



MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 21, 2021 BOARD MEETING

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, April 21, 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 Vice Chairperson Steve Inwards at 7:30 a.m.
Reviewed the Public Health Emergency Remote Public Meeting Guidance.*

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

County Commissioner: Dan Bucholz
Land & Resource: Chris Le Clair
DNR Fisheries: Howard Fullhart
Soil Conservationist: Bob Guetter
District Manager: Darren Newville
Asst Mgr: Anne Oldakowski
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas

Agenda: Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Steve Inwards to adopt the Agenda with one addition. The Department of Health Grant. Opposed: None, motion carried.

Approve Board Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Steve Inwards to approve the previous month Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Opposed: None, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, subject to audit. Opposed: None, motion carried.

Bills Paid & Bills Payable: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Wayne Enger to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented. Opposed: None, motion carried.



7:44 a.m. Howard entered the meeting in person and Nick entered via Zoom

DNR Partnering: Discussion of upcoming projects was held with Howard weighing in on the conversation. Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Wayne Enger to enter in JPAs on the dam modification projects on West Leaf Lake, Big Pine Lake, Little Pine Lake, Rush Lake and Otter Tail Lake. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8:10 am Howard and Nick left the meeting.

COVER CROP DEMO PLOTS

CC18; Steve Inwards; Parkers Prairie, Section 13, is requesting a flat rate cost share contract for a Cover Crop Demo Plot. This is a one-year contract for a total flat rate in the amount of \$500.00. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Wayne Enger (note that Steve Inwards abstained from voting) to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

CC19; Huebsch Family Farm; Pine Lake, Section 30, is requesting a flat rate cost share contract for a Cover Crop Demo Plot. This is a one-year contract for a total flat rate in the amount of \$1,00.00. Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Wayne Enger to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

IRRIGATION TECH/NITRATES GRANT

C21-9235-01; Mike Dombeck; Perham, Section 8, is requesting cost share assistance for a Soil Moisture Sensor. The total estimated cost of the project is \$ 3,333.33, with the cost share amount of \$ 2,500.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

C21-9235-02; Huebsch Family Farm; Pine Lake, Section 30, is requesting cost share assistance for a Soil Moisture Sensor. The total estimated cost of the project is \$ 3,333.33, with the cost share amount of \$ 2,500.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Wayne Enger to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

C21-9235-03; Wehking Farm; Parkers Prairie, Section 13, is requesting cost share assistance for a Soil Moisture Sensor. The total estimated cost of the project is \$ 3,333.33, with the cost share amount of \$ 2,500.00 or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Wayne Enger to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

PRIORITY LAKES

PL5/LP; Dan Knight; Gorman, Section 25, is requesting cost share assistance for his shoreline restoration. The total estimated cost of the project is \$ 4,019.58 with Cost Sharing of \$ 3,014.69 or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Steve Inwards to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.



STATE COST SHARE

2021-01; Philip Glawe; Edna, Section 10, is requesting cost share assistance for his shoreline restoration. The total estimated cost of the project is \$ 6,321.90 with Cost Sharing of \$ 4,741.43 or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

2020-05; Rita Rueckert; Dora, Section 31, is requesting permission to terminate her contract for a shoreline restoration. The total estimated cost of the project was \$ 6,220.83 with Cost Sharing of \$ 4,665.62 or 75% whichever is less. This contract has expired. Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

8:15 a.m. Trisha and Nathan entered the meeting.

Cost Share Policy: Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve this policy. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Non-Structural Land Management Practice Implementation Plan: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Wayne Enger to approve this plan. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Cover Crop: Power Point presentation given by Trisha and Nathan. 22 of the 32 applications submitted have been funded.

8:40 Trisha and Nathan left the meeting.

8:45 am Ben entered the meeting via zoom.

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

District Conservationist's Report: Report written and read by Bob Guetter. Local Work Group to follow the next board meeting.

County Commissioner Report:

- A local producer called with concerns about CRP land. This person is looking for more land to rent for grazing and currently land for rent is too expensive for beef farmers.
- Public meetings are starting up again.
- Ditch reviews are ongoing.
- Public hearing on May 10, 2021 in Fergus Falls to review the Shoreline Ordinance.

Land & Resource:

- Public hearing at 7 p.m. on May 10, 2021 at the Big Woods Events Center in Fergus Falls.
- 7 Short videos will be posted on Facebook discussing the major changes in the ordinance. Here is the link to those videos: <https://bit.ly/3av0Vnm>



- A goal has been set for OTC to build 5000 more homes by 2025. By lifting/changing some variances they are hoping it encourages more buildings.
- OTC has made it easier for homeowners to what they may or may not need a permit for.

Old Business

Water Planning:

Motion made by Wayne Enger, seconded by Steve Inwards to approve the Ottertail River Watershed Planning MOA (Memorandum of Agreement). Opposed: none, motion carried.

Ottertail River 1W1P: A meeting was held last week. There was quite a bit of confusion as to what it is, where the money goes, etc. There is a lot of misinformation out there, however, by the end of the meeting the confusion was cleared up and everyone is on board. Becker County voted to not participate with the option to join later.

Ben gave a short presentation on the Ottertail River Watershed.
10:00 a.m. Ben has left the meeting.

Department of Ag Update: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Wayne Enger to approve Darren to sign the JPA Agreement with MDA. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the Department of Health Grant that would include Becker, Hubbard, and Todd.

TSA Update: Meeting held on May 27, 2021 had a quorum. TSA is discussing options for staffing. The recommendation from the managers is to divide funding between the districts and they will be responsible for their own engineering services through partnering or hiring consultants. Lyle is the Chairperson again.

10:07 a.m. Chris left the meeting.

Staffing: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Wayne Enger to approve moving the Administrative Position to a Full-Time position. Opposed: none, motion carried.

New Business

Meetings: Discussion for possible dates for a joint strategic planning session. Looking at August 12, 2021.

Forest Landscape Stewardship Plan – For OT River Watershed – SWCD as Fiscal Agent. Informational only.

BWSR/DNR/LCCMR Forestry Proposal: Goal is 1 million acres back into Forestry. Phase I of 5 phases. \$1.1 million slotted for SWCD's helping with upgrades. DNR to provide more seedlings, also hoping to get Anne to write more plans.



2021 Breakfast on the Farm Sponsorship Request: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Wayne Enger to approve \$600 donation. Opposed: none, motion carried.

EOT County Fair Sponsorship Request: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve \$400 donation to the Fair. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Seal Coating Bids: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Wayne Enger to approve S@N Sealcoating to re-seal our parking lot. Opposed: none, motion carried.

MASWCD Call for Resolution: Please be thinking about.

Public Comments: None

Adjourn: 10:30 a.m.