

Pomme de Terre River Association
Joint Powers Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2021
Morris Fire Hall

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

Members present: Joe Fox, Kurt Mortenson, Jeanne Ennen, Paul Groneberg, Rod Wenstrom, Dave Lonergan, Dan Morrill.

Members present via web call: Ken Johnson, Keith Englund, Jeff Klages

Others present: Chris Staebler, Stevens SWCD; Micayla Lakey, Watershed Coordinator,

Others present via call: Pete Waller, BWSR; Jared House, Grant SWCD; Danny Tuckett, Big Stone County; Brad Mergens, West Otter Tail SWCD; Paul Wymar, MPCA.

Minutes from the January 8 Meeting were approved on a motion by Jeanne Ennen and second by Joe Fox.

Agenda was approved unanimously on a motion by Joe Fox and second by Dave Lonergan.

Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously on a motion by Paul Groneberg and second by Dan Morrill.

WRAPS Grant Update

The TAC is considering the possibility of requesting an extension for this grant so that we can spend remaining funds, including funding that we haven't been able to spend on outreach because of Covid restrictions. Jared House has been talking with CINRAM at the University of MN about a joint project which would develop a directory of landowners who use soil health practices and are available for consultation to other landowners. Jared and Micayla have drafted grant proposal for funding through the University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnership that will fund CINRAMs involvement in the project. PdTRA and SWCD time toward will be compensated through the current WRAPS grant. Paul Groneberg moved to approve collaboration on this project. Second by Dave Lonergan. Passed unanimously.

We are also working on sub-watershed reports through this grant. We would like to contract RMB Labs to complete at least two of these reports. Each report would cost \$2700-3500 according to the proposal received. Joe Fox moved to contract with RMB for the completion of these reports using funding available through the grant. Second by Dan Morrill. Passed unanimously.

Englund moved to request a one-year extension on the WRAPS II grant to facilitate these activities. Second by Kurt Mortenson. Passed unanimously.

WBIF Grant

We received the grant agreement for the WBIF grant of \$717,428. Pete noted that the grant agreement and requirements are very similar to all BWSR grants. Joe Fox moved to approve the grant agreement. Keith Englund second. Passed unanimously.

Keith moved to pre-approve the work plan as developed/completed by the TAC. Joe Fox seconded.
Passed unanimously.

Coordinator's Report

Micayla completed eLink reporting for BWSR and we are now awaiting reconciliations. She submitted invoices for 3 reimbursements from MPCA. We've received one and the others should be coming in shortly. Once received, pending project payments to SWCDs that were approved in past meetings will be paid out.

She gave the board an overview of grant funding available. Work on the open grants is progressing. The next to close will be the 2016 federal 319 grant and we expect to be able to utilize all of this funding. 2019 CWF projects with encumbered funding have been recently completed or are expected to be completed soon. Work on the 2019 Federal 319 grant is just getting started. As of now, most funding expended has been for LGU time.

TAC Report

Danny Tuckett reported on TAC activity which has mostly been focused on the WBIF grant and work plan. Joe Otto from Big Stone SWCD has taken another position and he will be replaced on the TAC.

Agency Reports

Pete Waller, BWSR, expressed his appreciation for the work of Micayla and the TAC on the WBIF work plan and he looks forward to the group being able to start work on the plan.

Paul Wymar, MPCA, also expressed his appreciation for the work of Micayla and the TAC on this grant and he's excited to see the work being implemented. He can't say whether we'll be granted the extension to the WRAPS grant, but he thinks we have a strong case. He's working with Micayla and the TAC to craft the best language to convey this in our request.

Next meeting will be held March 12 at 9 a.m. Micayla will update the group and cancel the meeting if we don't have business to conduct.

Meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Ennen, Secretary/Treasurer

Date