

Pomme de Terre River Association
Joint Powers Board
Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 12, 2020
1:30 p.m. via video conference

Chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Board members present: Keith Swanson, Paul Groneberg, Jeanne Ennen, Joe Fox, John Lindquist, Rod Wenstrom, Dave Lonergan, Keith Englund, Dan Morrill. Others present: Micayla Lakey, Watershed Coordinator; Ben Underhill, TAC Chair; Brad Mergens, West Otter Tail SWCD; Paul Wymar, MPCA; Pete Waller, BWSR; Chris Staebler, Stevens SWCD.

Minutes from the last meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Dave Lonergan and second by Rod Wenstrom.

The Agenda was unanimously approved on a motion by Joe Fox and a second by John Lindquist.

The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Keith Englund and second by Jeanne Ennen.

Paul Groneberg made a motion to pay the bills. Motion was unanimously approved after a second by Dan Morrill.

Coordinator's Report

Micayla noted that there are 2 Grant SWCD contracts to be approved and some Swift SWCD alternative tile intake contracts to be approved soon. Grant updates showing what's encumbered and what is left to be spent were reviewed. The 2016 federal 319 grant is officially extended until 8/31/2021. There is only \$3800 unencumbered in that grant at this time. Projects are starting to be encumbered under the 2019 Clean Water Fund Grant. All comments have been addressed and the CWMP is ready for JPB approval for submission to BWSR. The soil health sub-committee is meeting next week to get an update on where things are. 2 soil health days are planned at this time. Micayla is meeting with the We Are Water group next week regarding that exhibit which will be coming to the area in August. BWSR asked her to participate in a workshop panel on watershed implementation in October.

TAC Report

Ben reported no major changes to the CWMP after all comments have now been addressed. The TAC recommends that the JPB submit the plan for BWSR 90-day review. Micayla showed the board the current draft and reviewed the Executive Summary. Pete Waller noted that the essence of the plan since the last time the board reviewed it has not changed significantly. Joe Fox moved to approve the CWMP for submittal to BWSR for their final 90-day review. The motion was approved after a second by Keith Englund, with 1 opposed.

Ben also noted that another round of federal 319 grant funding will open for applications soon. The process and structure are different and will focus on smaller sub-regions of watersheds. The TAC recommends that the JPB pursue the next round of funding. Micayla will submit an application with input from the TAC as to which sub-watershed would be chosen. Information from the 1W1P will probably be used to identify the priority area. Jeanne Ennen moved to approve submitting the TAC's application. The motion was unanimously approved after a second by John Lindquist.

Brad Mergens spoke about discussion that was had at the last TAC meeting. Greg Lillemon had brought up the possibility of Micayla teleworking permanently if she would like to. Brad started speaking to Matt from the Stevens SWCD and others on the TAC about this. They will explore it further and provide recommendations to the JPB if that is something they are interested in. The board discussed their opinions on this. Rod Wenstrom moved to approve a teleworking schedule, to include 2 days per week in the Morris office, for a trial period of 6 months with re-evaluation at that time. Paul Groneberg seconded and the motion unanimously passed. Micayla's schedule will be set and then posted in the office and advertised on web site.

Agency Reports

Paul from MPCA congratulated the board on moving forward with the CWMP process.

Pete from BWSR also commended the board and staff involved on working on this plan. The north region BWSR committee will likely review this August 5. They may want some input from PDTRA representatives. He assumed it will be approved by them and ready for approval and implementation shortly after that. The next competitive CWF application round will open after that. He also noted that past watershed coordinator Brett Arne and his wife recently had a baby girl.

Next meeting will be held July 10. We hope to meet in person next time but the location and logistics have not been determined.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Ennen, Secretary/Treasurer

Date