

Pomme de Terre River Association  
Meeting Minutes  
2 p.m. October 18, 2019  
AgCountry Farm Credit Services, Morris MN

Chair Swanson called to order at 2 p.m. Those present introduced themselves to the newly-hired Project Coordinator and she told us a little about herself.

Board members present: Keith Swanson, Jeanne Ennen, Joe Fox, Tim Kalina, Rod Wenstrom, Dave Lonergan. Others present: Andy Albertsen, TAC Chair; Matt Solemsaas & Chris Staebler, Stevens SWCD; Pete Waller, BWSR; Paul Wymar, MPCA; Micayla Lakey, newly hired Project Coordinator.

There was no quorum so no action was taken at the meeting.

Since we have contracted with EOR and their current bill is within the contracted amount, those present agreed that it was ok for Chris to send this payment prior to board approval. The board looked over the Treasurer's Report. As discussed at the last meeting, SWCDs have been paid for their time through 8-31-19 and their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reports at the end of the year will include September, due to the staff change.

Those present indicated that the 2018 draft audit of the financial statements should be sent to the state by the 10-31-19 deadline.

#### **Grant Funding**

Those present also discussed current grant funding available. Pete noted that amendments for both the 2017 and 1W1P grants have been executed so both are officially extended to expire 12-31-20.

Paul Wymar noted that pending 319 grants are being held up at MPCA. Timeline will probably begin when the grant is actually executed.

#### **New Hire**

An employment contract was signed between the PDTRA and Micayla Lakey for \$23 per hour full time with a performance review at 6 months.

#### **TAC Report**

Andy gave a report from the TAC. There is \$1M available for cover crop projects. Deadline for applications is October 24. The TAC thinks this would be a good complement to the soil health team that was recently organized. They will review a draft application started by Jared House in Grant SWCD. With agreement from the board, they will submit a \$250,000 request.

#### **One Watershed One Plan**

Andy showed the board the new timeline for 1W1P planning activity. The draft plan has been sent to JPB members and local LGUs. Staff will present the plan to SWCD and Commissioner boards. They would like comments back by Dec 2. The consultant will revise and have the plan ready for the joint meeting where entities will approve the plan for 60-day formal review. Plan will be sent to DNR, MDA, DOH, MPCA, BWSR, counties, cities, towns, and SWCDs. Then after 90-day review it will be submitted to BWSR for approval. Once approved, the local LGUs and JPB will adopt the plan. Pete summarized for the board what they should be focusing on when reviewing the plan. Big-picture items such as are we missing any resource concerns, priority areas, and other things discussed in the executive summary. He also showed

the board the list of discussion points for the plan. This is what will be shared with local staff to help explain the plan to them. If the plan is approved and submitted to BWSR by 12-31-20, we will receive \$717,428 in implementation funding.

**Agency Reports**

Pete mentioned that the watershed implementation funding available will come every two years and allow groups to forego competitive applications. It's designed to be more consistent funding.

Paul Wymar mentioned that the 319 small watershed grants to be awarded in the future will pair well using these implementation grants as match.

Keith thanked the agency representatives and TAC representatives for their work.

The next meeting will be held November 8 at 9:00 a.m. at the ARS Soils Lab in Morris. The December 13 meeting will be held jointly with the TAC and 1W1P and will be a longer meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeanne Ennen, Secretary/Treasurer

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Date