

Pomme de Terre River Association
Joint Powers Board
Minutes
February 9, 2018
Stevens County Courthouse, EOC Room

Chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Members present: Keith Swanson, Jeanne Ennen, John Lindquist, Clint Schuerman, Rod Wenstrom, Paul Barsness, Paul Groneberg, Joe Fox. Others present: Steph Adams, Watershed Coordinator; Andy Rice, TAC Chair; Paul Wymar, MPCA; Chris Staebler, Stevens SWCD.

Joe Fox moved to approve the December 8, 2017 minutes. Second by John Lindquist. Passed unanimously.

Agenda was approved unanimously, as amended, on a motion by Paul Barsness and second by Clint Schuerman.

ANNUAL REORGANIZATION

Election of Officers

Paul Barsness moved to re-elect current board members to another term. Second by John Lindquist. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Appointments

Jeanne Ennen moved to approve the following appointments to the budget and personnel committees. John Lindquist seconded. Passed unanimously.

Budget committee: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, commissioners from Swift and Otter Tail counties, Fiscal Agent, TAC Chair, and Pomme de Terre Coordinator.

Personnel committee: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, commissioners from Otter Tail, Swift, Big Stone and Douglas counties, TAC Chair, and fiscal agent representative.

Policy committee appointments will be tabled until the March meeting.

Additional Reorganization

Jeanne Ennen moved to keep the meeting schedule the same (Meetings to be held second Friday of each month, as needed, starting at 9:00 a.m. in the ARS Soils Lab) and to approve authorization of payment of bi-weekly payroll. Second by Paul Groneberg. Passed unanimously.

Paul Barsness moved to approve the following four items. Second by Joe Fox. Passed unanimously.

- Mileage reimbursement rate will be the current federal rate, which is 54.5 cents a mile for 2018
- Designate Riverwood Bank in Morris as the official depository
- Designate the Grant County Herald as the official newspaper
- Designate check signing authority to Chair Swanson, Vice Chair Wenstrom, Secretary/Treasurer Ennen, Watershed Coordinator Adams, Fiscal Agent representative Chris Staebler.

Paul Groneberg moved to approve the December 29, 2017 Treasurer's Report as presented. Second by John Lindquist. Passed unanimously.

Jeanne Ennen moved to approve the January 31, 2018 Treasurer's Report as presented. Second by Paul Barsness. Passed unanimously.

Joe Fox moved to approve signing a new Contract for Services with Stevens SWCD for Host District support at a rate of \$5000 per year. Second by Clint Schuerman.

Business Meeting

Steph updated the board on current grant funding available and timelines for grant expirations coming up. There was discussion on remaining 2014 Fed. 319 funds set aside for a public meeting and how to best utilize that before its expiration date (August 31st, 2018). Another seasonal monitoring technician will be hired with SWAG and Pre-WRAPS funding. The board liked the format of the summary spreadsheet.

There is funding left in the 2016 CWF grant for PTMApp development. Initially, the watershed coordinator was going to complete some of this work, and when a new coordinator was hired, that responsibility was shifted to HEI. Due to the fact that HEI has completed extra work on this project, HEI has requested additional funding. This remaining funding (\$3700) could be used to pay part of this request. The JPB asked earlier if there was another way the funding could be spent. There is not, currently, so it is the TAC's recommendation that the funding be paid to HEI. The board agreed that upon completion of the project, this could be paid to HEI.

There are trainings by BWSR and HEI being scheduled this month. Joe Fox moved to approve allowing Steph to attend this half-day training. Second by Rod Wenstrom. Passed unanimously.

WRAPs Cycle 2

The purpose of the public participation grant was discussed, along with a review of the objectives and budget for the grant. Jeanne Ennen moved to approve the work plan and budget for submission to MPCA. Second by Paul Groneberg. Passed unanimously. This will go through MPCA contracting and hopefully be ready for grant execution in July.

Future Funding

There is a 2018 Federal 319 grant application period closing soon. The TAC is recommending applying for a grant to promote soil health. They have convened a sub-committee to draft this proposal. Board members suggested putting responsibilities on grant recipients which would ensure they share their successes with others to promote soil health.

Beginning in 2020, future 319 grants will be funded differently. They are looking to zone in on smaller sections for a longer amount of time. The EPA is requiring all states to implement a focused watershed approach in an attempt to remove impairments. This program would approve large amounts of money awarded over a ten-year time span to areas such as 10-digit HUCs. They are looking to gauge interest now in order to start work in 2020. We will need to start developing a plan in August, 2018 if we're interested in using this funding.

Muddy Creek MPCA Triannual Review

The TAC is recommending that the JPB support the submission of a comment on this review. The Muddy Creek watershed is listed as a Class 7 area. Because of this, it cannot be listed impaired. The TAC believes this will hamper applications for grant funding that could be used to improve this watershed. Rod Wenstrom moved to support submission of a comment suggesting changing Muddy Creek to Class 2. Second by Jeanne Ennen. Passed unanimously.

1W1P

Steph mentioned current grant activity and timelines. There will be meetings of the citizens advisory committees coming up. EOR will be giving a remote access summary of activity on 1W1P next month. TAC members are working with EOR on prioritizing areas which need help. The citizens advisory committee will have input on this as well.

Coordinator Report

She attended the Morris Area High School Science Fair as a judge. She attended the Stevens County Water Plan meeting. She has some trainings coming, and the citizen advisory committee meetings for 1W1P.

TAC Report

Looking forward to PTMAApp completion and the ability to use this model.

Agency Reports

No further agency reports.

Jeanne Ennen and Keith Swanson described current activity in the Bois de Sioux Watershed. They are looking at finding a fiscal agent and a JPB of the 13 involved counties.

Next meeting will be Friday, March 9, 2018. Please dress for a photo to be taken that day.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne Ennen, Secretary/Treasurer

