

## SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TECHNICAL SERVICE AREA

2740 22ND ST. SUITE #4

SLAYTON, MN 56172

OFFICE: (507) 836-6061 CELL: (507) 829-5359 FAX: (507) 836-6697

### Meeting of September 14, 2022

#### Pizza Ranch-Marshall, MN

**Attendance:** Russell Hoogendoorn, Staff; Mike Skoglund, Staff; Jake Harrison, Staff; Shelly Lewis, Murray; Tom Muller, Cottonwood; Kay Gross, Cottonwood; Doug Bos, Rock; Jerry Nelson, Yellow Medicine; Paul Posthuma, Murray; Johns Shea, BWSR; Allen Deutz, Lyon; Cal Spronk, Pipestone; Paul Langseth, Nobles; Dawn Madison, Contract Position; Tyler Knutson, Yellow Medicine; Jason Beckler, BWSR.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

**Additions to Agenda:** A motion was made by Langseth seconded by Posthuma to approve the agenda as emailed.

Motion carried.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Muller seconded by Nelson to approve the minutes of June 1, 2022.

Motion carried.

**Budget/Treasurer's Report:** Lewis gave an update of the budget and treasurer's report. The Budget/Treasurer's report is approved subject to audit.

#### **Contract Position update:**

### Accomplishments from June 1st to September 14th, 2022

#### Employee Updates:

We have a number of new technicians or position changes and vacancies. Lyon County hired another new Technician to replace Devin who moved to Murray. His name is Blake Giles. Cottonwood has hired two new techs Breanna Wagner and Nathan Harder. In Nobles county, John Shea took a position within BWSR, so Scott Runck moved into the District Manager position and is actively searching for a new technician. In Pipestone-Lance Wheeler took a position outside the SWCD. Lac qui Parle SWCDs District Manager left so soon that office will see a new face in this position as well.

To gain a better appreciation for the staff changes, I believe with the last district manager who left over the past 5 years we will have had 35 technicians/supervisor turnovers. Every office has had at least one turnover and some 6 staff changes. Despite this we as an area have maintained completion of funded practices, continued to increase shovel ready projects and have most offices with needed JAA coverage for ECS or with TSA staff ENG. So was our training lost? Of the 35 turnovers- 5 changed offices in our area swcds, 3 moved to another

swcd area, 6 went to other agency partner positions, and 12 are now farmers, conservation business owners, work in another state agency, or now work private industry in agronomy field.

Training updates in our area:

My main focus is still on Rusle 2, Design of practices, survey, and stakeout with a one on one focus working with the newest staff. I also continue to help with trng. on soil health, ecological, and conservation systems and assist the Rock cty SH planning group and will assist Cottonwood to get their group to create an event or group mtg.

Lincoln- Focusing on EFT design assistance with Sam. He has put together his first complete design for JAA review to be sent to the area office. He has another design we will looking at next week working with both waterways and basin.

Lyon-Shifted the training focus from ECS practices and outreach assistance to Engineering, survey and design training for both Blake and Courtney. Courtney also has put together her first folder for ENG JAA review to be sent to Eric once she has the as-builts completed and the project finished with construction.

Cottonwood- We have covered survey, I&E for waterways and wascbs, and now have begun working on fish lake shoreline improvement planning and outreach. Russ, Breanna, Nathan, as well as Brooke Judd from Jackson cty and Russ and I went out to assist with scoring of shoreline stabilization projects with an emphasis on vegetation enhancement.

Assisted with Attt tech team training-Aug. 12 -Organic Ag 101 was successfully held in Madison at the A-frame farm with Luke Peterson and Carmen Fernholz as the farmer presenters, Quintin Peterson, Kristin Brennan, and Jodi DeJong Hughes all were presenters as well. It was a great day with attendance from both NRCS and SWCD staff.

Tech trainings-

7/14 led by the tsa engineering crew of Russ, Mike, and Jake along with myself we held Waterway survey practice

9/1 led by tsa engineering and myself. Focused on waterway checkout survey practice with site in Lincoln cty.

Trainings in the works:

Tech training on I&E, survey, and design of WASCB and Waterway. Also wanting to do a hands on seed mix and seeding training to look at what different equipment needs for minimums compared to the seed calculator tools

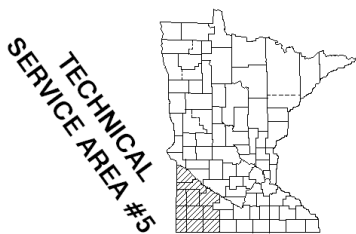
## **Coordinator Report:**

### **2021 NACD – Technical Assistance Grant**

Second quarter reporting (April - June) has been completed.

Grant Amount - \$125,000 Used - \$37,752.88

Need to Use - \$87,247.12



## SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE TECHNICAL SERVICE AREA

2740 22ND ST. SUITE #4

SLAYTON, MN 56172

OFFICE: (507) 836-6061 CELL: (507) 829-5359 FAX: (507) 836-6697

Match Amount - \$31,250 Staff Time Given \$6,471.27 Staff Time Needed -  
\$24,778.73

Match can be obtained by local SWCD staff that completed site inspections and any work on EQIP funded projects.

All hours can be used, that are not match for other grants, up to the point where projects are funded through other grant opportunities. Until funding is set, the projects have an opportunity to be funded by EQIP – those hours we can use. Dawn will be in touch at the end of each quarter to get hours, calculated hourly rates for staff.

### **NACD Technical Assistance Grant – Application 2022 – Agronomist Position**

At this time no application period for 2022.

### **TSA Engineering Staff**

Hiring is still on hold at this time.

### **Soil Health/Training Contract Position**

Dawn Madison is continuing to work with District staff in gaining Job Approval Authority and also working with the Administration on reporting the NACD grants. Dawn is working with local staff on their job approval authority and assisting with area trainings and soil health events.

Contract being ratified at \$56/hour from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2024 for 1,000 hours per year. Contract signed and approved by the Cottonwood SWCD at their August Board Meeting.

### **MAWQCP Technical Assistance**

Continued work with local landowners to receive Worksheet and ultimately Certification through MAWQCP.

Danielle also has JAA for Ecological Services if that service is needed by your office.

### **STATE MANAGERS MEETING**

State TSA Managers meeting will be held September 26, 2022

### **TSA Manager Meeting**

Meeting was held on August 30 in Slayton. Good discussion on upcoming projects and workload in the area. Review by BWSR staff on policies and upcoming grant opportunities.

### **TSA Board Meeting**

The next schedule TSA Board meeting will be held in January 2023, location and time to be determined. The Personnel Committee will meet in December/January to complete the personnel reviews.

**Ratify FY23 NPEA & Enhanced Service Grant:** A motion was made by Langseth seconded by Posthuma to ratify the FY23 and Enhanced Services Grant. Motion carried.

**Ratify Contract Position Agreement:** A motion by Nelson second by Spronk to ratify the Contract Position Agreement. Motion carried.

**Workplan Revision for FY19 ESTS:** A motion by Posthuma second by Muller to request an amendment to the work plan to add equipment. Motion carried.

**R12i Survey Equipment:** The TSA board discussed purchasing R12i survey equipment to upgrade from the R10 survey equipment. A motion by Spronk second by Nelson to purchase two R12i plus a Rod in amount up to \$60,000.00. Motion carried.

**Tires for 4 Wheelers:** A motion made by Muller seconded by Nelson to purchase 3 sets of tires for the three 4 Wheelers. Motion carried.

**SWPTSA Staff Report:** The TSA has 190 projects on the books of those 103 projects are under or ready for construction. The TSA has taken 26 projects off the books since the June board meeting.

**BWSR Report:** Shea reported on the Clean Water Funding applications. They are being scored right now. The BWSR academy is open for registration. It will be held at Craguns in Brainerd on October 25-27, 2022. There is going to be a Soil Health cost-share grant coming out soon.

**Other Business:** None

**Next Meeting:** The SWPTSA Board will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. The location of the meeting to be determined.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

---

Paul Posthuma  
Secretary SWPTSA

Date