**Minutes of Renville Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors regular meeting held on Thursday June 9, 2016, at the Ag Service Center, Olivia, MN.**

**Present: Mark Koenig**

**Terrylea Ness**

**Kevin Kokesch**

**Jim Hebrink**

**Also Present**: Holly Hatlewick District Manager, Karen Wermers, Tanner Brouwer, Mike Sandager, SWCD staff.

Meeting was **called to order** by Chair Koenig at 7:30am, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

No citizen present, agenda item #2, dispensed.

**MSC (Kokesch, Ness) to approve the consent agenda**

**MSC (Kokesch, Hebrink) motion made to approve the amended April treasury report and approve the May treasury report as presented.**

**Staff reports**:

**Holly Hatlewick:** gave the following updates: she reviewed and updated the personnel handbook with the personnel committee, worked with CROW Joint Powers, Hawk Creek, and Renville County to review projects and potential projects, she is developing 2016 Soil Health Test Plots, working on implementing the 2016 Cover Crop Cost share program with partners, trained with Karen Flom, obtained lincpass card, and conducted site visits for DRAP.

**Cody Dale:** was not present at meeting, he was attending WCA training. He left the following report for the board; he has been working extensively on DRAP with Ryan Jones to complete site visits and finish surveys, he is processing permit applications, developing new DRAP projects, working on the county cleanout request for WCA, assisting landowners with buffer law questions, and doing CRP quotes.

**Ben Trochili**: was not present at meeting, he was attending WCA training. He left the following report for the board; he send out a large number of CRP quotes, has answered questions about CREP/RIM, updated RIM conservation plans for ownership change etc, assisted landowners with RIM management, implemented grazing plans on RIM sites, received RIM site inspection list, prepared for feedlot inspections, and continued to promote and answer landowner’s questions about buffers/CRP/RIM, etc.

**Karen Wermers:** reported that she has several new CRP contracts including one for a June 1st start date and several additional contracts for October and November 1st 2016, she also has worked on other CRP quotes, continued to answer questions regarding CRP and CREP, provided seed mixes for CRP land, answered management questions for CRP land, conducted site visits on CRP land considering reenrollment, is continuing to answer questions about CREP, keeping a list of people interested in CREP, finalizing RIM easements, sent in an agreement package to BWSR, assisting landowners with buffer law questions, she presented at RCW Environment Days, spoke at a public buffer law meeting, attended leadership and plant ID training, and attend the Hawk Creek meeting.

**Mike Sandager:** reported that he led the water cycle activity and assisted an additional day for RCW Environmental Day, wrote press releases for raingardens and other activities, has taken over responsibility for the SWCD’s social media, began to work on administrative and outreach for the cover crop program, began developing a program to reach out to older farm operators, took over responsibility of the SWCD website, trained with Karen Wermers on CRP, worked on quotes for CRP, conducted site visits on CRP land, got setup on computer network, and answered landowners questions about the buffer law.

**Board report:**

Ness reported that she helped lift tulip bulbs at the Arboretum.

Koenig reported that he attended the CROW watershed meeting, and will be attending the TSA meeting in June.

Diane from CROW River Watershed Project had a conflict and didn’t make the meeting.

There was a discussion about the cost share program. The main focus of discussion was a Cover Crop cost share program for 2016 with Renville County and Hawk Creek. The board is supportive of the program. **MSC (Ness, Kokesch) to prioritize the $10,460.00 remaining in the Cost Share Base Grant for Cover Crop cost share in 2016.**

Also discussed was the office equipment needs. Holly informed the Board that the NRCS will be taking her desk back in the next 30 days. The board instructed Holly to find and purchase a new desk that will fit her needs. **Ness, gave her approval to purchase a desk, if under $2000.00 per the personal policy.**

At their June 1, 2016 meeting, the personal committee reviewed revisions to the Personal Handbook. The revisions were presented to the board and will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Holly presented a plan to create a .6 acre educational prairie plot at the Renville Historical Society building in Morton. **MSC (Hebrink, Ness) to go forward with and paying for the pollinator seed mix for the Renville Historical Society .6 ac site**. A five year maintenance agreement with the Historical Society will be signed to assure the weeds are controlled on the site.

**MSC (Kokesch, Ness) 9:00 am motion to adjourn**

**Next Regular Meeting – July 14, 2016**