

**Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting
November 15, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District was held November 15, 2023, beginning at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Rick Nelsen. Present were Lynn Darling, Nathan Their, Rick Nelson, Jess Dekam and Paul Langseth. Also, present were Tiffini Etsinger, Administrative Coordinator; Scott Runck, District Manager; Nathan Schuck, Resource Specialist; Cole Neibauer, PF Farm Bill Biologist; and Aaron Crowley, NRCS; Andy Weiss, Landowner.

AGENDA: The Agenda for the November 15, 2023, meeting was reviewed. Langseth moved to approve the agenda as presented. Their seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Their, Dekam and Nelson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

MINUTES: The minutes for the October 18, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Darling moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dekam seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Their, Dekam and Nelson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s Report and Bills Payable was presented and reviewed for October 2023. Langseth moved to approve the reports, subject to audit, in the amount of \$109,256.63 respectively. Dekam seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Their, Dekam and Nelson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

COST-SHARE CONTRACTS AND PAYMENTS:

MRWP FY22 Payments:

FY22-MRWP-38-Baker	Alan Baker	Cover Crop	Rock	\$10,000.00
FY22-MRWP-39 Sanbulte	Aaron Sandbulte	Cover Crop	Rock	\$6,016.47
FY22-MRWP-47-Borman	Chad Borman	Cover Crop	Pipestone	\$5,760.45
FY22-MRWP-78-Steck	Craig Steck	Cover Crop	Pipestone	\$5,883.31
FY22-MRWP-19-VerSteeg	Chad VerSteeg	Cover Crop	Rock	\$2,560.20
FY22-MRWP-8-Oosteink	Oosteink Farms	Cover Crop	Rock	\$10,000.00

Darling moved to approve the above payments. Nelsen seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Their, Dekam and Nelson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

FY22-MRWP-36 Brouwer	Cal Brower	WSCB	Pipestone	\$19,489.63
FY22-MRWP-33-Griebel	Tom Griebel	WWY	Pipestone	\$11,697.69

Langseth moved to approve the above payments. Their seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Their, Dekam, and Nelson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

MRWP FY22 Contracts:

FY22-MRWP-79	Jeff Boomgaarden	Rock	WWY	\$22,987.80
FY22-MRWP-80	Gene Halbur	Pipestone	WWY	\$9,446.58

Their moved to approve the above contracts. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Their, Dekam and Nelson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

FY22-MRWP Amendment – Slater

Amend the contract due to land purchase. The new landowner will continue on with the contract. Change MRWP-27-Slater to Landowner Andy Weiss.

Langseth moved to approve the above amendment due to landowner change. Their seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Their, Dekam and Nelson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

2022 Local Capacity Payment

LC22-01 Dennis Jacobs WWY \$40,305.91

Darling moved to approve the above payments. Nelsen seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Their, Dekam, and Nelson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

2023 Soil Health Contract:

SH-02 Nathan Their CC \$2,094.00

Langseth moved to approve the above contract. Dekam seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Their, Dekam and Nelson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

SWCD Local:

SWCD-64 Dennis Jacobs Conservation Use \$1500

Dekam moved to approve the above contract. Darling seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Their, Dekam and Nelson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

SWCD-64 Dennis Jacobs Conservation Use \$1500

Their moved to approve the above payment. Langseth seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Their, Dekam and Nelson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

District Manager Report – Runck reported on the MRWP JPB meeting. Went over the new rates and stacking style options for non-structural practices. Reviewed upcoming RCPP possible funds for Soil Health. Discussed KLR New Contract for 2024 and keeping the rates the same, the board agreed. Would also like to discuss with KLR increasing the French Drain cost from \$300 to \$500. Runck also asked if the SWCD could purchase a ScanSnap scanner for the admin to use, as it is much faster and efficient due to the amount of imaging needed for MRWP.

Langseth moved to approve the purchase of ScanSnap. Dekam seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Their, Dekam and Nelson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

District Technician Report: Schuck reviewed that he has been doing Tree visits, plans, and orders. Going over Buffer Violations. Helped put on an Agroforestry Institute October 3, 4, 5 in Luverne with the U of M. Passed the “Professional in Training” Exam for Wetland Delineation. Tree prices have increased a little bit. Looking to possibly increase the price of our trees, planting, and matting, to stay competitive and not lose money.

District Conservationist Report – Aaron reported they had an EQIP meeting that introduced new practices and updates for engineering, grazing, and wildlife practices.

- Engineering – Electric Tractor, 675Bu Grain dryer, Livestock Shade, Wetland construction, animal incinerator.
- Grazing – Can use woven wire, Grazing for Wildlife, Graze annual forages
- Wildlife – Hedgerow planting for pollinators,

Currently have 33 EQIP applications that are in the planning stages, and working on 1026’s.

Also, the Soil Conservationist position is open for applications.

Farm Bill Biologist: Cole reported that he completed CD/Cart training to be able to help with CRP enrollments. He also submitted 1 RIM easement for Lismore 6. LeRoy Tweet. He also attended BWSR Academy. Contacted 4 landowners to see if they had any interest in enhancing their easements through the PF grant. 1 No, 1 Maybe. There is 1 RIM easement due in December, and 3 CREP estimates. Upcoming projects include:

- Installing Duck boxes at the summit lake property
- Working with a landowner in Seward 11 to complete a fall burn on a RIM easement.
- Working on a burn plan for the summit lake property
- Helping a landowner with seeding on an easement that may just need more time.

Cole also discussed burning in the area, so the board asked him to draft a policy.

Watershed Districts and Other Reports –

Des Moines: Nelson reported business as usual, they approved some contracts for the month.

OnO: Langseth reported the advisory committee surveyed people what the priority should be. The Ocheda drawn down is 1st priority. Also getting boat signage for Blue/Green Alge for the lakes.

PUBLIC: Andy Weiss asked why projects are not tied into drains, ditches, or tiled to a stream. Runck and the Board discussed how projects are designed to follow NRCS standards to slow the water down.

Old Business:

- A. Truck:** Etsinger reported the purchased the new truck and had it added to the insurance policy.

New Business:

- A. Area 5 Meeting:** Etsinger reported there was an area 5 meeting tomorrow, 3 staff would be attending.
- B. Budget 2024:** Runck let the board know Etsinger is working on the budget, a date is needed to review with the budget committee. Also, a personal committee meeting was needed to discuss evaluations and pay shifts.
- C. Tree Policy:** Schuck reviewed the updated Tree Policy the staff worked on. The board reviewed the policy and discussed it.

Langseth moved to approve the Tree Policy. Dekam seconded the motion. Affirmative: Darling, Langseth, Their, Dekam and Nelson. Opposed: None. Motion Carried.

Calendar of Events:

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, at 7:30am

ADJOURN: October 18, 2023, at 9:58 a.m.

Secretary