

February 10, 2020
BUFFER COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Present: President Linda Vavra, Board Managers Allen Wold, Scott Gillespie (by phone), John Kapphahn. Also present: Attorney Lukas Croaker (by phone), Administrator Jamie Beyer, Technician Troy Fridgen, Landowner Tom Zych, and Landowner Jim Zych.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss reports received from Grant, Traverse, and Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation Districts on parcels that may have potential non-compliance with the Buffer Law (Grant: 54, Traverse: 13, Wilkin: 4).

Manager Wold presented 5 potential alternative practices, identified from the Field Office Technical Guide:

- 1) No-Till (329)
- 2) No-Till (329) + Negative Slope
- 3) No-Till (329) + Negative Slope + Side Inlets
- 4) Cover Crops (340)
- 5) Reduced Tillage (345)

Committee members were amenable to the practices, though more information is needed for #5. More information would be needed on #5. Manager Wold suggested that the District purchase seeding equipment that could be made available to rent by landowners.

Administrator Beyer relayed that she has spoken with Grant, Traverse, and Wilkin SWCD's, and that all three offer alternative practices that encompass these practices, but the actual standards vary from county-to-county. Committee members requested that a meeting be organized with the Buffer Committee and SWCD buffer staff, so that Committee members can learn about the differences between alternative practices offered in each area. Supervisors will be invited to attend, also.

The Committee returned to the potential non-compliance lists provided by Grant County SWCD. Manager Kapphahn confirmed with Grant County SWCD that their potential non-compliance is based on 2017 aerial pictometry, that not all sites were visited by SWCD staff, and that no correspondence has been sent to landowners. Attorney Croaker reiterated that the District's Buffer Rule, based on Minnesota Statue, states that SWCD staff are to make an initial review, contact landowners and offer technical assistance.