

**ISANTI SWCD**

**REGULAR SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES 9:00 A.M.  
February 21, 2024**

**Attendance**

**Present:** Al Koczur, Clark Anderson, David Medvecky, Valerie Anderson, Tom Anderson

**Staff Present:** Tiffany Determan, Linda Gehrking

**Others Present:** Zach Guttormson, BWSR Board Conservationist

**Call meeting to order, Pledge of Allegiance**

1. **Approve Agenda with additions new business item 4.g. Green Lake 319 Contract for \$7,500 and Old Business item 5.c. Payment for Cartwright Restoration to MNL in the amount of \$89,252.29.**

**Motion/Seconded** V. Anderson/Koczur to approve agenda with additions 4.g. Green Lake 319 Contract for \$7,500 and Old Business item 5.c. Payment for Cartwright Restoration to MNL in the amount of \$89,252.29.

**Affirmative:** Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

**Opposed:** None. Motion carried.

2. **Public Comment/Correspondence**

Guttormson introduction himself and mentioned recent BWSR Requests for Proposals and programs.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Treasurers Report**

- b. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2024**

**Motion/Seconded:** No motion needed.

4. **New Business Items**

- a. **Approve LSC WBIF workplan amendment to include supplement grant funding**

Determan requesting Board to approve work plan amendment to include the \$167,615 and allowing staff to amend the work plan as needed.

**Motion/Seconded** V. Anderson/T. Anderson to approve LSC WBIF workplan amendment to include supplement grant funding and to allow staff to amend the work plan as needed.

**Affirmative:** Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

**Opposed:** None. Motion carried.

- b. **MPCA FY24 Surface Water Assessment Agreement: Isanti Rum River Watershed Monitoring for \$33,000**

Determan mentioned the MPCA monitors surface waters in each watershed every 10 years. They ask the locals to complete the monitoring and reimburse for time and lab expenses. The contract amount for monitoring in 2024 & 2025 is \$33,000.

**Motion/Seconded** Koczur/C. Anderson to approve MPCA FY24 Surface Water Assessment Agreement: Isanti Rum River Watershed Monitoring for \$33,000.

**Affirmative:** Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

**Opposed:** None. Motion carried.

**c. Authorization to Accept Peterson Company LTD 2023 Audit bid**

Determan informed the Board that the audit cost went up \$1,500 from previous audit.

**Motion/Seconded** T. Anderson/Koczur to approve Authorization to Accept Peterson Company LTD 2023 Audit bid.

**Affirmative:** Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

**Opposed:** None. Motion carried.

**d. Consider Irrigation Partnership to Protect Groundwater**

There are 20 Soil and Water Conservationist Districts that are partnered with the MN Department of Health in a program that offers cost share for irrigation water management. Isanti has been asked to join. We would need to commit to a certain match in the amount of \$10,000, this can be in-kind. Funding for the program we will be involved with has not been secured yet.

**Motion/Seconded** V. Anderson/T. Anderson to approve Irrigation Partnership to Protect Groundwater and match committment.

**Affirmative:** Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

**Opposed:** None. Motion carried.

**e. Approve CLIMB Theater proposal for AIS Education Services for \$3,000**

Determan noted CLIMB will provide three days of classes, a maximum of 7 classes per day.

**Motion/Seconded** Koczur/V. Anderson to approve CLIMB Theater proposal for AIS Education Services for \$3,000.

**Affirmative:** Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

**Opposed:** None. Motion carried.

**f. SWCD Services to NRCS for Conservation Reserve Program**

Partnership opportunity with CRP planning and status reviews for NRCS and FSA. The cost per plan is \$900 and we would get reimbursed for one half of that. Steffen thinks there would be maybe around 20 active projects, unsure of how many new plans or certifications per year. A lot of SWCD's already utilizing.

**Motion/Seconded** C. Anderson/Koczur to approve SWCD Services to NRCS for Conservation Reserve Program and give Determan authority to make decision on partnership.

**Affirmative:** Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

**Opposed:** None. Motion carried.

**g. Green Lake 319 Contract for \$7,500.**

This project is for a raingarden on Oliver property. Project will consist of collecting stormwater runoff and reduce hillside erosion. Landowner paying 25% match.

**Motion/Seconded** V. Anderson/Koczur to approve Green Lake 319 Contract for \$7,500.

**Affirmative:** Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

**Opposed:** None. Motion carried.

**5. Old Business Items**

**a. Strategic Planning Update: select board retreat date**

Determan met with Nate Hylla, CEO at Kanati Land Management. Determan is working with Hylla for creating a 5-year strategic plan for SWCD. Hylla will be contacting each Board Supervisor and staff to do a one-on-one virtual meeting followed by a board retreat. Gehrking to check with Granny May restaurant for Board retreat. The board retreat will be on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00-2:00 and the place of Board Retreat is yet to be determined.

**b. Rum River Watershed Partnership- Land Protection Staff update**

WBIF has approved the supplemental funding from BWSR of hiring a Land Protection Technician. We would be able to get new hire and they will be on the federal system. The new hire will also work in Mille Lacs. Determan working on job description and hopefully will have a new hire by May 2024. Total match required from IsantiSWCD is up to \$14,872.10 over the next 2 years.

**Motion/Seconded** V. Anderson/Koczur to approve Determan to purchase laptop and any other supplies needed for new hire.

**Affirmative:** Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

**Opposed:** None. Motion carried.

**c. Partial payment for Cartwright Restoration to MNL.**

Cartwright project is done. We want to do a partial payment to MNL in the amount of \$89,252.29 out of \$93,949.78. We would pay MNL the other 5% in March or April following final inspection. ISG will be putting together a promotional package for complete project.

**Motion/Seconded** T. Anderson/V. Anderson to approve Partial payment for Cartwright Restoration to MNL in the amount of \$89,252.29.

**Affirmative:** Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

**Opposed:** None. Motion carried.

**6. Approve Payment of Bills**

Gehrking reviewed the district expenses. Checks as follows: Check #'s 7156 through 7163, and all electronically paid bills.

**Motion/Seconded** V. Anderson/C. Anderson to approve payment of bills.

**Affirmative:** Koczur, C. Anderson, Medvecky, V. Anderson, T. Anderson

**Opposed:** None. Motion carried.

## **7. Activity Reports**

### **a. Staff**

Determan noted that she secured Lower St. Croix funding to work with Emmons and Oliver Consultants to assist Isanti County Comprehensive Plan natural resource updates. Determan mentioned the BWSR Soil Health Grant Application for new hire sharing with Chisago and Washington Counties focusing solely on Soil Health. Finally, Determan working with Stantec on Blue Lake Alum Treatment. She provided the technical memo.

Kulaf shared Cartwright Wetland Construction video. Kulaf working on more concept designs with other landowners that are interested in wetland projects.

Remer attended Rum River Watershed Partnership outreach event in Princeton with Sherburne County. Remer is also working on several new RIM easements. Remer attended Farmer Led Group meeting yesterday. Finally, Remer checking into pricing for new drill rental we will be getting in June or July 2024.

Godfrey attended the Farmer Led Group meeting yesterday. Godfrey working on several event outreach events. Godfrey coordinating workshop next week on lakeshore restoration in person and workshop will also be online. Finally, Godfrey is working on a workshop for buying lakeshore property. Speakers will be at the workshop event: Determan, Jerry Schaubach and realtors of what to expect as a lakeshore owner. There will also be a webinar for Shoreline erosion in early June.

Gehrking noted that she provided administrative support as usual.

### **b. NRCS District Conservationist**

Steffen gave update that 18 Equip programs have been funded this year. CSP contracts are for 5 years and EQUIP are for 2-9 years. A new DC will be starting in March 2024.

### **c. County Commissioner**

Not present.

### **d. Committee Reports**

T. Andersson attended Lower St. Croix meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Randy Hinze, Pine County, was presented as 2023 Minnesota Conservation Cooperator of the year. Funding has been issued for street sweeping. T. Anderson mentioned the realtors training and that Determan presented as part of it. Finally, T. Anderson mentioned that Chisago County had a well testing clinic and he thinks it would be a good idea for Isanti SWCD to have one.

## **8. Board Training- Cartwright Wetland Construction video**


Kulaf presented Cartwright Wetland Construction video to Board.

**9. Approve SWCD meetings & Events**

Meeting/Event	Approved	Date/time
Treasures Report and Bank Reconciliation Review	Koczur	Monthly
MCD Board Meeting (WCD & virtual)	Medvecky	February 28th
MASWCD Legislative Webinar (register)	All	March 4 <sup>th</sup> 10-11:30am
MASWCD Legislative Briefing (RSVP needed)	All	March 12 <sup>th</sup> 4:30-6pm
MASWCD Day @ Capitol	All	March 12 & 13 <sup>th</sup>
Board Interviews (~1 hr)	All	TBD
Board Retreat date	All	March 18 <sup>th</sup>
MASWCD Area IV Spring Meeting	All	March 26, 9am-12, Ramsey County Public Works

**10. Adjourn**

Medvecky to Adjourn the meeting 11:13.

Board Secretary:  Date 3.20, 2024

