FSA County Committee met in the Bloomington Service Center but Cara confirmed with her supervisor that NRCS/SWCD is not to host meetings within the Service Center.
- The CRP General Sign-up is open until February 12th. It is anticipated that Brown and Monroe counties will have a few CRP sign-ups but will not create a significant workload.

These Minutes were approved on date February 11, 2021

Dallas Conder, Chair

Whitney Schlegel, 2nd Chair

Keith McConnell

Ryan Conway

Georgia Davis

OO