

Minutes
Board of Supervisors
December 28th, 2023
Grant Soil & Water Conservation District

Chairman Groneberg called the meeting to order at 8:58 a.m.

Members present:

Paul Groneberg, Chairman

Randy Larson, Vice Chairman

Larry Stephens, Member

Darin Hanson, Personnel

Andrew Marks, Treasurer

Others present: Brent Gulbrandson, Jared House, Nicole Sumstad, and Reed Peterson (SWCD), Ryan Haspel (NRCS).

Secretary's Report: Marks made a motion to approve the Secretary's Report from the November 22nd, 2023, board meeting. Stephens seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Sumstad reviewed the treasurer's report and made a request to add Gulbrandson to the authorized signers on the checking and money market accounts. Marks made a motion to approve the addition of Brent Gulbrandson to the authorized signers on the Grant County Soil & Water Conservation District's checking and money market accounts. Hanson seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

NRCS: Haspel gave updates on: FY25 CRP status reviews, 90 CSP survey letters with a January 12, 2024 deadline, and EQIP rankings are due January 18, 2024.

Chippewa River Project: Hanson stated no JPB meeting. House updated on the 60-day review and outlined the hiring process for a coordinator.

Pomme de Terre River Association: Groneberg updated on where grants are standing. House updated on the coordinator position, including the extension of the interim coordinator for 3 additional months. Hanson made a motion to approve the extension of the interim coordinator for the Pomme de Terre River Association with Grant SWCD until April 30, 2024. Stephens seconded. Larson, Hanson, and Stephens approved. Marks opposed. Motion carried.

House also updated on the dam removal project on Pomme de Terre (Grant Co.) and Perkins (Stevens Co.) lakes with 1 grant agreement that will be executed by the Pomme de Terre River Association on

behalf of Grant SWCD and Stevens SWCD. He also shared an information letter to send out to the Pomme de Terre lake residents. Hanson made a motion to approve sending out the information letter to Pomme de Terre lake residents. Larson seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

Bois de Sioux – Mustinka Watershed: Larson reported no JPB meeting. North Ottawa Impoundment Committee met to discuss cell options to introduce wild rice.

5 Mile Creek: Gulbrandson shared that there will be a public meeting on January 8, 2024, pertaining to the study that has been completed and the options for the landowners.

County Ditch #8 Update: House reported the design is back and discussed the options of purchasing the Right-of-Way from the current land owners.

BWSR Work Order Contract FY2024: Gulbrandson outlined the contract. Marks made a motion to approve the BWSR Work Order Contract (MJPA) for FY2024. Stephens seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

Anderson WCA Letter: Gulbrandson explained the letter on how the timeframe on this project has been extremely lengthy. Hanson made a motion to approve sending the Anderson WCA Letter to the appropriate people. Marks seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

Personnel Review:

Hanson made a motion to close the meeting to the public at 10:10 a.m. to discuss the personnel review. Stephens seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

Marks made a motion to open the meeting back to the public at 10:35 a.m. Stephens seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

Marks made a motion to approve a 3% increase in hourly wages for the Grant SWCD employees, with Gulbrandson and House an additional \$.50/hour, Peterson and Sumstad an additional \$.75/hour. Stephens seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

Larson made a motion to approve the Health Insurance benefits for FY2024. Marks seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

FY2024 Budget: House and Sumstad outlined the budget. Hanson made a motion to approve FY2024 budget contingent on the changes with employee salaries and the interest income. Marks seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

Office Lease Agreement: House outlined the 5% increase with the updated lease agreement. Hanson made a motion to approve the updated office lease agreement with the addition including language stating: 1st right of refusal for additional office space if any becomes available. Marks seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Training: Sumstad shared information on a Supervisor training/refresher opportunity coming up.

Conservation Contract Program: Gulbrandson review the policy and outlined the percentage and cap amount to include tree plantings to follow the USDA guidelines. Hanson made a motion to approve tree

plantings, that will follow the USDA guidelines, up to 75% cost share, and a cap of \$5,000.00. Larson seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

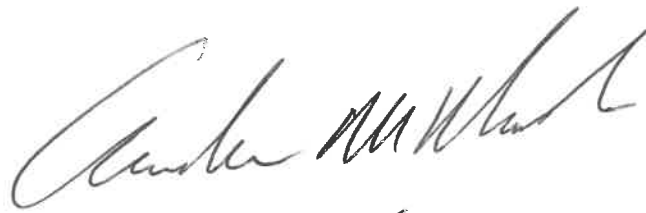
Policy Review: House outlined the update in the personnel policy to include the new Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) law. Marks made a motion to approve the new Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) policy in the Grant SWCD personnel policy. Stephens seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

MASWCD Convention: House shared the highlights from the convention.

Soil Management Summit: Larson and Groneberg stated good reports and presentations.

Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marks seconded. None opposed, all in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.



1-25-24