



*Lyon Soil & Water Conservation District*  
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**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**  
**Lyon Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Wednesday , April 12, 2023 – 4:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 4:00 P.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

**Supervisors Present:** Prairie, Meulebroeck, Lanoue, Laleman and Deutz

**Others Present:** Biren, Cauwels, Olson, Snyder, Giles, B. Boerboom, K. Netzke, Crowley and Andries

**Absent:** None

**Conservation Planning Local Work Group (LWG)**

Review resource concern causes for local natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs. Input is from SWCD Supervisors and findings will be presented to State NRCS Employees. Top Resource concerns brought up to the group are as follows:

**1. Cropland**

31 – Soil Erosion, concentrated flow 30 – Soil Erosion, sheet, rill & wind 29 – Soil Quality Degradation, Organic matter depletion 28- Excessive Water, Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water 27-Soil Erosion, Excessive bank erosion from shorelines or water 26 – Water Quality Degradation-Excessive sediment in surface waters 25-Soil Quality Degradation-Compaction 24-Water Quality Degradation –Excess nutrients in surface & ground water 23 – Water Quality Degradation – Excessive salts in surface & ground water 22- Soil Quality Degradation –Concentration of salts or other 21 – Degraded Plant Condition – Excessive plant pest pressure

Reason – Crop rotation of corn and soybeans and high precipitation tend to create concerns

2 Conservation Practices that need to be implemented –Soil erosion, concentrated flow and soil erosion, sheet, rill, wind– soil health & engineering practices that help control issues

Roadblocks – cost and available funding

**2. Pasture Land**

31 – Livestock Production Limitation – Inadequate feed & forage 30 – Excessive Water – Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water 29 – Soil Erosion, Excessive bank erosion from shorelines or water 28 – Livestock Production Limitation – Inadequate livestock & shelter 27 – Air Quality Impacts – Objectionable odors 26- Degraded Plant Condition – Undesirable plant productivity & health 25 – Degraded Plant Condition – Excessive plant pest pressure 24- Degraded Plant Condition –Inadequate structure and composition 23 – Livestock Production - Inadequate livestock water

Reason –Locations of our pastures are in close proximity to flowing water and pastures tend to be overgrazed.

2 Conservation Practices that need to be implemented – general practices, manage grazing and incentives for forage productions

Roadblocks – Weather and funding

**3. Farmstead**

31 –Livestock Production Limitation – Inadequate livestock shelter 30- Inefficient Energy Use – Equipment & facilities 29 - Inefficient Energy Use –Farming/ranching practices & field operations

28 - Livestock Production Limitation –Inadequate livestock water 27- Livestock Production Limitation – Inadequate feed & forage 26 –Air Quality Impacts – Objectionable odors

Reason –Livestock is located in farmsteads. Livestock access to sufficient water supplies. Certainty of water is in question for the county.

2 Conservation Practices that need to be implemented – Controlling livestock runoff and proper development of farmsteads for energy efficiency

Roadblocks -Trees are not cost shareable on non-cropland

#### **4. Associate Ag Land (wildlife, non CRP ground)**

31 –Inadequate Habitat for Fish & Wildlife –Habitat Degradation 30 –Water Quality Degradation-Pesticides transported to surface & ground waters 29 - Water Quality Degradation-Excessive sediment to surface waters 28 –Excessive Water – Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water 27- Degraded Plant Condition – Inadequate structure and composition 26 - Degraded Plant Condition –Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation 27 - Degraded Plant Condition –Undesirable plant productivity & health 26 - Degraded Plant Condition –Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation 25 – Water Quality Degradation – Excess nutrients to surface & ground water

Reason –Major landowners are US Fish & Wildlife & DNR

2 Conservation Practices that need to be implemented – Rotational grazing & haying of areas

Roadblocks - US Fish & Wildlife & DNR policies are difficult to navigate

#### **5. Forest Land (windbreaks)**

31 – Soil Erosion, sheet, rill & wind 30 – Degraded Plant Condition – Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation 29 - Degraded Plant Condition –Excessive plant pest pressure 28 - Degraded Plant Condition –Inadequate structure and composition 27 - Degraded Plant Condition – Undesirable plant productivity & health

Reason – Wind affects windbreaks, weather related problems

2 Conservation Practices that need to be implemented – Controlling spread of Ash Borer and Replacing & repairing windbreaks

Roadblocks – Less windbreaks are being installed. Funding isn't available.

Motion by Deutz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laleman to accept the 2023 Resource Concerns Survey Results. All in favor, motion carried.

**Identify Any Conflicts of Interest:** None

**Approve Agenda** –Motion by Deutz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laleman to approve the agenda All in favor, motion carried.

#### **Approve February 8, 2023 Minutes**

Motion by Laleman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Meulebroeck to approve February 8, 2023 Minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

#### **Financial Reports**

Financial Reports presented.

#### **Business**

**A. Redwood One Watershed One Plan - Planning Grant –Request for Proposals – Approval –** BWSR's RFP for planning grants has opened. The Redwood partners are being contacted to confirm intent to begin planning which would start in 2024. RCRCa will serve as the administrator and fiscal agent. Pipestone, Murray, and Yellow Medicine Counties have less than 10% of their county within the watershed and may opt out of planning. Yellow Medicine County and SWCD have already indicated that they will opt out of planning. Motion by Meulebroeck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deutz to support the

application for a Redwood Watershed 1W1P Planning Grant with RCRC serving as the administrative and fiscal agent. All in favor, motion carried.

- B. Cottonwood TMDL & Redwood River WRAPS/TMDL Update – Kerry Netzke** - To date, the Cottonwood WRAPS and TMDL are both approved. The Redwood WRAPS and TMDL are off Public Notice; no comments were received. MPCA has a 30-day waiting period before sending the TMDL to EPA for the Final Decision Document. The WRAPS has been presented to the MPCA Division Director for Final Approval. The Redwood RES (River Eutrophication Standard) TMDL is getting closer to Public Notice. Some language was cleaned up as the permit writers worked with the City of Marshall and ADM for input.
- C. GBERBA Update** - Update on the Area 5 MAWQCP.
- D. Polaris Ranger Purchase – Approval** – Motion by Meulebroeck, 2nd by Prairie to approve the purchase of a Polaris Ranger in the amount of \$31,000.00. All in favor, motion carried. \$31,000.00 will be taken from 2021 Local Capacity. All in favor, motion carried.
- E. No-Till Drill Purchase – (MDA Soil Health Financial Assistance Pilot Grant) – Approval** - Motion by Deutz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Prairie to accept the grant if approved. All in favor, motion carried. Purchase of Great Plains 9' No-Till Drill in the amount of \$25,000.00 will be tabled for now until approval of pilot grant and opportunity to see drill has been fulfilled.
- F. #02/23 – Vincent Thooft – WASCOB/EQIP Cost Share Contract – Approval** -Motion by Meulebroeck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laleman to approve the Water and Sediment Control Basin Contract and Encumber funds in the amount of \$15,000.00 which is 16% of the total cost of \$96,281.00 with landowner amount of \$24,070.25 and 59% EQIP funding of \$57,247.00. Encumbered amount of \$15,000.00 will be from FY 2023 Local Capacity. All in favor, motion carried.
- G. Resolution #01-2023 – Resolution to adopt and implement the Des Moines River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Approval and Motion to have Chairman sign** - Resolution to enter into a planning agreement Memorandum of Agreement to develop the Des Moines River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Motion by Deutz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laleman to have Chairman Lanoue sign the Resolution. All in favor, motion carried.
- H. Donation for Hwy 14- Lake Benton Tour – Approval** –Invoice requesting donation for Hwy 14 Lake Benton tour to help cover costs. Motion by Deutz 2<sup>nd</sup> by Prairie to pay \$307.85 to Lincoln SWCD to cover tour expenses. All in favor, motion carried.
- I. Non-Structural Practice Policy – Update and Approval** – Changed the priority ranking and added the 3-year minimum contract on all practices and added conservation crop rotation to the list of practices. Motion by Laleman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deutz . All in favor, motion carried.
- J. Lyons 19 Storm Water Retention – Discussion** – Maximum for NRCS standards is 40 acres. Basin is on private property, but shallow and plan is to make it deeper and use the top 3 or 4' for storage. Would like to put a control structure on the property. Asking for permission from SWCD Board to ask County Board for \$15 to \$20 K of Buffer Enforcement to improve flooding concerns with current basin. Motion by Meulebroeck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Prairie to ask County Board for Buffer Enforcement funds for project. All in favor, motion carried.

**District Technician – Luke, Courtney and Blake**–Snyder -Feedlot Annual Report was reviewed and approved by MPCA and was approved by County Board and doing Feedlot Inventory for non-use feedlots. Jeff Stroch, SMSU did apply for new grant to fund Cottonwood Lake. New Facebook page has launched. Giles working with Dam Repair early June or July – sent out Property Transfer/Compliance Inspections for Septics and BWSR sending letter to County Attorney for non-conforming Buffer Parcels. April Newsletter will be sent out soon. Olson – making progress on Custer/Sodus Water & Storage Grant. Some additional cost may be included. Talked with landowners on Sodus 32 and working on easements with landowners and operators. Meeting with Apex/ Wind Easements on April 18<sup>th</sup> to go over flowage easements.

**District Report – John** – Hired Rinke-Noonan law firm to assist with Ditches. TE Underground awarded project for JD 31. Staff attended CD 69 viewers meeting in Cottonwood.

**District Conservationist – Kelly Heather** – No report

**Pheasants Forever – Brock Boerboom** – CREP and RIM Sign-up – CREP Closing at end of April – Rim, (rates up 42% for Lyon County) batching period ending at the end of May. Walk-In Access letters were sent out. Food Plot seed has been delivered to drop off point and will need to pick up.

### **Committee Reports**

- **RCRCA** – 2023 Canoe Trips: Netzke added that RCRCA staff are starting to plan for canoe trips on the Redwood and Cottonwood Rivers now that the dredging is complete, and the Essig launch site has been repaired. These trips will be Tuesday, June 27 and Thursday, June 29. Canoes and kayaks are available from RCRCA on a first-come, first-served basis. Lake Redwood Dredging: Remaining Tasks – The dredge contractor will return soon to complete restoration activities including asphalt patching and seal coating at the laydown area and vegetation establishment. The CDF will be aerially seeded by a cover crop applicator based out of Olivia. Bonding Funds Amendment. – Netzke requested a grant extension from June 30, 2023 to December 31, 2023 due to the late spring and need to vegetate the CDF and other project areas. The request was approved by the DNR. Fishing Pier – DNR has confirmed that the handicap-accessible fishing pier has been ordered, however the delivery date has not been confirmed. A dedication ceremony will be planned with the City of Redwood Falls once an installation date is confirmed. DNR Fisheries has confirmed their intent to stock 32,000 walleye fry into Lake Redwood this spring. DNR’s initial estimate was 25,000 fry.
- **Area II River Basins** – Administrative Funding: Area II is included in the House omnibus bill (hf 2310) at \$140,000/year. Testimony was given (increasing \$140,000/year to \$190,000/year) at the Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee. The request was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill which is still in development. The best-case scenario is that the Senate will include the \$190,000/year amount in their omnibus bill, and the conference committee will determine the final appropriation amount. Bonding Funds: Netzke testified at the Senate Capital Investment committee on March 14 requesting \$1.5 million. This amount was included in hf 670 which was the cash portion of the bonding bill (hf 669). Both bills passed out of the House but met opposition in the Senate. Senate Republicans asked for tax relief before scheduling passage of this bill on the Senate floor. The bill proceeded to the Senate floor, failed to pass without the Republican votes, and was laid on the table. No House hearing has been scheduled to date for the companion bill hf 794 as the Capital Investment committee continues to hear testimony and craft its bill. There are rumors circulating that a cash only bill may evolve that would only require a major vote in fear that Republicans would vote down a bonding bill that requires a supermajority vote for passage
- **Area V** – Rock County – June 15<sup>th</sup> Supervisor’s Meeting
- **SW Prairie TSA Meeting** - Soil Health funds – Dawn Madison doing trainings and holding off on hiring another tech for now.
- **Park & Rec** – Bathroom improvements at Garvin Park – premade bathrooms some with showers – 6 of in total.
- **Yellow Medicine Watershed** – 4-19-2023 meeting – 10 projects funded
- **One Watershed One Plan (Yellow Medicine)** – The Planning Work Group met with BWSR, two members of the watershed district, and the watershed district administrator to discuss concerns regarding 1W1P administration. The PRAP assessment identified needed improvements that have yet to be made. Being 6 years into the plan, a shift is needed for futuristic leadership and to address other plan goals than just structural BMPs. The watershed district administrator was asked to dedicate one day per week to 1W1P and to delegate some duties to her assistant. The Policy Committee met on April 10 and plan administration was addressed. Implementation funds can be used to contract for

services. Discussion was had regarding a shared full-time position to work for the Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle 1W1Ps providing communication, coordination and education/outreach activities. This topic will be addressed again at the YMRWD meeting on April 19.

- **One Watershed One Plan (Des Moines)** – Joint Powers meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>. in Windom.
- **One Watershed One Plan (Cottonwood – Middle MN)** – The first Policy Committee meeting was held April 11. Election of officers was held with Lyon County Commissioner Rick Anderson becoming Chairman of the Policy Committee. A RFQ for consultant services will be sent to Houston Engineering, ISG, and Bolton & Menk. The 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2:00 PM at the Springfield Community Center is the established day/time for future meetings.
- **One Watershed One Plan (Redwood)** - planning to begin in 2024
- **County** – No report

Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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Lyon SWCD Board Chair Signature

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Attest by Board Member

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Date

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Date