The Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2017.

Members Present:
Skip Thomson
Tom Swaim
Doug Odegard
Jerry Telker

Others Present:
Jill Carlier, District Manager
Joe Kelash, District Forester
Kris Larson, District Technician
Robin Poppe, Wetland Specialist

Members Absent: JJ Waldhalm

CALL TO ORDER: Thomson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Motion by Telker, seconded by Swaim to approve the agenda with an addition.
Motion carried

NOVEMBER MINUTES:
Motion by Swaim, seconded by Odegard to approve the November meeting minutes with changes.
Motion carried

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PAYMENTS OF BILLS:
Motion by Odegard, seconded by Swaim to approve the November financials and payment of bills, including a $12,000 transfer.
Motion carried

STAFF/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:

Wetlands & Grants:
- Poppe stated she is receiving several delineations. Poppe will be sending a letter informing the applicants that she cannot assess the project until the growing season in the spring.

Water Management:
- Larson has been working on buffer compliance. Approximately 15 people received extensions, with only 1-2 going to the county.
- Larson has been working on cost share site inspections.
- Larson attended the 1W1P meeting for the Lower St. Croix.

Forestry:
- Completed 2 WSP’s.
- Kelash met with NRCS regarding JAA/TSP.
- Brochure for the January 20th workshop was mailed out to approximately 1500 landowners.
- Forestry directory is now online on our website.

Forestry Association:
- Thomson stated a speaker was brought in that is working with a group to bring elk back to MN.

East Central Regional Landscape/TSA III:
- No meeting.

Snake River Citizen Advisory Committee
- Carlier discussed the Cross Lake Project and what has been happening.
- Jason Weinerman (BWSR) discussed 1W1P for the Snake River Watershed.
- Kanabec & Pine SWCD’s will be sending out post cards as an outreach effort in order to use grants funds in the outreach grant through the watershed.
Legislative/Personnel/Budget/Trees/Drill:
- No meeting/Nothing new

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT:
NRCS staff was not present to give a report.

NON-STRUCTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT:
Erin Loeffler discussed the Non-Structural Land Management Program and how the district could use it as an avenue to do forestry projects with state cost share funds.

CROSS LAKE PROJECT UPDATE:
Carlier stated she met with the landowner, lake association members and TSA III engineers onsite in November. The project was discussed at length. Carlier will keep the board updated next spring/summer as things move forward.

ISLAND LAKE OUTLET:
Carlier stated she had been contacted by State Representative Mike Sundin about options with the lake outlet since the grant for the township was not approved. The topic of a Bonding Bill at the legislature was discussed. Representative Sundin asked Carlier to do a little legwork and get some numbers for him for the project. A meeting will be put together for all the “players” involved as soon as possible to discuss this option. Carlier will be attending.
Representative Sundin asked Carlier about Pine SWCD being the fiscal agent for the bill if it goes through. Carlier has a list of questions regarding this and our role with it.
Consensus from the board is the district would act as fiscal agent as long as the engineers oversee construction and that doesn’t fall on us. The district would charge for some admin time for staff to be involved with the project.

FLOOD GRANT PAYMENT REQUEST:
Carlier stated the contractors were out and did additional planting, and we have the final invoices for this project. These invoices will be reimbursed from the DNR grant.
- Prairie Restorations: $6,417.00, and TSA III: $2,609.76 for a total payment $9,026.76
Motion by Telker, seconded by Odegard to approve the $9,026.76 payment on the flood grant project.

Motion carried

STATE COST SHARE & CLEAN WATER GRANTS:
- Price Well Sealing: FY17-2 The well sealing has been completed under budget.
  Total price of $1,671.00 x 50% cost sharing x $2075.00 = $837.50.
Motion by Odegard, seconded by Swaim to approve the FY17-2 Price well sealing payment at a cost of $837.50.

Motion carried.

2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET:
Carlier presented a preliminary budget for 2018, pending budget numbers from the county.
Motion by Swaim, seconded by Odegard to approve the 2018 preliminary budget.

Motion carried

1 WATERSHED 1 PLAN:
Larson discussed the 1W1P project in the Lower St. Croix. If we move forward with this, we will need a supervisor to be on the policy committee, who will vote on issues as the plan is developed. Odegard stated he would be willing to be on the committee.
AREA FORESTER:  
Thomson discussed the area forester position/grant. There was a big discussion about continuing the position on our own if there was no grant. If that is the case, it would cost approximately $4,000. Do we get $4,000 worth of services out of the area forester. Telker will be the rep on the forestry association committee next year, so he will need to know our feelings. If a grant is pursued, it will probably be at 50% rate rather than the 75% that we have now. Some districts don’t use/received enough services to justify paying that much, which could increase our contribution. General consensus is to fund the position for 1 year and revisit the conversation next year.

PF BANQUET DONATION:  
Carlier stated the local Pheasants Forever Chapter have invited us to their banquet, and have requested a donation to become a banquet sponsor. They are specifically looking for a cash donation as well as bundles of trees. Carlier suggested setting up a booth at the banquet and having information there about programs the district deals with. Carlier will look into costs for that. The booth would need to be manned. The banquet is February 17, 2018. General consensus is to donate trees to the group (around $100 worth of trees), and have Carlier look into costs for a vendor booth, but not to do a cash donation to the organization at this time.

NEW POLICY:  
Carlier stated the policy committee created a district dress code policy. Motion by Swaim, seconded by Telker to approve the dress code policy.  
Motion carried.

YEAR END FINANCIALS:  
Carlier presented an agreement between Peterson & Company and Pine SWCD to hire Peterson to do our year-end financials at a cost of $900.00  
Motion by Telker, seconded by Odegard to approve hiring Peterson & Company to do our year-end financials at a cost of $900.  
Motion carried.

MISC ITEMS:  
- Commissioner Ludwig informed the board of a lawsuit between Burlington Northern and the State. This will reduce county tax revenue by $90,000 for 2018.

NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME:  
The next district board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 4th, at 9:00 a.m at the SWCD Office in the John Wright Building.

ADJOURNMENT:  
The meeting adjourned at 10:28 am

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Odegard, Secretary

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