



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
Le Center, MN 56057

Tel. (507) 419-0365
Website: www.lesueurswcd.org

Minutes from January 9, 2024 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur County SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Struck at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Jim Struck
Secretary, Earle Traxler
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Pete Thelemann

Members absent: Vice-Chairman, Greg Entinger

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
Soil Con. Tech, Kim Scheffler
NRCS Team Lead, Chris Schmidt
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Steve Rohlfing
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Dave Preisler
Clean River Partners, Alan Kraus & Maggie Stahley

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report from December 14, 2023 was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for December 31, 2023 was read. Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

The election of officers took place.

Motion by Struck, second by Traxler to nominate Greg Entinger as Chairman for the 2024 Le Sueur Co. SWCD Board.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to cease nominations and the Board elected Entinger as Chairman.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to nominate Earle Traxler as Vice-Chairman for the 2024 Le Sueur Co. SWCD Board.

Motion by Gregor, second by Struck to cease nominations and the Board elected Traxler as Vice-Chairman.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Struck to nominate Pete Thelemann as Secretary for the 2024 Le Sueur Co. SWCD Board.

Motion by Struck, second by Gregor to cease nominations and the Board elected Thelemann as Secretary.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to have Cletus Gregor continue as the Le Sueur Co. SWCD Board Treasurer.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to nominate Jim Struck as PR&I for the 2024 Le Sueur Co. SWCD Board.

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to cease nominations and the Board elected Jim Struck as PR&I.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to designate First National Bank of Le Center as the official bank of Le Sueur Co. SWCD bank for 2024.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to designate Le Sueur County News as the official paper of Le Sueur Co. SWCD for 2024.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Kraus and Stahley introduced themselves and discussed the work they do, particularly in the Cannon River watershed. Working with farmers promoting conservation tillage and cover crops, cleaning up parks and rivers to improve water quality and networking with agencies to promote soil health and environmental benefits.

Commissioner Rohlfing updated the board on remodeling at the courthouse and staffing. Building and septic permits submitted in 2023, well testing clinic, truth in taxation and the 2024 levy.

Commissioner Preisler thanked the SWCD for their work with the Waterville Flood Study. He discussed policies being updated to better operate and manage the County.

Steve Breaker gave the NRCS update. He discussed CRP, ranking 2024 EQIP applications, finalizing construction last month and Colin & Kim working with producers on projects for this year.

Chris Schmidt updated the board on NRCS personnel, Rice County NRCS/FSA office space ending and attending the MASWCD convention.

The mileage rate increased to \$.67/mi January 1, 2024.

Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to adopt the Professional Ditch Service contract with Le Sueur County.

Affirmative: Struck, Thelemann, Traxler

Opposed: Gregor

Motion carried

Motion by Gregor, second by Struck to request Peterson Company complete the 2023 audit for the SWCD at \$5,000.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Mike Schultz updated the board on Jerry Beckel/Terry Guentzel pilot storage project. Easements were signed and recorded, the first half payments have been sent out and ISG will be handling the formal bidding process.

The Soil Health Staff Grant application is completed and submitted.

1W1P Updates:

Cannon – Meeting February 7 to update work plan
2021 grant extended for 1 year

MN River East - Policy meeting January 18

Middle MN - Memo of Agreement with Partners

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.

2-13, 2024
Date


District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
Le Center, MN 56057

Tel. (507) 419-0365
Website: www.lesueurswcd.org

Minutes from February 13, 2024 regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur County SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Entinger at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Greg Entinger
Secretary, Pete Thelemann
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Jim Struck

Members absent: Vice-Chairman, Earle Traxler

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Soil Con Tech, Kim Scheffler
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Dave Preisler
Ditch Inspector, Nik Kadel
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report from January 9, 2024 was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for January 31, 2024 was read. Motion by Thelemann, second by Struck to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Commissioner Preisler updated the board on the courthouse remodel, west parking lot and retaining wall revamp, 4 new Midco towers in the County and county lobby days at the state capitol.

Steve gave an NRCS update. They are working on funded EQIP applications, designing projects and expiring CRP contracts.

SWCD Legislative Days at the Capitol will be March 12 & 13, 2024, SWCD aide is the platform this year.

There will be a Soil Health workshop March 26, 2024. The workshop will be focusing on reducing carbon intensity.

Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to accept the bid from Ground Works Backhoe Services in the amount of \$191,389.26 for the Patterson Water Storage project.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

1W1P

Cannon – annual report handed out and cost-share percentage discussed.

MN River East – comment period ends March 22, 2024

Middle MN – Motion by Struck, second by Gregor to accept and sign the MOA between Nicollet, Le Sueur and Blue Earth Counties and SWCD's, and the cities of Lake Crystal, Mankato, North Mankato and St. Peter.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

JD5 ditch mowing bill was discussed.

Gregor left meeting at 11:00 am.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Struck to accept South Central Service Cooperatives contribution for hiring an intern. SCSC will pay the intern position \$12/hour with a maximum of 400 hours. The SWCD will add \$4.00 per hour to the position.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

There will be a ditch specialist work session, with the county commissioners, on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 to discuss the positions budget.

There being no further business, this meeting will adjourn to meet Karl Heldberg's family to present them with their Outstanding Conservationist award.

3-12, 24
Date


District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
Le Center, MN 56057

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Minutes from March 12, 2024, regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur County SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Entinger at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Greg Entinger
Vice-Chairman, Earle Traxler
Secretary, Pete Thelemann
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Jim Struck

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
Le Sueur County Commissioner, Dave Preisler
Le Sueur County Commissioner, Steve Rohlfing
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report for February 13, 2024, was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for February 2024 was read. Motion by Struck, second by Traxler to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Preisler and Rohlfing updated the board on a work session with county highway engineer. The work session discussed the top intersections in the county that have had the most accidents and ideas were discussed on how to decrease these. They discussed lobbying Congress regarding forfeited property, where the county will display the new MN flag, road upgrades, future roundabouts, and road construction.

The board received the 2023 Le Sueur Co. SWCD annual report. Schultz went through the report and discussed some of the highlights. The report will be handed out to legislators during SWCD Day at the Capitol on March 12 & 13. Schultz and Jirik will be attending.

The SWCD and County Commissioners had a work session for the Ditch Specialist budget. The budget will now get 65% of its dollars from riparian aid and 35% from the county ditches.

The board received an update on the Patterson water storage project. The winning bid was lower than the estimate which frees up funds to do some additional work on the project. Construction can begin at any time.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor pay the Upper Cannon River Flood Study match of \$5000.00 to Le Sueur County Environmental Services.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Struck to sign Robert Goettl MAWQCP application.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

1W1P:

Cannon – Cost-share at 75% now for tier 3, shoreland seeding.

MN River East – Comments due 3/22 on draft plan, public kick off meeting.

Middle MN – Updated MOA due to added comments re: accountability.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to encumber \$3990.00 for cover crop cost-share contract #24-LS-001. 38 acres @ \$35/acre *Dave Hering*

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

4-9-24
Date

[Signature]
District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
Le Center, MN 56057

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Website: www.lesueurswcd.org

Minutes from April 9, 2024, regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur County SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Entinger at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Greg Entinger
Vice-Chairman, Earle Traxler
Secretary, Pete Thelemann
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Jim Struck

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
Soil Con Tech, Kim Scheffler
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
NRCS Team Lead, Chris Schmidt
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Steve Rohlffing
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Dave Preisler
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report from March 12, 2024, was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for March 31, 2024, was read. Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Commissioners Rohlffing and Preisler informed the board of a new land use project, volunteer feedlot program checking for nitrates, remodeling of the courthouse, broadband, restriping the yellow lines on the county roads and tax forfeited property.

Steve and Kim gave the board an update on the multiple trainings they have been attending, completing onsite CRP reviews, EQIP and current heavy CRP workload due to enrollments and designs.

Chris discussed personnel updates, deadlines, training, and the new office space that Rice County will be moving into.

Mike and Joe attended Legislative Days, met with legislators, and discussed SWCD aid.

The SWCD received a Soil Health Education and Outreach Staff Grant. The policy committee met prior to this board meeting to discuss publishing a job notice for an Outreach/Soil Health Specialist position. Motion by Thelemann, second by Struck to approve the job position with a salary range of \$25.57-\$28.31 per hour plus benefits and post the notice.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

There will be an Area 6 Chairman's meeting on April 26, 2024.

1W1P –

Cannon – Mike requested permission to approve and sign off on cost-share contracts for the shoreline program. \$500 cost-share dollars per contract. Motion by Traxler, second by Struck to give Mike Schultz permission to sign the contracts.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

CRP incentive payments of \$250.00 for reenrollment and \$500.00 for new contracts are available and Mike would like permission to sign off on these contracts. Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to give Mike Schultz permission to sign the contracts.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

MN River East – higher than expected comments came in during the comment period.

Middle MN – policy meeting update.

A Data Practice Request from the Fair Contracting Foundation of Minnesota was received regarding the Patterson Water Storage project. Names of contractors and prevailing wage records for work performed or scheduled to be performed were requested. Mike responded with the information requested.

Mowing of county ditches was discussed. Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to purchase a rotary cutter from MN Ag Group for \$16,100.00 and rent a Case Farmall tractor for a minimum of \$2000.00.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

The SWCD was awarded a CD23 MDM grant for \$111,000 for 47 side inlets.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to approve Steve Stangler cost-share payment of \$5911.25 contract #23-LS-004 (Cannon River 1W1P funds).

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Struck to approve Steve Stangler cost-share payment of \$2955.63 contract #3-22 (State cost-share funds).

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Joe updated the board on the carbon intensity meeting he attended.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

5.14.24
Date


District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
Le Center, MN 56057

Tel. (507) 419-0365
Website: www.lesueurswcd.org

Minutes from May 14, 2024, regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors.
Le Sueur County SWCD building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Traxler at 9:00 am.

Members present: Vice-Chairman, Earle Traxler
Secretary, Pete Thelemann
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Jim Struck

Members absent: Chairman, Greg Entinger

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
SWCD Intern, Tim Tutlam
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
Soil Con Tech, Kim Scheffler
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Steve Rohlfing
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Dave Preisler

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for April 30, 2024, was read. Motion by Thelemann, second by Struck to approve and pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Schultz introduced Tim Tutlam to the board and guests. Tim will be with the SWCD for the summer.

Commissioners Rohlfing and Preisler discussed workshops with the Highway Department concerning CR#15 construction and placement of electric poles along the road. The closing of Sharon street for rebuilding the retaining wall, receiving a federal grant for purchasing an electric vehicle, upcoming road work, round about planned for the intersection of Hwy 99 & Hwy 13, upcoming ditch hearings and the decision to hire county ditch mowing, spraying and tree removal.

Steve and Kim gave an NRCS update. They are currently working with landowners on erosion projects, EQIP, and CRP. Kim has training that she will be attending.

Schultz and Traxler attended the Area 6 Chairman's meeting. Le Sueur Co. SWCD will be hosting the November area meeting. The plan is to host at the South Central Service Cooperative building in Mankato.

Schultz and Prchal will be attending administrative training June 25-26, 2024.

SWCD Governance 101 training is going to be held July 16-17, 2024, if any supervisor would like to attend with Schultz.

MASWCD Leadership Institute training will begin in August if anyone is interested in attending.

Schultz discussed the Outreach Specialist/Soil Health position. The SWCD received 7 applicants, 4 were offered an interview. The interview panel will be Mike Schultz, Joe Jirik, Earle Traxler and Holly Bushman.

Motion by Struck, second by Gregor to authorize the interview board to hire the best candidate.
Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

The SWCD needs a new copier. The Justice Center has a copier with an expiring lease which the District can buy for \$2426.50. Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to purchase the Cannon C55401111 copier.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

There will be an Area 6 meeting June 27, 2024, in Hutchinson.

1W1P Updates:

Cannon: Schultz discussed the sub agreement between the Le Sueur SWCD and the Cannon JPB. Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to sign the agreement.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Lower MN East: May 30 will be a public hearing.

Middle MN: Houston Engineering was hired as the consultant, kick off meetings in July.

Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to rescind motion from April 2024 board minutes regarding the purchase of a rotary cutter and renting a tractor for county ditches.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.

6.11.24
Date


District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
Le Center, MN 56057

Tel. (507) 419-0365
Website: www.lesueurswcd.org

Minutes from June 11, 2024, regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors.
Le Sueur Co. SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Entinger at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Greg Entinger
Vice-Chairman, Earle Traxler
Secretary, Pete Thelemann
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Jim Struck

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Dave Preisler
SWCD Summer Intern, Tim Tutlam
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report for May 14, 2024, was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for May 31, 2024, was read. Motion by Struck, second by Traxler to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Commissioner Preisler discussed that the commissioners will begin working on the 2025 budget and made note that the new labor law begins January 1, 2025. Le Sueur County employee salaries are comparable to other government agencies when surveyed. He gave updates on remodeling timelines and legislative efforts. High water levels in Waterville and county ditches due to the continuous rainfalls we have been having. He encouraged SWCD staff to continue erosion control efforts with local landowners.

Steve gave an NRCS report discussing program obligations, certifying practice payments, CRP, checking out completed structures and training staff has been attending.

Schultz discussed the update to the Le Sueur County Well Sealing Grant Policy. Le Sueur County has funds available to cost-share 100% of well sealing projects. The SWCD can partner with the county so landowners can receive 100% cost-share rather than 50% which is the current SWCD policy.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to update the Le Sueur County Well Sealing Grant Policy and partner with Le Sueur County for 100% cost-share until funds run out.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Schultz updated the board on the Soil Health Grant. Interviews were held for Outreach/Soil Health position.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Struck to accept and continue with the Upper Cannon Water Storage Project with Jeff Gibbs. The project is a 25 year agreement in the amount of \$424,499 and will cover 16.3 acres. Le Sueur Co. SWCD will be matching \$42,000 with staff time.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to send Joe Jirik to leadership training. Training costs \$5950 and there is aid available to help with the cost.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

SWCD Governance 101 training will be held July 16 & 17, 2024, in Alexandria.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to approve and make payments to contractors for the 2021 Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Murphy restoration project in the amount \$16747.50.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

1W1P Updates –

Cannon – there will be a tour August 7, 2024.

Lower MN East – comment period complete, ready to submit to BWSR, work plan discussions are beginning.

Middle MN – kick off meeting.

The Outstanding Conservationists tour will take place after next month's board meeting.

A local work group meeting will take place at 11:00 am today to discuss Le Sueur County's conservation needs.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

7-9, 24
Date


District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
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Le Center, MN 56057

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Minutes from July 9, 2024, regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur County SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Entinger at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Greg Entinger
Vice-Chairman, Earle Traxler
Secretary, Pete Thelemann
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Jim Struck

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
Soil Con Tech, Kim Scheffler
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
SWCD Summer Intern, Tim Tutlam
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Steve Rohlfig
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Dave Preisler
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The treasurer's report was read. Motion by Struck, second by Traxler to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Guest Reports

Le Sueur County - Commissioners Rohlfig and Preisler discussed special meetings held for the flooding in the county. Adopting a FEMA flood map to receive FEMA funding was completed. The courthouse remodeling is about 3 weeks behind schedule due to rainfall and internet line issues. Road construction and seal coating were also discussed.

NRCS – Steve Breaker and Kim Scheffler are completing site inspections, attending training and working on CRP plans.

FSA – Taylor Carlson informed the board that County Committee elections are coming up if they know of a qualified candidate to file.

SWCD Business

Earle Traxler attended the Area 6 meeting in Hutchinson. South Central Service Coop partnering with SWCD's for HR services was discussed. Le Sueur SWCD will be hosting the fall Area 6 meeting.

Mike and Sue attended administrative training in Baxter, MN. Training included tree sales, quickbooks, retirement investing options and round table discussions.

The SWCD lease with the USDA ends July 31, 2024. Mike and Sue are working on renewing the lease. The USDA is offering a 5-year renewal at \$16.50/sq ft which has been the same amount for the past 13 years. Mike would like to rearrange some space within the building before signing a new lease. Other upgrades were discussed such as a new roof, painting the walls and putting in new flooring. USDA will be contacted again to see if any solutions are reachable, and information will be brought to the board at the August meeting.

Letters addressed to Marty Shambour and the Pikal Family LLC will be sent out explaining the future handling of their drainage issues. The SWCD has worked to provide solutions to them and with none being reached, the matter will need to be dealt with privately from now on.

Joe explained an opportunity through a TSA Soil Health Grant that would allow for peer to peer mentoring of landowners wishing to receive more experience in soil health. Mentors could receive payments up to \$3000.00.

Mike went through drone footage of the flooding in the county.

Joe discussed a soil health grant for equipment that would fund 50% up to \$45,000 and borrower needs to be in the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program.

1W1P

Cannon – policy meeting and tour August 7, 2024, the work plan is now being worked on.

Lower MN River East – plan submitted, and approval process begins.

Middle MN – kick off meetings coming up.

Regular meeting closed at 10:45 am for 2025 budget meeting. Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to approve the 2025 budget as presented.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Following the budget meeting, the board, staff and guests toured possible outstanding conservationist sites. Motion by Struck, second by Traxler to choose Lake Washington Association as the 2024 Le Sueur County SWCD Outstanding Conservationists.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

8-13-24

Date



District Secretary



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Meeting was called to order by Chairman Entinger at 9:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Greg Entinger
Vice-Chairman, Earle Traxler
Secretary, Pete Thelemann
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Jim Struck

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
NRCS Team Lead, Chris Schmidt
Le Sueur County Commissioners, Steve Rohlfig and Dave Preisler

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer's report was read. Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Commissioner Rohlfig discussed the clean up in Waterville from the recent floods. FEMA was onsite for residents to begin the process of applying for disaster assistance.

Commissioner Preisler discussed the county budget. A preliminary levy will be established by September.

Entinger questioned water being held back on County Ditch #54. Staff relayed that landowners need to contact the DNR being the blockage is under DNR jurisdiction.

Chris Schmidt gave NRCS updates. He discussed staffing and offices moving into new buildings in the area.

Steve Breaker discussed conservation planning for 2025.

Mike discussed the 2024 SWCD Guidelines on use of SWCD Aid payments. Motion by Entinger, second by Traxler to approve the annual update.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to hire Kourtney Spitzack as the Soil Health/Outreach Specialist at \$28.31/hour beginning August 26, 2024, with a six month probation period, ending February 26, 2024.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

The lease with the USDA expired July 31, 2024. Schultz has been working with Chris Schmidt and State NRCS staff regarding the SWCD and NRCS office swapping office space. More information will be brought to the September board meeting.

Tim Tutlam completed his intern position on July 23, 2024. He worked 395 hours with the SWCD completing RIM inspections, RIM postings and attended meetings.

Nik talked about the completion of mowing and spraying county ditches. Spraying is seeing good results and mowing they were able to get larger brush. He also is working with FEMA on county ditch projects needing to be done due to the recent floods.

An updated draft personnel policy was handed out to the board. Schultz would like the board to review and discuss at the September meeting for adoption.

1W1P

Cannon – A tour was held in Goodhue County that Karl attended.

Motion by Traxler to encumber Cannon River Watershed cost-share contract #24-LS-003 for Andrea Berg in the amount of \$500 for native shoreland planting second by Thelemann.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler to encumber Cannon River Watershed cost-share contract #24-LS005 for Le Sueur County Highway Department for a structure and erosion control outlet in the amount of \$15,112.88, second by Struck.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Lower MN River East

Plan approved by committee now goes to BWSR board for approval

Motion by Struck, second by Traxler to sign the resolution to adopt and implement LoMRE Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Struck, second by Traxler to approve the Joint Powers Agreement to Implement LoMRE Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Middle MN

Kick off meeting wrapped up.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to encumber \$8756.25 for Constance Brastad state cost-share contract #4-22 for a water and sediment control basin.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to encumber \$17,407.50 for David Voigt capacity cost-share contract #CAP-2022-1 for cover crops/no-till.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Struck to encumber \$45,938.00 for Camp Patterson Lake Washington cost-share contract #WASH-7 for a grade stabilization structure.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to encumber \$5445.00 for Jim Struck Lake Washington cost-share contract #WASH-8 for cover crops/no-till/strip-till.

Affirmative: Entinger, Traxler, Thelemann, Gregor

Abstained: Struck

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Other items discussed:

Upcoming meetings – Area 6 all employee staff meeting Monday, August 26.

Larger drill/cover crop drill.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

9.10.24

Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. J. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
Le Center, MN 56057

Tel. (507) 419-0365
Website: www.lesueurswcd.org

Minutes from September 10, 2024, regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur County SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Entinger at 9:10 am.

Members present: Chairman, Greg Entinger
Vice-Chairman, Earle Traxler
Secretary, Pete Thelemann
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Jim Struck

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
Soil Con Tech, Kim Scheffler
Outreach Specialist, Kourtney Spitzack
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Dave Preisler
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Steve Rohlfing

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report for August 13, 2024, was read and approved.

Treasurer's report was read. Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Le Sueur County Commissioners discussed the following:

- Road construction updates
- Courthouse remodeling finishing up
- Parking lot expansion
- Updated land use plan to be done
- Preliminary budget to be set on September 17
- Possible buyouts of destroyed homes in Waterville, from the floods, through FEMA

- Homes purchased by FEMA will remain vacant and become public land
- New ag land bill for tax credits

Steve and Kim gave NRCS reports discussing the following:

- Ranking 2025 EQIP applications
- Working on new and reenrollment CRP contracts
- CRP contract management & landowner responsibilities
- CRP incentives
- Planning and designing structures & waterways for 2025 construction

Entinger expressed concerns of outlet blockage/Sand Creek tree blockage.

Mike introduced Kourtney Spitzack to the board. Kourtney is the SWCD's new Outreach Specialist and her first day of work was August 26, 2024.

Mike, Greg and Sue met with the Le Sueur County Commissioners to present the SWCD's 2025 budget on August 19, 2024. The SWCD's budget request remained the same as 2024.

The SWCD's domain name will be changing to .gov instead of .org. The board voted to have the domain name changed to lesueurswcd.gov as their first choice. Second choice would be lesueurcountyswcd.gov.

The SWCD received a 5-year lease amendment from the UDSA. The lease will extend from August 1, 2024, through July 31, 2029, at a rate of \$18.48 per square foot for 3,660 rentable square feet. Motion by Gregor, second by Thelemann to sign the lease.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Mike discussed the remodeling of the SWCD building. New carpet, painting and construction quotes are being sought.

The board received an updated draft personnel policy at the August meeting. Motion by Gregor, second by Struck to approve and accept the updated policy.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to accept Lorna Braam capacity cost-share contract # CAP-2023-1 and encumber \$450 for well decommissioning.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Struck to authorize payment of \$100.00 to Karl Heldberg MN Ag Water Quality Certification program contract.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to authorize payment of \$100.00 for Brandon Geldner MN Ag Water Quality Certification program contract.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to accept Dale Tiede State cost-share contract #1-24 and encumber \$699.75 for water and sediment control basins.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to accept Dale Tiede State cost-share contract #1-23 and encumber \$19,479.00 for water and sediment control basins.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to accept Ruth Hoefs State cost-share contract #CAP-2022-2 and encumber \$5881.00 for water and sediment control basins.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to accept Ruth Hoefs State cost-share contract #CAP-2023-2 and encumber \$5316.50 for water and sediment control basins.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Struck to accept Don Quiram Cannon cost-share contract #24-LS-006 and encumber \$17,966.25 for water and sediment control basins.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to accept Montgomery McKay Cannon cost-share contract #24-LS-008 and encumber \$500.00 for a native shoreland planting.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

1W1P

Cannon – dues decreasing

Lower MN – plan approved by BWSR, create bylaws, Thelemann questioned sewage leaks

Middle – kick off meeting, policy meeting

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

10-8-24

Date

Steve Thayer
District Secretary Vice - Chair



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
Le Center, MN 56057

Tel. (507) 419-0365
Website: www.lesueurswcd.org

Minutes from October 8, 2024, regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur County SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman, Earle Traxler at 9:10 am.

Members present: Vice-Chairman, Earle Traxler
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Jim Struck

Members absent: Chairman, Greg Entinger
Secretary, Pete Thelemann

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
NRCS Area Lead, Chris Schmidt
Ditch Specialist, Nik Kadel
Outreach Specialist, Kourtney Spitzack
Soil Con Tech, Kim Scheffler
BWSR Board Con, Shane Bugeja
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal
Le Sueur Co. Commissioner, Steve Rohlifing

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report was read.

Treasurer's report was read and a motion by Struck, second by Gregor to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Shane introduced himself as the new Area 6 BWSR Board Conservationist. He gave updates of BWSR programs and funding available for grants.

Commissioner Rohlifing discussed road work in the county that's almost complete, finishing up government center remodeling, near all positions filled at the county, lowering the final levy and labor talks.

Chris updated the board on NRCS activities such as cover crop seed mix planning, EQIP, 1026 requests, CRP, progress reporting, staff, trainings and the near completion of the Rice County USDA office.

Kim has been working on site visits, construction and surveying.

The board was given bids for the office remodel for the proposed layout. Motion by Gregor, second by Struck to accept the bids listed and begin the renovation.

Carpet: Wise \$33,990.94
Painting: Anderson \$7900.00
Phase 1 Construction: Woelfel \$18,971.00
Movers: 2 Men & A Truck \$132/hour
Phase 2 Construction: Mach \$42,682.05

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Mike handed out a spreadsheet listing grant name and amount awarded the SWCD is currently spending down.

Motion by Struck, second by Gregor to approve and encumber \$105,087.00 for Le Sueur County Drainage Authority cost-share contract #MDM-2025-01 to install side inlets.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Motion by Struck, second by Gregor to approve and make partial payment of \$171,866.40 to Ground Works Backhoe Service, LLC for Lake Washington Patterson Water Storage Project. Lake Washington Patterson Grant funding \$128,899.80 and Lake Washington Improvement Association Match funding \$42,966.60.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

SWCD domain name change (1st choice lesueurswcd.gov, 2nd choice lesueurcountyswcd.gov) has been forwarded to the county IT and is awaiting approval.

1W1P

Cannon

Motion by Gregor, second by Struck to approve and encumber \$42,928.39 for Ty David Cannon cost-share contract #24-LS-004.

Affirmative: All
Opposed: None
Motion carried

- *mid project review/audit completed
- *incentives for CRP next year
- *options of 1-3 years for seeding cover crops
- *shoreline training

LoMRE

- *Policy for cost-share for Le Sueur County-
 - 100% cost-share for Clear Lake Watershed
 - 90% cost-share for Le Sueur & Forest Prairie Creek Watersheds
 - 75% cost-share all other areas
 - 1 year cover crops payment of \$45/acre
 - 2 year cover crops payment of \$50/acre

Motion by Gregor, second by Struck to approve the policy.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Middle

- *Staffing changes

Mike discussed the proposed changes to the WCA which would eliminate ag land from replacement of wetlands impacted.

The board voted on resolutions.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Date

11-12-24

District Secretary





Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
Le Center, MN 56057

Tel. (507) 419-0365
Website: www.lesueurswcd.org

Minutes from November 12, 2024, regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Le Sueur County SWCD Building, Le Center, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Earle Traxler at 9:00 am.

Members present: Vice-Chairman, Earle Traxler
Secretary, Pete Thelemann
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Jim Struck

Members absent: Chairman, Greg Entinger

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
District Technician, Joe Jirik
Soil Con Tech, Kim Scheffler
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
BWSR Board Con, Shane Bugeja
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer's report was read. Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Shane updated the board on water storage and soil health grants.

Steve and Kim gave NRCS reports. They are working on cover crop payments, planning 2025 EQIP, CRP site reviews, construction inspection and surveying for 2025 projects.

Struck and Thelemann were re-elected into office at the November 5, 2024, general election. Gregor did not run for re-election. Ken Mader ran in Gregor's district and won.

Mike gave a building renovation updated. Phase 1 is the SWCD office which will be the new NRCS. The ceilings have been raised according to USDA code, trim around the ceiling is on and the electrical is complete. Painting and carpeting will begin around November 16.

The board would like to use the CD at Cornerstone State Bank for renovation expenses. Motion by Struck, second by Traxler to cash out CD when renovation costs reach \$50,000.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Le Sueur SWCD's new domain name has been approved. Lesueurswcd.gov is waiting on Le Sueur County IT before we can start using.

The board received the 2023 draft audit for review.

Le Sueur County SWCD is hosting the MASWCD Area 6 meeting on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at the South Central Services Cooperative building.

MASWCD annual convention is December 2-4, 2024.

Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to approve Mike attending MACDE conventions in Des Moines, IA January 8-9, 2025, and Salt Lake City, Utah February 9-13, 2025.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to approve \$450.00 payment for Lorna Braam well sealing capacity cost-share contract #CAP-2023-1.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Gregor, second by Struck to approve \$19,479.00 payment for Dale Tiede state cost-share contract #1-23.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Gregor, second by Struck to approve \$699.75 payment for Dale Tiede state cost-share contract #1-24.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to approve \$5881.00 payment for Ruth Hoefs capacity cost-share contract #CAP-2022-2.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Gregor to approve \$5316.50 payment for Ruth Hoefs capacity cost-share contract #CAP-2023-2.

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Struck to approve and make final construction payment of \$107,778.25 to Ground Works Backhoe Service, LLC for Lake Washington Patterson Water Storage Project. Lake Washington Patterson Grant funding \$97,778.25 and Lake Washington Improvement Association Match funding \$10,000. *Patterson*

Affirmative: All

Opposed: None

Motion carried

1W1P

Cannon – rates and workplan discussed, soil health rates increased \$5.00.

LoMRE – Elink workplan approved, waiting on tax id #.

Middle – staff changes and narratives discussed, Nicollet SWCD will be lead.

The board reviewed the 2025 benefit guide.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:25 for a closed personnel meeting.

12-10-24
Date


District Secretary



Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County SWCD
181 W Minnesota St
Le Center, MN 56057

Tel. (507) 419-0365
Website: www.lesueurswcd.org

Minutes from December 10, 2024, regular meeting of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors.
Toy Box, Kilkenny, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Entinger at 10:00 am.

Members present: Chairman, Greg Entinger
Vice-Chairman, Earle Traxler
Secretary, Pete Thelemann
Treasurer, Cletus Gregor
PR&I, Jim Struck

Others present: District Manager, Mike Schultz
BWSR Board Conservationist, Shane Bugeja
Resource Technician, Karl Schmidtke
District Technician, Joe Jirik
District Conservationist, Steve Breaker
Outreach Specialist, Kourtney Spitzack
Program Specialist, Sue Prchal

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's report from November 12, 2024, was read and approved.

Treasurer's report for November 2024 was read. Motion by Struck, second by Thelemann to approve as read and to pay bills.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Steve gave an NRCS update. They are finishing up field construction, frost in the ground, ranking and scoring 2025 EQIP applications and CRP.

Shane discussed BWSR soil health grants and explained how they are awarded. He also talked about water storage grant dollars.

The board and staff discussed the annual convention. Lake Washington Association attendees were very impressed with the commitment to conservation and projects completed around the state.

The building remodel is in progress. FSA and NRCS areas are complete. The city building inspector completed a walk through and given Charlie Mach permission to begin demo on the new SWCD area.

Mike explained the Le Sueur County/SWCD water storage policy update. Le Sueur County has leveed \$25,000 to assist with implementing projects and practices for water quality improvement. Funds leveed may vary from year to year. Projects will target high priority areas and ranked by the SWCD and County. Motion to adopt the update by Traxler, second by Struck.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Cost-Share

Amendment #1LS for Le Sueur County Hwy Department contract #24-LS-005. Date amended from 12/31/2024 install to 12/31/2025. Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to approve.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Amendment #1DQ for Don Quiram contract #24-LS-006. Date amended from 12/31/2024 install to 12/31/2025. Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to approve.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Amendment #1CD for Connie Brastad contract #4-22. Increase amount authorized from \$8756.25 to \$8895.00 due to rerouting existing tile. Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Amendment #1CP for Camp Patterson, Inc contract #Wash-7. Increase amount authorized from \$45,938.00 to \$53,509.00 due to higher bid received. Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Struck, second by Gregor to approve and pay **State** cost-share contract #4-22 for Connie Brastad in the amount of \$8895.00.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to approve and pay **Cannon** Cover Crop cost-share contract #24-LS-001 for Dave Hering in the amount of \$3990.00.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to approve and pay Jim Struck cover crop cost-share contract #Wash-8 in the amount of \$5445.00. **(Lake Washington CWF grant).**

Affirmative: Traxler, Thelemann, Gregor, Entinger

Abstained: Struck

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to approve and pay David Voigt cover crop contract #CAP-2022-1 in the amount of \$17,407.50 **(Capacity 2022 grant).**

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Thelemann to approve and pay Camp Patterson, Inc. cost-share contract #WASH-7 in the amount of \$54,900.00 **(\$40,131.75 Lake Washington CWF grant, \$14,768.25 Lake Washington CWF match).**

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Thelemann, second by Traxler to pay final easement payments for the Patterson project to Terry Guentzel contract numbers 2023-B (\$5343.75) and 2023-C (\$9765.63). **(Lake Washington Patterson grant \$15,109.38).**

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Struck, second by Traxler to pay final easement payment for the Patterson project to Jerry Beckel contract number 2023-A in the amount of \$41,718.75. **(Lake Washington Patterson grant).**

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion by Traxler, second by Gregor to approve and sign the Le Sueur SWCD 25-year Water Storage Contract with Jeff Gibbs #LSC-WS-2024-1 which begins December 10, 2024, and ends December 10, 2049, in the amount of \$105,500.00 **(Water Quality grant FY25).**

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

1W1P

Cannon – new grant agreement for fiscal year 2025.

LoMRE – sub agreements to pay staff for watershed work. Motion by Struck, second by Traxler to designate Greg Entinger to sign Agreement for Professional Services.

Affirmative: All

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Middle – use maps to show increase in phosphorus, sediment loss, etc to target priority areas.

January meeting the Lake Washington Association will be invited for lunch to honor them with the Outstanding Conservationist award.

The board presented Cletus Gregor with a plaque honoring him for his 15 years of service as a Le Sueur Co. SWCD Board Supervisor.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.

1-14, 25
Date


District Secretary