

Pomme de Terre River Association
Joint Powers Board
Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 11, 2020
9:00 a.m. via WebEx conference call

Chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

John Lindquist moved to approve the Minutes from the October meeting. Second by Rod Wenstrom. Passed unanimously.

Keith Englund moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Dan Morrill. Passes unanimously.

Paul Groneberg moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Dave Lonergan. Passed unanimously.

Jeanne Ennen moved to approve the bills to pay as listed, with payments to the Grant and WOT project payments being made as soon as possible after reimbursement for those is received (even if that is before the next meeting). Second by Keith Englund. The board discussed current cash flow issues, potential solutions, possibility of taking out short term operating loans, affect of county contributions and reimbursable vs up-front grants, etc. Motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator's Report

- Micayla recently attended the virtual BWSR Academy. She has been meeting with other local agencies to clarify the PDTRA role in water control management plans. She is working on closing out two grants which expire at the end of the year. We are finishing up with expenditures on these grants now and will receive the 10% retainages when those have been reconciled with BWSR. She is working with the TAC on the submission of the Watershed Based Implementation Funding work plan which will be submitted as soon as possible. She also has a soil health committee meeting coming up on January 13.
- She is working with Matt and John at Stevens SWCD to get the pickup sold. Valu Ford values it at \$4500. Dan Morrill moved to set a minimum bid of \$4000 for the truck, with bids accepted until the week of the next meeting. Second by Paul Groneberg. Passed unanimously.
- The personnel committee still needs to complete a 1-year performance review for Micayla and a new employment contract should be implemented.

- She has been working from home entirely since the governor's latest closures. The board would like her to work from the office as soon as she feels safe to do so.

TAC Report

Ben Underhill reported for the TAC. They are working with the DNR and county highway engineers on Water Control Structure management plans and procedures related to those. The subcommittee is working on final numbers for the 1W1P implementation funding work plan. They should be able to request this funding within the next couple months.

Agency Reports

- Pete Waller, BWSR, reiterated that the watershed based funding request is different and they are working through these issues. He mentioned to Chris and Micayla to contact him any time with questions when working on the grant close-outs and payments. He mentioned to the commissioners that the latest budget forecast for the state is significantly improved. He thanked the retiring board members for their efforts.
- Paul Wymar, MPCA, also expressed his appreciation for the work of the retiring members. There was a nice article on the MPCA web site talking about the soil health work in the Pomme de Terre. He will send out the link.

The next meeting will be held January 8 at 9 a.m.

Keith wished everyone well in the future. John Lindquist reported Kurt Mortenson will be his replacement on the board of commissioners and he may or may not be appointed as the PDTRA representative going forward. Kurt attended the meeting today and thanked the group for the opportunity to attend.

Other board members expressed their thanks and congratulated outgoing board members as well.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Ennen, Secretary/Treasurer

Date