



Renville County SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting

Oct 14th, 2021, 7:30 am

SWCD Board Room 1008 W. Lincoln Ave Olivia, MN

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Citizen Comment Period (2 minutes per person)
- III. Consent Agenda, Sept 2021 Meeting Minutes, Bills, and Treasurer's Report
- IV. Old Business:
 1. Operational items/Staff concerns
 2. Area VI Meeting, Water Storage, and meeting report by Koenig
 3. Board Per diem policy -draft
- V. New Business:
 1. MASWCD Resolution ballot
 2. NACD Dues 2022
- VI. Personnel Committee
- VII. Program Updates- All staff join the meeting 8:00am
 1. Cost Share Programs
 - a. Cost Share for restoration orders
 2. Staff Reports
 - a. Kyle, WCA fees
 3. NRCS Report- Loren Clarke, DC
 4. Board Reports
- VIII. Other
 1. Nov. Board meeting date
 2. Dec. 2021 meeting date
- IX. Upcoming meetings and dates to remember
- X. Motion to adjourn.

Next regular Board Meeting TBD



Renville County SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting

Oct 14th, 2021, 7:30 am

SWCD Board Room 1008 W. Lincoln Ave Olivia, MN

AGENDA, Notes

- I. Call to Order
- II. Citizen Comment Period (2 minutes per person)
- III. Consent Agenda, Sept 2021 Meeting Minutes, Bills, and Treasurer's Report
- IV. Old Business:
 1. Operational items/Staff concerns, none at the time of agenda
 2. Area VI Meeting, Water Storage, and meeting report by Koenig. Discuss and provided feedback to the attached BWSR Outreach questions. Koenig, will provide a meeting update and discuss future Area meetings.
 3. Board Per diem policy -draft, **action item**, with our policy changing in Aug it was time to update the policy as well. Attached is a draft policy for your consideration.
- V. New Business:
 1. MASWCD Resolution ballot, **action item**, discuss and complete annual MASWCD resolution ballot. Resolution, committee recommendations and staff recommendations attached.
 2. NACD Dues 2022, **action item**, decided on 2022 dues amount.
- VI. Personnel Committee, no updates
- VII. Program Updates- All staff join the meeting 8:00am
 1. Cost Share Programs
 - a. Cost Share for restoration orders, **action item**, discuss if we use SWCD cost share for restoration orders
 2. Staff Reports
 - a. Kyle, WCA fees, discuss possibly charging a fee for WCA services, attached example fee schedule
 3. NRCS Report- Loren Clarke, DC, report to be provided
 4. Board Reports
- VIII. Other
 1. Nov. Board meeting date, regular meeting date falls on an SWCD Holiday. **Action item**, decided when to hold the Nov. meeting
 2. Dec. 2021 meeting date, **action time**, discuss possibly moving the meeting date and making it coincide with our office open house.
- IX. Upcoming meetings and dates to remember
- X. Motion to adjourn.

Next regular Board Meeting TBD



Renville County SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting

Sept 9, 2021, 8:00 am

Renville County Office Building
105 5th St, Olivia, MN 56277, Room 313

Minutes

Commissioner Hamre, Kelly, Kokesch, Schroeder, Jepson, Koenig
Staff: Hatlewick, Dahl, Richter

- I. Call to Order 8am
- II. Citizen Comment Period (2 minutes per person)
- III. Consent Agenda, Aug 2021 Meeting Minutes, Bills, and Treasurer's Report, added other **Kokesch, Koenig (MSC)**
- IV. Old Business
 1. Operational items/Staff concerns, none reported at time of meeting
 2. 2022 Budget and Renville County Request, discussed updates
- V. New Business
 1. BWSR Grant agreement P22-5725, P22-5545, P23-5636, P23-5815 **Jepson, Koenig (MSC)**
- VI. Personnel Committee
 1. Updated position descriptions and PayScale, based on personnel committee recommendations **Kelly, Koenig (MSC)**
 2. Leave request(s) **Jepson, Koenig (MSC)**
- VII. Program Updates- All staff join the meeting 8:30am
 1. Cost Share Programs, no contracts for approval
 2. Staff Reports,
 - a. Board directive increased in stream bank erosion- Kyle will create flow chart for the public to contact the Board, representative, etc. also say this is what we as an SWCD organization does, contact LeAnn Buck about putting this tool together.

Kyle – Discussed taking a lead on Weis restoration construction, written report provided
Dahl- not present, written report provided
Hatlewick- Talked about the office move and general SWCD updates, written report provided

 3. NRCS Report- Loren Clarke, DC, presented by Loren and written report provided
 4. Board Reports
 - a. Kelly, 1w1p policy committee meeting
 - b. Koenig, reminder of Area VI meeting Sept 21st
 - c. Jepson, Personnel Committee meeting 8/9, nothing to report
 - d. Kokesch, nothing to report
 - e. Schroeder, 8/9 personnel committee meeting, 1w1p policy committee meeting presented new logo and provided update
 - f. Commissioner Hamre thanked chair for attending the Board work session to review the revised SWCD budget.

Renville Soil & Water Conservation District
1008 West Lincoln, Olivia MN 56277
Phone: 320-523-1550 ext. 3 Fax: 320-523-2389



- VIII. Other,
 - 1. 1w1p Central MN Watershed fiscal agent, discussed if Renville SWCD could be the fiscal and do a contract for service for administration of the plan.
 - 2. CD77,
- IX. Upcoming meetings and dates to remember, plan to start Oct. & Nov. SWCD meetings at 7:30am
- X. Motion to adjourn chair **adjourned 9:40am**

Dates to Remember

Present to County Commissioners Sept. 7, 8:45am
Area VI meeting Sept. 21st New Ulm

**Next regular Board Meeting Oct 14, 2021, 7:30 am at 1008 W.
Lincoln Ave, Olivia, MN**

Renville SWCD Treasures report Sep 2021

<u>BWSR</u>	<u>August 2021</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>September 2021</u>
MAWQCP	4,739.46			(348.50)	4,390.96
2018 Buffer Cost Share	140,486.54			(74.16)	140,412.38
2018 Buffer Law	2,036.20			(1,980.78)	55.42
2019 Buffer Law	(0.00)				(0.00)
2019 Conservation Delivery	4,727.85			(988.90)	3,738.95
2019 State Cost Share	3,831.99				3,831.99
2019 SWCD Local Capacity	0.00				0.00
2020 Buffer Law	33,783.21			(6,075.99)	27,707.22
2020 Conservation Delivery	7,536.74			(1,799.00)	5,737.74
2020 State Cost Share	10,364.09				10,364.09
2020 SWCD Local Capacity	71,983.11			(10,300.12)	61,682.99
2021 Buffer Law	38,700.00			(1,190.86)	37,509.14
2021 Conservation Delivery	19,501.00				19,501.00
2021 State Cost Share	10,460.00				10,460.00
2021 SWCD Local Capacity	94,963.73			(3,856.12)	91,107.61
TOTAL BWSR	<u>443,113.92</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(26,614.43)</u>	<u>416,499.49</u>
<u>RENVILLE</u>					
2019 Clean Water	5,177.83				5,177.83
2020 WCA	528.46				528.46
2021 WCA	6,915.58			(1,393.39)	5,522.19
2021 Ag Inspector	3,319.07			(277.15)	3,041.92
2021 LWM Tech	2,750.00				2,750.00
TOTAL RENVILLE COUNTY	<u>18,690.94</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(1,670.54)</u>	<u>17,020.40</u>
DISTRICT	<u>445,629.43</u>		<u>28,481.37</u>	<u>(33,633.84)</u>	<u>440,476.96</u>
NET INCOME DISTRICT				<u>(5,152.47)</u>	
TOTALS	<u>907,434.29</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>28,481.37</u>	<u>(61,918.81)</u>	<u>873,996.85</u>
<u>INCLUDED IN DISTRICT ABOVE</u>					
District: Simulator Partnership	2,872.87				2,872.87
District: Farm Fest	1,902.95			(1,045.00)	857.95

Renville Soil & Water Conservation District

F&M Bank Checking Detail

September 2021

TRANSACTION TYPE	DATE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
1000 FM Bank Checking							
Beginning Balance							39,956.08
Check	09/01/2021		JJP Property Investments LLC	Rent		\$571.07	39,385.01
Check	09/03/2021		PERA	PERA		\$940.36	38,444.65
Check	09/03/2021		F & M Bank	ACH payroll transfer fee		\$7.90	38,436.75
Check	09/03/2021		F & M Bank	ACH payroll transfer fee		\$7.58	38,429.17
Expense	09/07/2021		State of MN			\$59.33	38,369.84
Check	09/07/2021		JJP Property Investments LLC	Additional rent - new space		\$1,115.59	37,254.25
Check	09/08/2021		United States Treasury			\$142.76	37,111.49
Check	09/08/2021		United States Treasury			\$1,574.76	35,536.73
Check	09/09/2021		MN Dept of Revenue			\$353.00	35,183.73
Check	09/09/2021		MN Dept of Revenue			\$15.00	35,168.73
Deposit	09/16/2021		USAble Life	Refund, Ref ID 123067	\$9.60		35,178.33
Transfer	09/16/2021				\$100,000.00		135,178.33
Check	09/17/2021		PERA	PERA		\$941.45	134,236.88
Check	09/17/2021		F & M Bank	ACH payroll transfer fee		\$8.22	134,228.66
Bill Payment (Check)	09/20/2021	17702	Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing	Inv #293325, Client #17930A		\$767.00	133,461.66
Bill Payment (Check)	09/20/2021	17706	Renville County I.T.	Inv#SWCD_9321		\$899.00	132,562.66
Bill Payment (Check)	09/20/2021	17704	Kraft, Walsler Law Office PLLP	Stmnt #96212		\$1,232.00	131,330.66
Bill Payment (Check)	09/20/2021	17701	Backes Technology Services Inc	Inv #19525		\$1,889.49	129,441.17
Bill Payment (Check)	09/20/2021	17705	MN PEIP	Inv #1118909		\$1,969.98	127,471.19
Bill Payment (Check)	09/20/2021	17700	Area VI MASWCD	Area VI meeting registration		\$76.00	127,395.19
Expense	09/20/2021		Further	Inv #15819104		\$8.60	127,386.59
Expense	09/20/2021		State of MN			\$59.33	127,327.26
Bill Payment (Check)	09/20/2021	17703	HCWP	Outreach supplies SWCD 50%		\$492.22	126,835.04
Check	09/22/2021		United States Treasury			\$1,634.96	125,200.08
Check	09/23/2021		MN Dept of Revenue			\$356.00	124,844.08
Expense	09/24/2021		Cardmember Service	Holly's credit card Sep stmt		\$4,571.18	120,272.90
Payment	09/24/2021		Renville County Environmental Services		\$9,050.00		129,322.90
Expense	09/27/2021		Main Street Checks	Deposit ticket books		\$89.01	129,233.89
Journal Entry	09/30/2021	Sep 2021 Payroll		To record payroll		\$11,224.99	118,008.90
Deposit	09/30/2021	INTEREST		Interest Earned		\$4.29	118,013.19
Total for 1000 FM Bank Checking					\$109,063.89	\$31,006.78	
TOTAL					\$109,063.89	\$31,006.78	

Renville Soil & Water Conservation District

BWSR Grants Detail

September 2021

TRANSACTION TYPE	DATE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
2300 UNEARNED REVENUE							
2400 Unearned Revenue - BWSR							
2401 MAWQCP							
							4,739.46
Beginning Balance							4,739.46
Journal Entry	09/30/2021	Sep 2021 BBR		Sep 2021 BBR	\$348.50		4,390.96
Total for 2401 MAWQCP					\$348.50		
2410 2018 Buffer Cost Share							
							140,486.54
Beginning Balance							140,486.54
Journal Entry	09/30/2021	Sep 2021 BBR		Sep 2021 BBR	\$74.16		140,412.38
Total for 2410 2018 Buffer Cost Share					\$74.16		
2411 2018 Buffer Law							
							2,036.20
Beginning Balance							2,036.20
Journal Entry	09/30/2021	Sep 2021 BBR		Sep 2021 BBR	\$1,980.78		55.42
Total for 2411 2018 Buffer Law					\$1,980.78		
2421 2019 Conservation Delivery							
							4,727.85
Beginning Balance							4,727.85
Bill	09/07/2021	24401	Creative Details	Inv #24401, exterior signs	\$245.00		4,482.85
Expense	09/24/2021		Cardmember Service	VDO Comm - headset for computer calls	\$224.91		4,257.94
Expense	09/24/2021		Cardmember Service	Amazon - board room chair	\$155.99		4,101.95
Expense	09/24/2021		Cardmember Service	Kyle - U of MN training	\$95.00		4,006.95
Expense	09/24/2021		Cardmember Service	Amazon - desk walls for techs	\$268.00		3,738.95
Total for 2421 2019 Conservation Delivery					\$988.90		
2422 2019 State Cost Share							
							3,831.99
Beginning Balance							3,831.99
Total for 2422 2019 State Cost Share							
2430 2020 Buffer Law							
							33,783.21
Beginning Balance							33,783.21
Journal Entry	09/30/2021	Sep 2021 BBR		Sep 2021 BBR	\$6,075.99		27,707.22
Total for 2430 2020 Buffer Law					\$6,075.99		
2431 2020 Conservation Delivery							
							7,536.74
Beginning Balance							7,536.74
Expense	09/24/2021		Cardmember Service	Modern Office - conference table	\$1,799.00		5,737.74
Total for 2431 2020 Conservation Delivery					\$1,799.00		
2432 2020 State Cost Share							
							10,364.09
Beginning Balance							10,364.09

Renville Soil & Water Conservation District

BWSR Grants Detail

September 2021

TRANSACTION TYPE	DATE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
Total for 2432 2020 State Cost Share							
2433 2020 SWCD Local Capacity							
Beginning Balance							
Journal Entry	09/30/2021	Sep 2021 BBR		Sep 2021 BBR	\$10,300.12		61,682.99
Total for 2433 2020 SWCD Local Capacity					\$10,300.12		
2440 2021 Buffer Law							
Beginning Balance							
Journal Entry	09/30/2021	Sep 2021 BBR		Sep 2021 BBR	\$1,190.86		37,509.14
Total for 2440 2021 Buffer Law					\$1,190.86		
2441 2021 Conservation Delivery							
Beginning Balance							
Total for 2441 2021 Conservation Delivery							19,501.00
2442 2021 State Cost Share							
Beginning Balance							
Total for 2442 2021 State Cost Share							10,460.00
2443 2021 SWCD Local Capacity							
Beginning Balance							
Bill	09/03/2021	SWCD_9321	Renville County I.T.	Inv SWCD_9321	\$899.00		94,963.73
Journal Entry	09/30/2021	Sep 2021 BBR		Sep 2021 BBR	\$2,957.12		91,107.61
Total for 2443 2021 SWCD Local Capacity					\$3,856.12		
Total for 2400 Unearned Revenue - BWSR					\$26,614.43		
Total for 2300 UNEARNED REVENUE					\$26,614.43		
TOTAL					\$26,614.43		

Water Quality and Storage Program Outreach

Notes from the MASWCD Area VI meeting – 9/21/21

Where a water storage the project is located within a watershed is a very important question to answer. Should the available funds be used for this planning work? Should funds only be used for construction? How about easements and other land rights acquisition costs?

- Tie to 1W1P or WQ plans, rely on previous plans for the planning part, and focus on construction for now. But project design is okay to include in costs.
- Easements because this is the hardest money to come up with otherwise.
- Use the 2million to reduce the cost and time it takes to implement these projects – consider the work that is being done in WI/IA.
- If we don't need perpetual easements, this can bring down costs. We should consider flexibility in land use for these sites.
- Locals already know where projects should go, so make sure to get local input.
- Landowner willingness is a big hurdle – can some of the funds be used for outreach/door knocking

Statute provides that the program is to “control volumes and rates” and certain types of projects are more likely to control rates and other projects control volumes. Should we limit what kind of practices we'll fund to those that will show the greater reduction of rates and volumes?

- There is no “silver bullet”. Different types of projects will get us where we need, so we should consider all times.
- Wetlands are covered under other programs – so no wetlands
- Prevent increases in flow rate occurring – we need strategic placement
- Don't worry so much about multiple benefits – peak flow reduction in itself is okay
- Choose selective areas and hold then release when it makes sense
- Treat these like industrial stormwater ponds in the cities. Huge storage areas to hold runoff and then release slowly
- Not projects that are included in flood damage reduction funding
- Project improvements should be considered (considering restrictions of the current easements)

How should allocation of funds be prioritized? Is it for the proposal that has the most water volume and rate control? Is it reasonable to ask applicants to provide hydrographs showing what their projects will do?

- Distance to the stream and distance to flooded areas need to be considered
- Best cost – most bang for the buck
- Time it will take to get done – project readiness
- Reducing flows in more than one location
- Volume and Rate control most important because it is the MN River
- Projects should be visible for education purposes
- Cropland management should be considered/ranked higher

There are concerns from some that putting in projects with drainage systems will allow for more drainage in the future. Should projects be allowed as part of drainage system improvements? How do we separate or connect the two interests?

- Work with the drainage authority to take over long term – they can monitor increases
- Think about how society can help this along – we need buy-in on how we build this idea in
- Build in a cap for flow rate increases, so they can't continue to increase and increase
- To get the storage money, they would need to show they aren't increasing flows due to improvement project
- If there are increases, they could pay for decrease/storage somewhere else (like trading)
- Show net reductions in rates/flows – a trade off could be okay

Other comments

- Match will be the biggest issue here – carefully consider match
- Payment reductions should be used for match
- Consider NRCS programs or USFW foundation
- Projects in the area Scott described in his talk should be prioritized.

Follow up comments (received after the meeting)

- Education is necessary for farmers to see the benefits of adding storage. It will help if they understand the other benefits of these projects so they just don't see the loss of revenue.
- As you already know, the Water Quality and Storage Program only has \$2 Million for starting this program. Not enough to solve the problem.
- My thoughts would be to get very good demonstration projects in all 6 of the suggested practices listed in the statute. Distribute them throughout the Minnesota River Basin and Lower Mississippi. Make sure we highlight the projects and how they were accomplished. We need to get the word out on how complex and diverse the solutions can be. Landowners, SWCD supervisors and staff, and county drainage authorities need to see the matrix of solutions available to solve this problem. Also by spreading the money and project types we can build a large network of support. We are certainly going to need that as we move forward.

Water Storage Program Outreach

1. Where a water storage project is located within a watershed is a very important question to answer. Should the available funds be used for this planning work? Should funds only be used for construction? How about easements and other land rights acquisitions costs?

2. Statute provides that the program is to “control volumes and rates” and certain types of projects are more likely to control rates and other projects control volumes. Should we limit what kind of practices we’ll fund to those that will show the greater reduction of rates and volumes.

3. How should allocation of funds be prioritized? Is it for the proposal that has the more water volume and rate control? Is it reasonable to ask applicants to provide hydrographs showing what their projects will do?

4. There are concerns from some that putting in projects with drainage systems will allow for more drainage in the future. Should projects be allowed as part of drainage system improvements? How do we separate or connect the two interests?

Renville Soil & Water Conservation District
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Phone: 320-523-1559
<http://www.renvillewcd.com>



Renville SWCD Supervisory Per-Diem Policy updated Oct 14, 2021

Purpose: Per Diem and Reimbursement of Travel Expenses Incurred on Behalf of the SWCD. eligible expenses, tracking and reporting requirements.

1. One per diem for regular monthly Board meetings, meetings of committees to which members are assigned, and special meetings called by the Board Chair or approved by the SWCD Administrator. This does not apply to meetings of organizations, groups and local governments that are the primary responsibility of SWCD staff.
2. One per diem is authorized for the day prior and the day after by Board members in travel status for board business when Board members travel over 100 miles each way using vehicular transportation.
3. Per diem incurred at other functions such as those sponsored or coordinated by the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD), the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC), or the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) under the conditions defined in items 1 through 2 if authorized by the Board, the Chair of the Board, or the SWCD Administrator.
4. Full-time employees of the State or one of its political subdivisions are not eligible to receive a per diem payment per Minn. Stat. § 15.0575, subd. 3.
5. In no instances will more than one SWCD or other state agency issued per diem payment per day be permitted under this policy.
6. Participation via conference call, videoconference, internet technology or other similar means in regular monthly Board meetings, meetings of committees to which members are assigned, and special meetings called by the Board Chair or the Executive Director, is considered the same as participation in-person for per diem or expense purposes.

Scope: Expenses are authorized for Board members according to the following criteria:

1. Vehicle travel will be reimbursed at the standard Federal IRS mileage rate in effect at the time of travel.
2. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires business expenses to be submitted for reimbursement within 60 days after the expense is incurred or the trip ends.

Policy: A supervisor shall receive compensation for services of \$125 per day, and may be reimbursed for expenses, including traveling expense, necessarily incurred in the discharge of duties. A supervisor may be reimbursed for the use of the supervisor's automobile in the performance of official duties at a rate up to the maximum tax-deductible mileage rate permitted under the federal Internal Revenue code. (Mn Statutes 103C.315 Subd.4.) Approval must be obtained from the Board for all out-of-state travel. All reimbursements for travel related expenses require the appropriate receipts.

Renville Soil & Water Conservation District
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<http://www.renvillewcd.com>



Responsibility: SWCD Supervisors are responsible entering meeting per-diem, mileage and meeting expenses into TimeKEEPER or whatever payroll software currently being used by the SWCD, monthly. Time must be entered by each Board Supervisor and approved by them by close of business (COB) by the last day of the calendar month. Time not entered by the COB the last day of the month will not be eligible for reimbursement.

1. Compensation requests will be processed with the next regular office payroll, following the last day of the month and direct deposited into the account on file with the SWCD Administrator on succeeding payday.
2. Coordination, Committee chairs and staff shall schedule committee meetings to efficiently use board members' time and manage travel expenses

This policy supersedes all former policies and will be adopted from date of approval forward.
Note: Effective Aug 12, 2021, Supervisory daily per-diem is a maximum of \$125.00 per day plus mileage and meeting expenses.

Vote: Yea's _____ Nay's _____
Board Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____

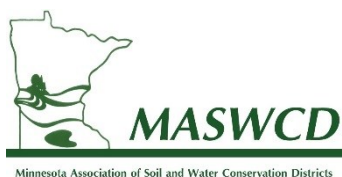
DRAFT

MASWCD Resolution Process



2021 RESOLUTION PACKET

proposed resolutions for action by the membership



Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
www.maswcd.org

Things to consider when reviewing and voting on resolutions

Relevance

- Is the proposed policy relevant to the mission, goals, and objectives of the organization?
- Does the policy address a real need?
- Is the policy consistent with the stated values of the board or program?
- Does it comply with administrative/legal requirements?

Effectiveness

- Will the proposed policy address the problem or need?
- Is this the best approach?
- Are there alternative policies?
- What are the costs/benefits of each alternative?

Capability

- Can the Association and/or members implement the activities suggested by the proposed policy?
- Will additional expertise be needed?

Costs/Resources

- How much will it cost to implement?
- Can funds be found to support it?
- Will the policy require reallocation of funds?
- What are the opportunity costs of this policy?

Ramifications

- What might be the unanticipated consequences of this policy? What might be the consequences of that choice for others? The side effects?
- How would the policy impact staff? Constituents? Funding?
- Is there community support?

Other?

- Supposing you can't have everything, what would you choose?
- Does anyone have a different view?
- What seems to be the key point here?

How would we know if we were successful in implementing it/what does success look like and is that vision of success articulated in the resolution?

MINNESOTA WETLAND CONSERVATION AGENCY COORDINATION

WHEREAS, multiple agencies and organizations at the federal, state, and local level have oversight or jurisdictional authority over wetland resources; and

WHEREAS, these agencies and organizations have the obligation to protect wetland resources in the state of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, these agencies and organizations also have a responsibility for timely, efficient, and accurate customer service; and

WHEREAS, the lack of an established, standardized, and coordinated process, across all agencies, leaves applicants without clear guidance to manage wetland resources.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that MASWCD coordinate with the state level policy makers within each agency to seek a solution for an efficient process, or checklist, that will ensure appropriate agency contact to eliminate confusion, and provide applicants with an opportunity to manage wetland resources without risk of regulatory violation or unnecessary delays.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Medium workload. Estimated cost to MASWCD is \$2,000.

Submitted by: Clay SWCD

Area Association: NW Area 1

Date adopted: June 15, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: August 18, 2021

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date:

Action:

For additional information contact:

Joel Hildebrandt, Clay SWCD Supervisor, 701-205-6430, joel.hildebrandt@gmail.com

Kevin Kassenborg, Clay SWCD Manager, 218-287-2255, kevin.kassenborg@clay.mnswcd.org

STATE COST-SHARE FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

WHEREAS, wastewater contains sewage, which includes pathogens, parasites, nutrients, and some chemicals; and

WHEREAS, subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS) benefits include protecting human health and the environment because it removes pathogens, nutrients and other chemicals from used water before it enters our groundwater or surface water, such as lakes; and

WHEREAS, many septic system owners are unaware that unsaturated soil is required to properly treat septic tank effluent before safely entering the environment; and

WHEREAS, many septic system owners assume, if their used water “goes away,” their system must be working properly; and

WHEREAS, when the used water no longer “goes away” either by backing up into the house or surfacing on the ground, then it becomes an imminent threat to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, when a septic system becomes an imminent threat to public health and safety or fails to protect groundwater, the cost of replacing a failing SSTS can be very cost prohibitive; and

WHEREAS, although required by state law to design, install, inspect and maintain a septic system, the expense to replace this conservation practice could result in actions that do not improve water quality; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of a septic system that is cost prohibitive could result in the owner pumping the “used water” to a surface water, repairing the system themselves or finding unlicensed contractors to install without a design at a cheaper rate; and

WHEREAS, having this financial assistance available to SWCD Boards that deem this practice a high priority would greatly benefit water quality. If an SWCD Board does not find the practice a high priority, their SWCD state cost-share policy can be written as such.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The MASWCD work with BWSR to change the BWSR Erosion Control and Water Management Program (State Cost-Share) policy, allowing up to 75% cost-sharing for septic system replacements.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: \$200 May require MASWCD staff to send a request to BWSR to consider the proposal.

Submitted by: Pennington and Red Lake SWCDs

Area Association: NW Area 1

Date adopted: June 15, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: August 18, 2021

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date:

Action:

For additional information contact: Peter Nelson, Pennington SWCD Manager, 218-683-7075

INCREASED STATE COST-SHARE FOR UNUSED WELL SEALING

WHEREAS, according to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), wells become unused for a variety of reasons: not enough water, needed repairs, contamination, simply “lost” when property changed hands, land use altered, or connected to a community water system; and

WHEREAS, every unused well that is not properly sealed poses a safety, health, and environmental threat to families and communities as well as a potential legal risk to the homeowner, and

WHEREAS, an unused well can act like a drain, allowing surface water runoff, contaminated water, or improperly disposed waste a direct pathway into drinking water sources; and

WHEREAS, when surface water is allowed a path to an unused well, the quality of everyone’s water is threatened – city water wells, neighbor’s wells, even the landowner’s current well; and

WHEREAS, there is also a liability issue if an old well is proved to be a conduit for contaminants that reach a drinking water source for others; and

WHEREAS, children and small animals can easily fall into an unprotected, open well. Also, accidents can occur when equipment is unsuspectingly driven over a crumbling well or well pit; and

WHEREAS, the current BWSR Erosion Control and Water Management Program (State Cost-share) Policy limits cost-sharing of sealing unused wells to 50%; and

WHEREAS, although required by state law to seal unused wells, the expense could delay the sealing process until affordable; and

WHEREAS, the affordability of installing this practice should not be any different than other conservation practices that protect water quality through the state cost-share fund.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The MASWCD work with BWSR to change the BWSR Erosion Control and Water Management Program (State Cost Share) policy, allowing up to 75% cost-sharing for unused well sealing.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: \$200 May require MASWCD staff to send a request to BWSR to consider the proposal.

Submitted by: Pennington and Red Lake SWCDs

Area Association: NW Area 1

Date adopted: June 15, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: August 18, 2021

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date:

Action:

For additional information contact: Peter Nelson, Pennington SWCD Manager, 218-683-7075

JOB APPROVAL AUTHORITY COORDINATION

WHEREAS, there is a need for Job Approval Authority (JAA) at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the local SWCDs' workload is continuously increasing; and

WHEREAS, the availability of staff and resources from NRCS and other agencies for JAA training is limited.

THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, that MASWCD coordinate with NRCS policy makers to seek a solution to increase staff and resources available for on-the-job training associated with JAA.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Medium workload – estimated cost to MASWCD is \$2,000

Submitted by: East Polk SWCD

Area Association: NW Area 1

Date adopted: June 15, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 18, 2021

Date:

Action:

For additional information contact:

Scott Balstad, East Polk SWCD Supervisor, 218-556-9315, mjb@gvtel.com

Rachel Klein, East Polk SWCD District Manager, 218-563-2777, Klein.eastpolk@gmail.com

PUBLIC WATER INVENTORY MAP RE-ADDITION PUBLIC HEARINGS

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is beginning the process of re-adding public watercourses on to the Public Waters Inventory Map that were previously removed for riparian buffer strip statute; and

WHEREAS, the lack of communication of this process leaves local agencies and landowners without clear guidelines on this process that evaluates the watercourses for re-addition and the status of those watercourses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD establish communication with DNR on the process of re-additions to the Public Waters Inventory Map and coordinate with DNR policy makers to ensure that any watercourse being proposed for re-addition to the Public Waters Inventory Map be required to hold a public hearing prior to the decision.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Medium workload – estimated cost to MASWCD is \$2,000.

Submitted by: East Polk SWCD

Area Association: NW Area 1

Date adopted: June 15, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 18, 2021

Date:

Action:

For additional information contact:

Scott Balstad, East Polk SWCD Supervisor, 218-556-9315, mjb@gvtel.com

Rachel Klein, East Polk SWCD District Manager, 218-563-2777, Klein.eastpolk@gmail.com

OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE SHORELINE STABILIZATION AND NATURALIZATION PROJECTS

WHEREAS, a natural shoreline and streambank are a complex ecosystem that sustains fish and wildlife and protects the entire lake and river system; and

WHEREAS, many private landowners have degraded shorelines and streambanks and are in need of SWCD technical and financial assistance to restore their shorelines and streambanks; and

WHEREAS, thirty-three percent of the sales tax revenue from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy amendment is distributed to the Outdoor Heritage Fund as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC); and

WHEREAS, Outdoor Heritage Funds “may be spent only to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forest and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, a permanent conservation easement is required by the Outdoor Heritage Fund, making these funds extremely unapproachable and difficult to use on smaller private shoreline and streambank properties; and

WHEREAS, the Stearns County SWCD with assistance from the Stearns County Attorney have developed an administratively efficient shoreline deed restriction process that provides similar protections as a permanent easement, which is easier to implement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD work with LSOHC, DNR, legislators, and others to modify statutes (included Minn. Stat. 97A.056) to allow the use of the Outdoor Heritage Funds on private shoreline stabilization and naturalization projects using a deed restriction process (or other administratively efficient process) that provides similar protections as a permanent easement.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$4320/yr (one-meeting-day per month for a year).

Submitted by: Stearns SWCD

Area Association: WC Area 2

Date adopted: June 22, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 18, 2021

Date:

Action:

For additional information contact:

Dennis Fuchs, Stearns SWCD Administrator, 320-251-7800 x 3, email: dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net

This is a resubmission of an expiring resolution:

Author: Stearns SWCD

Approved: December 5, 2017

Sunset Date: **December, 2021**

Status: Ongoing policy.

BWSR CONTINUED FORESTRY SUPPORT

WHEREAS, proper forest management leads to healthy forests, soil health, good air quality, improved wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the “Land of 10,000 Lakes” needs SWCDs to provide forest management assistance to help keep the “10,000 Lakes” healthy; and

WHEREAS, many SWCDs have foresters on staff that provide detailed forest management assistance to private landowners; and

WHEREAS, many other SWCDs provide some level of forestry assistance including tree sales; and

WHEREAS, SWCD forest management assistance is recognized and supported by state agencies and citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD strongly encourage the Board of Water and Soil Resources to continue their significant forestry support to SWCDs, both technically and through the procurement and administration of forest related grants.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Low workload required. \$375.

Submitted by: Aitkin SWCD
Koochiching & Wadena SWCDs

Area Association: NE Area 3, NC Area 8
Date adopted: June 3, 2021, June 25, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 18, 2021

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date:
Action:

For additional information contact:
Steve Hughes, District Manager Aitkin Co. SWCD (218) 927-7284

Background

Dan Steward and Lindberg Ekola and others have provided outstanding forestry support for the past several years through BWSR DNR PFM Partnership. Over the past five years, Dan Steward has served as the Forest Landscape Planning Coordinator for BWSR to support the strengthening the connections between water quality and forestry through Comprehensive Local Water Planning and Landscape Stewardship. Over the past two years, Lindberg Ekola, BWSR Forest Stewardship Planning Coordinator. They provide program assistance to SWCD’s to promote sustainable forest management in Minnesota. They work closely with DNR Forestry staff to secure funding, administer grants and contracts, support training and an array of coordination functions. They support the implementation of landscape stewardship plans and 1W1Ps through the work of local forestry technical teams. This resolution seeks to recognize the outstanding assistance being provided, and to encourage BWSR to continue their dedication to SWCD forest management efforts.

ADVOCATING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRIVATE FOREST MANAGEMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND THE CREATION OF THE BWSR FOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, DNR and BWSR have developed and maintained a close working relationship over the past thirty plus years through memorandums of understanding (MOUs) – 1985 and 2006; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, there have been a series of decisions and events that have significantly affected and complicated the delivery of services to private woodland owners in the state. Some of these include the following:

- *A 75 percent budget cut to the MN DNR Division of Forestry Private Forest Management (PFM) program for FY 2012 – 2013. This major funding reduction comes after other budget cuts to the PFM program in previous biennia.*
- *Reductions in grant funding available to the PFM program over the last ten years.*
- *Reductions in the number of PFM field foresters in MN DNR Forestry to serve private woodland owners.*
- *A decision to not refill the Board Forester position by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).*
- *Reductions in forest resource staffing for technical assistance by NRCS through their state forester position (1.0 FTE to 0.5 FTE).*
- *Numerous budget cuts to the University of Minnesota’s Extension service and its education programs that support private woodland owners.*
- *The policy decision to charge fees to private landowners for the preparation of forest stewardship plans.*
- *An increase in the number of forest stewardship plans prepared by partners other than the MN DNR (consulting foresters, soil & water conservation districts SWCDs, etc.)*
- *The transferring of federal funding to support implementation of forestry practices on private woodlands by the US Congress to be administered by the US DA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through its Environmental Quality Improvement Practices (EQIP) program. These funds use to be distributed by the USDA Forest Service - State & Private Program which were then made a “pass through” source to the partnering state forestry programs such as the MN DNR Forestry PFM program.*
- *The initiation and development of the Landscape Stewardship Initiative by the US Forest Service and the decision to focus future federal funds for private forest management through landscape-based approaches.*

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has directed the BWSR to implement the comprehensive local water plans law which includes the development of One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Program for all major watershed in the state by 2025; and

WHEREAS, leaders from SWCDs and the two agencies have determined that there are many benefits to aligning the forest resource management planning through landscape stewardship with water resource planning and implementation supported by the 1W1P process; and

WHEREAS, leadership from the two agencies have developed a draft MOU to replace the current 2006 document to create the PFM Partnership, a joint effort to coordinate forestry and water resource management.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD take a leadership role in promoting and advocating the completion of the PFM Partnership MOU and the creation of a Forest Conservation Program within the BWSR structure that is aligned with the DNR Cooperative Forest Management programs.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Medium-High Workload. Approx. 20 hours of time at \$75* per hour = \$1500.

Submitted by: Wadena SWCD

Area Association: NC Area 8

Date adopted: June 25, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 18, 2021

Date:

Action:

For additional information contact:

Tom Schulz, Wadena SWCD Supervisor (218) 837-5728, tschulz@wcta.net

LOCAL-STATE-FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTRY IN MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, partnerships between land occupiers and SWCDs, state and federal conservation agencies have been the backbone of getting conservation on the ground in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, trees and forestry have been and continue to be excellent conservation tools for creating clean water as well as sequestering carbon; and

WHEREAS, transitional areas of the state have lost millions of acres of forest from European pre-settlement times; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota has leveraged the partnership with the federal government through the RIM and CRP programs in creating CREP to permanently protect sensitive wetlands in predominantly agricultural areas leading to over 139,000 acres being protected contained in 3445 easements and still counting; and

WHEREAS, applying this method to formerly forested parts of the state to provide permanently protected working lands to reclaim forest lands that will have strong environmental benefits.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD strongly support and advocate for the combined efforts of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), BWSR, NRCS and MN DNR in forming a forestry CREP and/or any similar model of a local-state-federal partnership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MASWCD support the ramp up of state and private nurseries to meet the need for trees to be planted.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Medium-High Workload. Approx. 20 hours of time at \$75* per hour = \$1500.

Submitted by: Wadena SWCD

Area Association: NC Area 8

Date adopted: June 25, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: August 18, 2021

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date:

Action:

For additional information contact:

Tom Schulz, Wadena SWCD Supervisor (218) 837-5728, tschulz@wcta.net

DEVELOP & MAINTAIN CONTACT LIST OF LOCALLY-ACTIVE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE LEGISLATIVE EFFECTIVENESS

WHEREAS, a primary role of MASWCD is to develop, promote, and support passage of legislation aimed at promoting the conservation of Minnesota’s land, water, forest, and wildlife resources, consistent with the roles and responsibilities of Soil and Water Conservation Districts; and

WHEREAS, in most if not all SWCDs there are active organizations that share common values and interests in the conservation of natural resources, including hunting and fishing conservation groups, lake associations, forestry associations, and others, which may have interest in supporting legislation alongside MASWCD and its member supervisors and staff; and

WHEREAS, the ability to mobilize the support of potentially thousands of other constituents from around the state requires having current contact information from the hundreds of local conservation organization of which they are members; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD, in cooperation with each member District, develop and maintain a distribution list containing names and contact information of authorized representatives - subject to their approval - from local organizations that share common values and interests in advancing resource conservation legislation being pursued by MASWCD; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MASWCD reach out to such representatives, when appropriate, to inform them of pending legislation of mutual interest and seek their support by way of including their affiliations on official legislative correspondence and/or encouraging them to submit letters of support from their respective organizations.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: \$4,000 (40 hrs * \$100/hr) for initial list development, then \$1000/year thereafter for maintenance.

Submitted by: Scott SWCD

Area Association: Metro Area 4

Date adopted: June 18, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 18, 2021

Date:

Action:

For additional information contact:

Troy Kuphal, Scott SWCD, at 952-492-5411 or tkuphal@co.scott.mn.us

COST SHARING FOR REMOVAL OF TILE INTAKES

WHEREAS, Minnesota has identified many impaired lakes and river systems for nutrients with the limiting factor to algae blooms usually related to phosphorus concentrations; and

WHEREAS, tile intakes were a legal and recommended practice to deal with excess water affecting crop production over the last 100 years and have been used extensively; and

WHEREAS, these tile intakes provide a nonfiltered direct conduit for pollutants including sediment and phosphorus to a number of waterbodies of concern including recreational lakes and highly used river systems; and

WHEREAS, relatively small amounts of phosphorus can have a devastating effect on waterbodies as it leads to premature aging of water systems and impairs recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, infiltration through the soil medium would allow a significant amount of the phosphorus to be captured in the soil profile for plant use; and

WHEREAS, the use of “French Drains” has proven problematic in heavy soils causing crop stress and significant areas of drown out during heavy rainfall.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD supports cost share practices at the federal and state level to remove tile intakes from drainage areas to sensitive waterbodies and provide pattern tile alternatives and other options when practical; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MASWCD initiate discussion with NRCS about the development of standards and specifications for this practice including exploring ways to direct smaller storms through the soil profile.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The workload is estimated to be 30 hours at \$75.00/hour* = \$2,250.00

Submitted by: Wright SWCD

Area Association: Metro Area 4

Date adopted: June 18, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 18, 2021

Date:

Action:

For additional information contact: Luke Johnson, Wright SWCD Manager (763) 682-1970

This is a resubmission of an expiring resolution.

Author: Wright SWCD

Approved: December 5, 2017

Sunset Date: December, 2021

Status: MASWCD shared the resolution with NRCS and BWSR. **BWSR Response:** BWSR has allowed cost-share of alternative tile intakes under its Clean Water Fund water quality implementation grant programs such as Projects & Practices and Targeted Watershed programs. We have not allowed the use of cost-share on alternative tile intakes under the State Cost-Share program as practices funded via that program must be in the NRCS Filed Office Technical Guide. We continue to work with NRCS on the development of a design standard and guidance for this practice. Once that work is completed then it would be incorporated into the Field Office Technical Guide and MN practice docket and become an eligible practice under federal financial assistance programs and the MN State Cost-Share program. **NRCS Response:** NRCS has identified a need for alternatives to open tile intakes which allow for direct discharge of sediment and pollutants to surface waters through ongoing discussions with State partner agencies. There is currently work being undertaken to develop standards and design guidance for alternative intake systems which would improve water quality by reducing sediment transport through tile lines or side water inlets without causing unacceptable crop stress during rain events. This effort will include coordination with agencies who have already been engaged with evaluating alternative intake systems. The use of subsurface drains or media filters to direct flow through the soil profile is one alternative that is being evaluated.

CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS, family farmers are on the front lines of the climate crisis, experiencing some of its early affects in the form of extreme weather, unpredictable growing seasons, and increased risk of plant and animal disease; and

WHEREAS, family farmers are also coming up with ways to remain resilient and even mitigate the worst effects of climate change, including through the use of cover crops, managed rotational grazing, nutrient management, on-farm renewable energy, and a host of other practices; and

WHEREAS, it's critical that farmers have a seat at the table in climate discussions as they have an important role to play in innovating in response to challenges that pose a real threat to their livelihood, our rural communities, and the economy of our entire state; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD supports state and federal action to give farmers the information, tools and resources they need to continue pursuing on-farm climate action, including:

- 1) Advancing coordinated efforts that enable agricultural producers to earn a fair return on voluntary investments in practices that sequester carbon and deliver other ecosystem benefits;
- 2) Building on voluntary state and federal programs that incentivize on-the-ground practices that promote soil health and improve the climate;
- 3) Ensuring that family farmers remain resilient by preventing the export of water from Minnesota via runoff;
- 4) Encouraging private insurance policies to account for increased risk to crops due to climate change;
- 5) And expanding the use of biofuels and on farm renewable energy.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Low Workload: Approximately 5 hours of time at \$75 per hour = \$375

Submitted by: Fillmore SWCD

Area Association: SE Area 7

Date adopted: June 22, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 18, 2021

Date:

Action:

For additional information contact:

Eunice Biel, Fillmore SWCD Board Supervisor, 507-251-7614, eabiel@outlook.com

Laura Christensen, Fillmore SWCD District Administrator, 507-765-3878 ext. 122

RIGHT OF WAY VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the vegetative portion of road rights-of-way (roadside ditches) provide multiple resource services that need careful management to avoid compromising one or more of these services; and

WHEREAS, state, county and township entities responsible for roadside ditches need to follow the state noxious weed laws in these areas; and

WHEREAS, state, county and township entities have areas of planted or preexisting native grasses and wildflowers that can provide natural resource benefits including competing with non-native weeds; and

WHEREAS, roadside ditches are an integral part of the landscape's water drainage and water infiltration systems; and

WHEREAS, roadside ditches provide wildlife corridors in areas where development has disrupted the continuity of wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, roadside ditches are being successfully managed for pollinator habitat to offset habitat losses in other parts of the landscape caused by modern farming practices and ill-timed roadside ditch spraying practices that have decreased the amount of milkweed and other native species utilized by butterflies and bees for rearing their young and providing pollen and nectar needed for their survival; and

WHEREAS, broadcast spraying of pesticides and the time of year that herbicides are applied can negatively impact all of above natural resource services provided by roadside ditches.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD urge BWSR, in coordination with MDA and MN DOT, to develop educational and funding programs that support road right-of-way Best Management Practices that encourage state, county and township road authorities to recognize, improve and maintain the multiple natural resource services provided by roadside ditches by better targeting and more effectively using pesticides and utilizing alternative methods for the control of invasive species and noxious weeds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MASWCD urge BWSR, in coordination with MDA and MN DOT, to develop recommendations of, and funding for, long-term solutions for non-native weed control including the planting of native species that provide competition for non-native weeds and also provide pollen and nectar for pollinating species.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Medium Workload: Approximately 15 hours of time at \$75 per hour = \$1,125

Submitted by: Fillmore SWCD

Area Association: SE Area 7

Date adopted: June 22, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 18, 2021

Date:

Action:

For additional information contact:

Timothy Gossman, Fillmore SWCD Board Supervisor, 507-251-7614, thornapplespring@gmail.com

Laura Christensen, Fillmore SWCD District Manager, 507-765-3878 ext. 122

INCREASED PAYMENT RATE FOR EASEMENT DELIVERY

WHEREAS, the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program has been successful in protecting over 300,000 acres through 7,200 easements of critical habitat across the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, much of the success of the program is due to the efforts of local conservation districts in both enrolling the acreage and following up through annual inspections to assure easement plan requirements are met; and

WHEREAS, reimbursement from BWSR for annual inspections, addressing changes in land ownership and other necessary services is inadequate to cover actual cost of required annual inspections; and

WHEREAS, the payment rate of \$50 per easement has remained unchanged since 2018.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD seek funding to appropriate to BWSR for the RIM program to increase the payment per easement for Easement Delivery to SWCDs from \$50 to an amount that reflects the actual costs.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The estimated cost to MASWCD would be medium-low workload. Potentially 10 hours of time for communications with BWSR and legislators.

- Medium-Low Workload: Approximately 10 hours of time at \$75* per hour = \$750

* \$75 per hour estimate includes all operational costs including staff and/or board time, overhead, travel, committee expenses, etc.

Submitted by: Wabasha SWCD

Area Association: SE Area 7

Date adopted: June 22, 2021

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: August 18, 2021

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date:

Action:

For additional information contact:

Wabasha SWCD Board Chair: Terry Helbig

District Manager: Terri Peters, terri.peters@mn.nacdnet.net – 651-560-2044

Background:

The Wabasha SWCD district manager and supervisors have noted over the past several years that the cost of completing required annual inspections and work related to updating land owners, amending conservation plans, and general outreach has been approximately double what is received as funding for Easement Delivery.



Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts 2021 RESOLUTION BALLOT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Each current SWCD Supervisor is entitled to **ONE** vote on each resolution.
- Mark the vote of each Supervisor in **ONE** category (approve or disapprove) for each resolution.
- Each resolution can receive only as many votes as the number of Supervisors named on the ballot.
- **ALL SUPERVISOR VOTES MUST BE TALLIED & SUBMITTED ON THIS BALLOT.**
- E-mail ballot to sheila.vanney@maswcd.org by November 1.
- Only member SWCDs are eligible to participate.

SWCD Name:	Renville County SWCD
	name of voting Supervisor
1	Dean Schroeder
2	Richard Jepson
3	Kevin Kokesch
4	Kathryn Kelly
5	Mark Koenig
<i>The number by each Supervisor's name above should correspond to his/her votes in below table. e.g., for each resolution, the vote of Supervisor 1 should be recorded in one of the two "1" (green) columns.</i>	

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY

I certify that this ballot represents an accurate tally of the votes of the supervisors named above.

 Name of SWCD supervisor or employee _____
 Date

DEADLINE: Ballots must be received by November 1, 2021. **Late ballots will not be accepted.**

Mark votes with a ✓ or an X.

#	Resolution Title	APPROVE					DISAPPROVE					DISCUSS OR AMEND							
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5			
1	Minnesota Wetland Conservation Agency Coordination																		
2	State Cost-Share for Septic System Replacement																		
3	Increased State Cost-Share for Well Sealing																		
4	Job Approval Authority Coordination																		
5	Public Water Inventory Map Re-Addition Public Hearings																		
6	Outdoor Heritage Funds for Private Shoreline Projects																		
7	BWSR Continued Forestry Support																		
8	Private Forest Management MOU and BWSR Forest Conservation Program																		
9	Local-State-Federal Partnership on Forestry in Minnesota																		
10	Contact List of Locally-Active Conservation Groups to Increase Legislative Effectiveness																		
11	Cost Sharing for Removal of Tile Intakes																		
12	Climate-Smart Agriculture																		
13	Right of Way Vegetative Management																		
14	Increased Payment Rate for Easement Delivery																		

2021 RESOLUTION/POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Seven committee members voted on the resolutions. One committee member was absent from the entire meeting, and additional members were absent for portions of the meeting.

Area	Resolution Title	Authoring SWCD	Committee Comments	Cmte Vote
1	Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Coordination	Clay	Even with a joint application form for landowners coordinated by BWSR/DNR/Corps of Engineers, there is still some confusion and frustration. DNR uses an online form to let people know if a permit is needed, which is disconnected from WCA. Can the joint form be part of DNR's online system (MPARS)? There's also a disconnect between WCA and NRCS's 1026 forms. NRCS reviews are totally separate and usually take months. Author's intent is just state agency coordination, though there would be benefit to coordination among local governments as well. Would help if at least at state level there's more coordination.	7-0 A A A
1	Septic System Cost-Share	Pennington, Red Lake	There are other funding options for fixing/replacing septic systems. Though, the authors of the resolution are seeking local ability to prioritize cost-share for what's important for them locally and for where they otherwise need to pool a few years' worth of state cost-share allocation to pay for a single bigger agricultural practice.	1-6 D D D
1	Well Sealing Cost-Share	Pennington, Red Lake	The existing 50% cost-share rate was set to match up with what other agencies offer for this practice. Increasing the rate might mean fewer total projects. But it might also allow targeting where appropriate. Some of these unused wells have a direct connection to groundwater and pose significant water quality threats.	4-3 D A D
1	Job Approval Authority Coordination	East Polk	BWSR, NRCS, and MASWCD have an existing agreement that provides technical training opportunities. But the bigger issue is on the job (OJT) training and demonstrating the skill set for a qualified NRCS staff person to grant the Job Approval Authority. Sometimes districts are unclear and aren't pursuing the necessary follow-ups to like OTJ training. Over the years, NRCS staffing has decreased while SWCD staffing has increased. The number of NRCS staff available to conduct OJT reviews is limited. Though NRCS is in the process of hiring new staff, there is still a bit of a log-jam, particularly with engineering/JAA.	7-0 A A A
1	Public Waters Inventory Public Hearings	East Polk	A public hearing for changes to the Public Waters Inventory Map seems appropriate, even if the change is to add back something that was previously removed.	7-0 A A
2	Outdoor Heritage Funds for Shoreline Projects	Stearns	Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council strongly favors projects with permanent agreements and projects that provide public access. There were questions about the workload required for spot-checks of land with a deed restriction, but support for the concept.	6-1 A A D
3, 8	BWSR Continued Forestry Support	Aitkin, Koochiching, Wadena	The resolution is expressing support for BWSR's continued and ongoing support in this resource area.	6-0 A A A
8	Private Forest Mngt. MOU & BWSR Forest Conservation Program	Wadena	It was noted the resolution language is a reflection of what BWSR is currently/already pursuing.	6-0 A A

continued

Area	Resolution Title	Authoring SWCD	Committee Comments	Cmte Vote
8	Local-State-Federal Partnership on Forestry in MN	Wadena	Federal funding is crucial in getting a large-scale effort off the ground. If not through the mechanism of CREP (which requires cropping history through), a Regional Conservation Partnership Program initiative may be a suitable route as well. It was noted supply of adequate seedlings will take not just the state nursery, but private ones as well.	7-0 A A
4	Local Legislative Support Contact List	Scott	Engaging local constituents and organizations in advocating for our legislative priorities would be beneficial. Concern was expressed about managing this and getting individuals/organizations to sign off on specific asks/letters/testimony/bills among the workload of a busy legislative session, in addition to keeping the contacts current.	1-4 D D
4	Tile Intake Removal	Wright	This is an unresolved issue that MASWCD has continued to work with NRCS on over the years	# 5-0 A
7	Climate-Smart Agriculture	Fillmore	This is more of a policy statement and not a huge workload for MASWCD, but very timely in expressing a position of supporting ways for agricultural producers to be part of solutions.	A7-0 A
7	Roadside Management	Fillmore	This resolution showcases the competing yet parallel goals of managing noxious weeds and promoting native and pollinator habitat. Wild parsnip control, e.g., kills any broadleaf it comes in contact with. The intent of the resolution is good and not regulatory. It's a process of getting natives established with can outcompete the invasives and prevent their future establishment.	7-0 A A A
7	Increase Payment Rate for Easement Delivery	Wabasha	The easement delivery funding rate has not kept pace with workload required, especially when significant follow-up is needed after an inspection. BWSR established the \$50 rate in 2018, and before that it was a flat amount maybe in the mid-\$40s. Part of the funding goes to BWSR staff and their easement work as well.	4-2 A A A



National Association of Conservation Districts

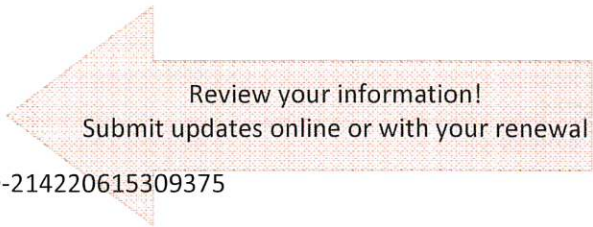
CONSERVATION INVESTMENT

Customer #: 47568

Investment Date: October 1, 2021

Renville County SWCD
1008 West Lincoln
Olivia, MN 56277-4200

Email: holly.hatlewick@mn.nacdnet.net
Phone: 320 - 523-1559
URL: <http://renvilleswcd.com>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Renville-County-SWCD-214220615309375>
Twitter:
Other:



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

This is the first invoice for NACD's 2022 fiscal year which runs October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. We hope you continue to show your support for your National Association with a full membership contribution of \$775. Complete the application form and send with payment to NACD headquarters.

Gary Blair
NACD Secretary/Treasurer

Conservation Investment FY22 (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Platinum (\$3,001 +)	Diamond (\$1,776 - \$3,000)	Gold (\$775 - \$1,775)	Silver (\$501 - \$774)	Bronze (\$101 - \$500)	Contributor (\$1 - \$100)

Payment

<input type="checkbox"/> Final Payment <input type="checkbox"/> Installment ____ of ____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____
Amount Paid: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover
	Card No. _____ CVV _____ Exp. _____
	Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Pay online at: www.nacdnet.org/get-involved/nacd-membership

Mail check and form to:

NACD | 509 Capitol Court NE | Washington, DC 20002
Fax: 202-547-6450 | Email: membership@nacdn.net

Renville County SWCD Staff Reports

Oct. 2021

Holly Hatlewick

1W1P

Hawk

- Plan review CMWP and revisions.
- CMWP Policy Committee meeting prep.

South Fork Crow

- BWSR funded South Fork Crow 1W1P, Renville SWCD/Kyle Richter will be a co-lead with McLeod for plan development. Had initial discussion with McLeod on this strategy. Administrator Hatlewick will serve as the alternate during this plan development.

Other

- MARL, several Peer Circle virtual meetings and Nov. DC trip planning
- Personnel Committee meeting, evaluating SWCD handbook and position descriptions
- Attended Area VI meeting in New Ulm
- Worked with two new customers on Cover Crops Cost Share and Soil health practices
- Outreach activities: Winter SWCD Soil Health meeting discussions, MSHC outreach committee, Farm Fest Committee meeting to recap and plan 2022
- Assisting in State Manager Nov meeting agenda
- Working with Renville County Public Works on CD77 and public waters projects
- BWSR Grant verification for CREP outreach grant
- 2020 Audit work
- Leopold Conservation Award, initial meeting discussion with Kyle the award organizers
- Attended Renville County plot tour

Ethan Dahl

Buffer Law

- Discussion with Seth Sparks on county policy/ordinances for non-compliant buffers\

Agricultural Inspector

- Working with the townships on the MDA grant for the wild parsnip
- EddMaps: Mapping all noxious weed sights

MAWQCP

- Jeffrey Lingl is moving forward with Certification
- Continued work with Thomas Lorang on his Certification

Outreach

- Coffee and Conservation
- First Locally Led Conservation Outreach Committee
- Tea-bag experiment data submission

Other

- Rain Garden design assistance with Backyard Reflections
- RIM site inspections
- Soil Health Academy
- Cover Crop cost share applications: Chris Balfany, Zach Friborg, Bob Serbus, Mike Vait
- Attended MASWCD Area VI meeting

Kyle Richter

CREP:

- Two wetland restorations completed
- Weis construction began, taking supervisor role on this job

RIM

- Started developing a tree plan and working with Yellow Medicine SWCD on a tree order for next spring
- Encroachment was verified and boundary was staked in Wang 18

Wetland Bank:

- Groveland Farms delineation review with TEP

WCA:

- Completed 4 Notice of Decisions for solar gardens, culvert relays, and a bridge replacement
- 4 delineation requests completed for tiling projects
- 1 tile job was not approved
- Completed Delineation Course
- CD77 Update

1W1P:

- Hawk Creek Middle Minnesota helping Holly as needed
- South Fork of Crow 1W1P meeting was had. Hoping to have a kickoff meeting sometime in November or December. Taking on a leadership role with this plan. Meetings will start soon

Other:

- Started economics course on AgLearn
- Conversation about Leopold Conservation Award discussion
- Attended the Renville County Plot Tour

Proposed Fee Schedule 10/7/21

Wetland Decision

Exemption	\$100.00
No Loss	\$100.00

Wetland Delineation Review

> 1 Acre	\$100.00
1 > 5 Acres	\$200.00
5 > 10 Acres	\$300.00
< 10 Acres	\$400.00

Wetland Replacement Plan Review

> 1 Acre	\$200.00
1 > 5 Acres	\$300.00
5 > 10 Acres	\$500.00
< 10 Acres	\$700.00

Wetland Banking Plan Review

> 1 Acre	\$200.00
1 > 5 Acres	\$400.00
5 > 10 Acres	\$800.00
< 10 Acres	\$1,000.00
Annual Monitoring Report Review	\$50.00/year

Wetland Certificate of Completion

> 1 Acre	\$50.00
1 > 5 Acres	\$100.00
5 > 10 Acres	\$200.00
< 10 Acres	\$300.00

After The Fact Wetland Review Double the Fee

Appeal \$200.00

Wetland Delineation \$100.00 + billable/hr