

**Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting
July 21, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District was held July 21 2021, beginning at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Lynn Darling. Present were Lynn Darling, Rick Nelsen, Nathan Thier, Jim Knips, and Paul Langseth. Also, present were John Shea, District Manager; Tiffini Etsinger, Administrative Assistant; Scott Runck, District Technician; Will Gallman, Pheasants Forever Biologist; Nathan Blankers, NRCS; Cheryl Heard, NRCS; Bob Demuth, County Commissioner.

AGENDA: The Agenda for the July 21, 2021, meeting was reviewed. Knips moved to approve the agenda as presented. Langseth seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Nelsen, Knips and Thier. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

MINUTES: The minutes for the June 2021 meeting were reviewed. Langseth moved to approve the minutes as presented. Thier seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Nelsen, Knips and Thier. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

There was a correction to the May 2021 minutes, Langseth moved to approve the correction. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Nelsen, Knips and Thier. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s Report and Bills Payable was presented and reviewed for July 2021. Langseth moved to approve the reports, subject to audit, in the amount of \$107,044.64, respectively. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Nelsen, Knips and Thier. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

COST-SHARE CONTRACTS AND PAYMENTS:

FY20-MRWP-05-VerSteeg	Twila VerSteeg	Rock	WWY	\$30,045.51
FY20-MRWP-23-Blankers	Allen Blankers	Pipestone	WWY	\$9,862.70

Langseth moved to approve the 2 cost-share contracts for the MRWP. Their seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Nelsen, Knips and Thier. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Admin time for the 1st half of 2021 for MRWP was \$14,380.58
 \$9528.78 (District Manager Billable rate \$58.28x163.50 Hours= \$9528.78)
\$4851.80 (Admin Asst. Billable rate \$40.94x118.51 hours = \$4851.80)
 \$14,380.58

Knips moved for the payment/transfer of \$14,380.58 from MRWP to SWCD. Langseth seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Nelsen, Knips and Thier. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Local Tree Cost-Share

FY21-01	Jeff Lynn	Shelterbelt	\$1000.00
FY21-02	Jeff Lais	Shelterbelt	\$926.49
FY21-03	Jake Diekmann	Shelterbelt	\$1000.00
FY21-04	Paul Ackerman	Shelterbelt	\$1000.00

Knips moved to pay the 4 tree cost share contracts. Their seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Nelsen, Knips and Thier. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Open meeting law updates and Per diem rate updates will be reviewed under new business.

District Manager Report – Shea reported that the Pheasants forever to house a position in Nobles County. The contract will be from July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022. The compensation will be up to \$32,500 from BWSR CREP grant and \$10,000 local contribution from SWCD toward the biologist position. Knips moved to accept the Pheasants Forever contract. Langseth seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Nelsen, Knips and Thier. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Shea Discussed changing the billable rates for Etsinger and Runck as their pay increased for the 2nd half of the year.

Admin Asst \$40.94 -> \$41.85

District Tech \$44.47 -> \$47.16

Langseth moved to approve the increase in billable rates. Knips seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Nelsen, Knips and Thier. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Shea also went over what is going on at Summit Lake. The structure was installed, and dirt moved around it and seeded. Rick mowed and spraying will happen. There is thistle where we have not sprayed in the past. The food plot is planted as well.

Shea spoke about the BWSR FY18 Local Capacity reconciliation results. Overall went well a few marks on the tech signatures for a date change on the contract extension.

Shea also attended the manager meeting in Brainard the end of June. About 20 managers attended.

District Technician Report - Seed season is wrapped up. Interest in trees for 2022, will do site visits. In August will do 5 sites possibly all Missouri river funds.

District Conservationist Report - Nathan reported that he has been working on EQIP applications some are preapproved, approved and obligated already. We started making payments residue on EQIP. I have also been completing status reviews for EQIP and CSP contracts to let them know what needs to be completed this year and if land has changed. Looking for potential modifications. He went on the cattlemen's tour last week. He reported they had the second session of CRP Training in Slayton. They are catching up at Region C and Certified Wetland Determinations have been completed in less than a month on the requests that do not require a field visit. There was an area NRCS meeting on Monday, July 19th in Marshall. Ryan Galbraith and Keith Klobec came down from the State Office to talk about programs. They had a QAR in Marshall for our team for both EQIP and CSP applications trying to get them obligated.

Some Results Cheryl Reported on:

EQIP 2021

9 Contracts

\$506,674

-5 CAP 102 Site Assessments

-4 Cover Crops

-3 no-till/strip-till

-1 Reduced Tillage

-2 590

-2 595

-4 Structures

-3 Waterways

-1 Basin Project

- 1 Pond

-1 – 327 Pollinator Habitat

70 Applications, not all had just cover crops. There was some waterways and basins and local funds picked up some of those.

Watershed Districts and Other Reports – Bill- water test on Lake Okabena was nontoxic. County report – Cliff recognized 30 yrs on service. Demuth reported they can buy oil trailer from MNDOT, as the current one works for about 30 minutes and then they have issues. He reported MN DoT = 45,000 new or 4500 used. It is bigger than current one. It can be plugged in overnight and it's good to go. MN Dot pushed back everything about a year. They discussed that all bridges between 2022-2025 will be replaced from Worthington to Adrian on I-90. \$300,000 ear marked for a tire anomaly at the weigh station to check for under/over inflated tires. Kruger is the new sheriff. Budget policy update Nims guidelines and updates, needed to be updated, and acted on to get the grant. Senior (SMA) John pay increase to reflect) Shea mentioned Heron Lake has called a KLR member about how we do our admin for KLR. Meeting in Pipestone was a good turnout, the pasture specialist had a good presentation.

Old Business: USFW Dock – USF sent a thank you letter. We sent \$3,500.00 and so did OnO.

New Business

- a. Open Meeting Law Update. Back to the way it was. MCIT went over the meeting laws. Starting August 1st if you remote in, no per diem unless you list your location as a public meeting place. This will be allowed 3 times a year. MCIT stated 13D-02- another pandemic we would jump right back to that.
- b. Per Diem Cap Changes – Legislative passed \$125 cap change for SWCD effective Aug 1st. OnO has Regular meetings \$75.00 anything over 2hrs it goes to \$125. After discussion board moved to change it to \$125.00 since it has been a long time since a change was made. **Langseth moved to increase the Per Diem Cap to \$125.00. Their seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Nelsen, Knips and Thier. Opposed: None. Motion Carried**
- c. BWSR Academy – Shea is requesting that 3 SWCD staff members go to this training as it is worth our time. We also get funding from Mark Kolster for this. **Knips moved to have the SWCD staff attend BWSR Academy. Langseth seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Nelsen, Knips and Thier. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.**

Calendar of Events:

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for August 18 at 7:30 a.m.

ADJOURN: June 16, 2021, at 8:24 am.
