

# TRAVERSE SWCD OCTOBER 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 10, 2024 by Chairperson Doug Frisch.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **Roll Call**

Supervisors present: Dennis Zimbrick, Greg Hoppe, and Doug Frisch. Absent: Chester Raguse, Jeff Peterson.  
Staff and others present: Bruce Johnson, Sara Gronfeld, Jerod Lennox, Tate Serocki, and Devon Thompson.

## **Approve Agenda**

A motion was made by Hoppe, second by Zimbrick to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Minutes of the September Meeting**

A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Zimbrick, second by Hoppe. Motion carried unanimously.

## **September Treasurer's Reports**

A motion to approve the September treasurer's report was made by Hoppe, second by Zimbrick. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Quarterly Report**

Determan prepared the report and it was distributed for review. Supervisors asked questions about the report and discussion ensued.

## **Correspondence**

Gronfeld circulated the correspondence folder and mentioned information forwarded from MASWCD.

## **District Technical Manager's Report**

Johnson has been working on soil health/nonstructural practice contract planning and technical assistance for the RCPP partnership. He and Brent Gulbrandson are reviewing plans for the partnership as they have the Job Approval Authority for applicable practices. He mentioned CRP enrollment is currently closed due to the expiration of the Farmbill and the lack of an extension. Last time CRP enrollment opened in February. The parking lot chip sealing project was completed, and striping was done by Highway Dept. staff. Supervisors agreed the lot looks great. There are two soil health events upcoming: the Soil Health Summit December 3-4 and the Soil Management Summit January 29-30, 2025. Both events are held in Mankato and scholarships are available. Many lined waterway outlets were installed in September and October. Johnson attended soil health assessment training in Starbuck last week. Individual Development Plans were completed and submitted by staff.

A motion for approval of a flat rate CRP incentive contract was made by Hoppe, second by Zimbrick. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Fridgen CRPI-25-01 \$2,206

A motion for approval of a flat rate CRP incentive contract was made by Zimbrick, second by Hoppe. Motion carried unanimously.

David Rinke CRPI-25-02 \$2,552

Motion for approval of a contract for well sealing was made by Zimbrick, second by Hoppe and approved unanimously.

Steven Deal CLWP-24-03 \$500

Motion for approval of a contract for well sealing was made by Zimbrick, second by Hoppe and approved unanimously.

Steven Deal CLWP-24-04 \$500

Motion for approval of a contract for well sealing was made by Hoppe, second by Zimbrick and approved unanimously.

Kevin Deal CLWP-24-05 \$500

A motion for approval of a shoreline protection contract was made by Hoppe, second by Zimbrick. Motion carried unanimously.

Traverse County CLWP-24-06 \$8,000

A motion for approval of a flat rate soil health nonstructural practice contract was made by Hoppe, second by Zimbrick. Motion carried unanimously.

Gregg Muehler WBIF-23-02 \$6,300

A motion for approval of a flat rate soil health nonstructural practice contract was made by Hoppe, second by Zimbrick. Motion carried unanimously.

Gregg Muehler WBIF-23-03 \$9,636

A motion for approval of a flat rate soil health nonstructural practice contract was made by Zimbrick, second by Hoppe. Motion carried unanimously.

Travis Rogahn WBIF-23-04 \$5,040

A motion for approval of an amendment to a Lined Waterway Outlet practice contract was made by Zimbrick, second by Hoppe. The amendment is to increase the cost estimate and amount of cost share due to more extensive work needed to repair erosion and stabilize the field edge. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Weber LWO 24-11 \$2,400

### **District Conservation Technician**

Lennox provided an update on his activities. He has been assisting with installation of lined waterway outlets, tree shearing, and mowing along with organizing and planning for grass seeding in 2025 and preparation for dormant seeding after November 1. He also completed numerous RIM easement inspections.

### **District Engineering Technician**

Serocki delivered an update on his activities. He has been working on construction of Lined Waterway Outlets, mowing, delivered cover crop seed to the airport for application, marked the parking lot for striping, as-builds for lined waterway outlets, and installation of straw matting for projects. 23 outlets were installed. There was further discussion about the purpose and function of lined outlets.

### **District Conservation Technician**

Thompson reported his activities. He has been assisting staff with all projects described above along with mowing for fire breaks, tilling, equipment maintenance and preparation for field work.

### **NRCS Field Office Report**

Blake Bartz provided a summary of activities at the field office, Gronfeld delivered the report on behalf of Bartz. The report included updates on CSP and EQIP deadlines and mentioned CRP enrollment is on hold due to the end of the current Farmbill.

### **Office Report**

Gronfeld provided an update about recent activity. She presented the report that was delivered to the County Board on October 1. She has been working on processing RIM easements and funding is now available through the Agricultural Best Management Loan program. She has heard interest in funding for precision manure application equipment. She assisted with soil health program contract management. A RIM easement for Barbara Gauger has been completed. An application submitted by Brian Weber has been cancelled. Reimbursement for a portion of the easement processing will be issued by the BWSR.

### **Catalis Website Design Platform Contract**

A motion was made to approve grant contract for website design program by Zimbrick, second by Hoppe. Motion carried unanimously. Gronfeld expects an update will be needed in the next two years for ADA compliance with web design.

### **Upper MN River Watershed Plan Contract for Services**

A motion was made by Zimbrick to approve Contract for Services and a Plan Administration/Fiscal Agent Agreement with the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District, second by Hoppe. Motion carried unanimously. The contract is for the implementation of the new Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant.

### **2025 BWSR Buffer Implementation Grant Agreement**

A motion was made by Hoppe to approve the grant agreement in the amount of \$25,000, second by Zimbrick. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Medical Insurance Renewal**

Notice was received of a 5% decrease in the cost of medical insurance renewed for 2025. A motion was made by Hoppe to approve renewal of enrollment with the same medical insurance plan options for employees, second by Zimbrick. Motion carried unanimously.

### **MASWCD Convention and Resolutions**

Registration for the convention is due November 18. Information about registration was provided. The resolution packets were distributed with the agenda. Ballots are due to be returned by November 1. Supervisors discussed each resolution. Staff are happy to submit ballots on behalf of supervisors or they are welcome to submit them individually online.

### **BWSR Academy Training**

Gronfeld mentioned registration for the statewide training. Four staff plan to attend the training that runs October 29-31.

### **Area I Meeting**

The meeting will be held in Mahnomen on November 19. Traverse SWCD is scheduled to host this meeting and staff will develop a presentation about local project and practice highlights.

### **November Meeting Date**

The October meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14, at 7:30 a.m.

**Other Business**

None.

**Adjourn**

A motion was made by Hoppe second by Zimbrick to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 a.m. Motion carried.

---

**DISTRICT SECRETARY**

**DATE**