



## MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 17, 2021 BOARD MEETING

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Pursuant to MN Statutes 13D.021 the regular monthly board meeting of the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom or Teleconference due to the Public Health Pandemic Emergency declared under Chapter 12 by the Governor. A notice of the meeting was posted on the door of the SWCD Office Location (801 Jenny Ave SW, #2) explaining how the public was able to participate in the meeting. The meeting followed all the requirements for an electronic meeting as spelled out in MN Statutes 13D.021 Subdivision 1, 1-4.

*The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lyle Dittmann at 7:36 a.m.  
Reviewed the Public Health Emergency Remote Public Meeting Guidance.*

**Members Present:**

Chairperson: Lyle Dittmann  
Vice Chairperson: Steve Inwards  
Secretary: Terry Greenwaldt (Zoom)  
Treasurer: Dennis Reynolds  
Public Relations: Wayne Enger

**Others Present:**

Rep. Jordan Rasmusson (Zoom)  
County Commissioner: Dan Bucholz  
Land & Resource: Chris LeClair (Zoom)  
NRCS Conservationist: Mitch Neitge  
District Manager: Darren Newville  
Asst Mgr: Anne Oldakowski (Zoom)  
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas

**Agenda:** Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Steve Inwards to adopt the Agenda with two additions. Audit quote and Esser quote. Opposed: None, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

**Approve Board Meeting Minutes:** Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the previous month Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Opposed: None, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Wayne Enger to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, subject to audit. Opposed: None, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.



**Bills Paid & Bills Payable:** Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented. Opposed: None, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

**Cost Share:**

**2020-20;** Christine Olson; Parkers Prairie, Section 14, is requesting an amendment to her original contract of \$3,930.99 to a contract of \$6,220.37 due to an increase in the estimated costs involved. Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Steve Inwards to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

**District Manager's Report:** Report written and read by Darren Newville

**District Conservationist's Report:** Report written and read by Mitch Neitge.

**County Commissioner Report:** Two main items of discussion

- Covid
- New Shoreline Ordinance

**Land & Resource:**

- Shoreland Management Ordinance – there will be a public hearing once the ordinance is ready, possibly sometime Mid-April.
- Tyler Marthaler has left his position with Land & Resource and will be joining NRCS.
- Solar Farm Ordinance has been added to Wind Energy Ordinance. There is a public meeting tonight in Fergus Falls.
- Received grant funding for low income home to replace systems.

**Rep. Rasmusson:**

- Working on Covid
- Working to pass a 2-year budget
- MASWCD expressed concern for SWCD's to stay funded
- Committees: Commerce, Human Services, Finance, Pension Commission & Capital Investment
- Very optimistic about life in Otter Tail County

## Old Business

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**Water Planning:** Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Wayne Enger to approve the bylaws for the Red Eye Watershed Implementation Team. Opposed: none, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion. Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Wayne Enger to approve



the draft workplan and draft budget for the Red Eye Watershed Implementation. Opposed: none, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Steve Inwards to approach BWSR with permission to move forward on the Otter Tail Watershed without Becker County with the ability for them to join at a later date. Opposed: none, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

RIM: New program developed to focus on Grazing and Hay & Solar lands in Pine, Crow Wing, and Red Eye Watersheds.

Nitrogen Infiltration Risk Map: Contract with Houston Engineering to run model and create map and data for the Crow Wing Watershed, this will be funded by our CWF grant. Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve contract. Opposed: none, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

**Department of Ag Update:** Nathan is working with Ryan Perish to create a new agreement since Luke has left.

**TSA Update:** The managers will be meeting the first part of March to discuss options for engineering assistance services and come to a consensus. Managers will bring recommendation from the group to the TSA board in at their next board meeting which will be held in late March or early April.

## New Business

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**Meetings:** Legislative Days is March 18, 2021 and will be virtual.

**Administrative/Education and Outreach Assistant Position:** Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Steve Inwards to approve posting a part time administrative position as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

**Cleaning Quotes:** Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to accept the bid and contract from TLC Cleaning Services, LLC for office cleaning services. Opposed: none, motion carried. A roll call vote was held, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

**Public Comments:** None

**Adjourn:** 9:19 a.m.

\* Acronyms

- ◆ MAWQCP – Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program
- ◆ EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- ◆ CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program
- ◆ CRP – Conservation Reserve Program
- ◆ RCPP – Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- ◆ NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service