

Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District

Declaration Regarding Conducting Meetings by Telephone or Other Electronic Means

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019, commonly known as COVID-19, a respiratory disease-that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has identified the public health threat posed by COVID-19, and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur; and

WHEREAS, on January 31st, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning on January 27; 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 11th, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, after its widespread impact reached 112 countries and its effect was felt in nearly every region; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13th, 2020 President Donald Trump declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a National Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13th, 2020, Governor Tim Walz signed Executive Order 20-01 declaring a Peacetime State of Emergency to authorize any and all necessary resources to be used in support of the COVID-19 response; and

WHEREAS, on March 25th, 2020, Governor Tim Walz signed Executive Order 20-20, directing Minnesotans to stay at home and shelter in place.

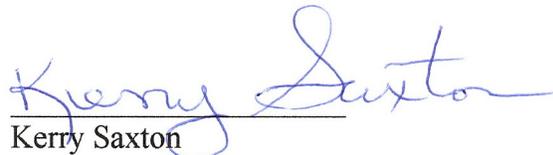
WHEREAS, I have consulted with the District Manager, who has in turn consulted with the Sherburne County Attorney's Office, as legal counsel for the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District ("SWCD"), regarding the feasibility of conducting in-person meetings of the SWCD Board of Supervisors during the health pandemic.

NOW THEREFORE, I DETERMINE AND DECLARE, as Chairperson of the SWCD Board of Supervisor and under the authority provided in Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, that in-person meetings of the SWCD Board of Supervisors are impractical or imprudent during the COVID-19 pandemic and that attendance by the public at Board of Supervisor meetings is not feasible in light of Executive Order 20-20 directing Minnesotans to stay at home.

I FURTHER DECLARE, that until further notice or until the Governor and the Executive Council determines that the State of Minnesota is no longer in a State of Emergency, meetings of the Sherburne SWCD Board of Supervisors shall be conducted in the following manner:

1. Meetings of the SWCD Board of Supervisors shall be conducted by telephone or other electronic means, in compliance with the procedures identified in in Minn. Stat. § 13D.021. One Board member or staff member may be (but is not required to be) present at the Board's regular meeting location to monitor and facilitate the meeting.
2. All Board votes shall be conducted by roll call.
3. Members of the public may not attend SWCD Board meetings at the Board's regular meeting location. SWCD staff shall determine a practical method of allowing members of the public who would otherwise wish to attend the meeting to monitor the meeting in a manner that would allow them to hear all discussions and votes of the Board.
4. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, subd. 3, a member of the public monitoring the meeting from a remote location may be required to pay the additional costs that SWCD may incur as a result of the additional connection for such person.
4. SWCD staff shall provide notice that SWCD Board of Supervisor meetings will be conducted by telephone or other electronic means as required by Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, subd. 4.

Dated: 3-28-2020



Kerry Saxton
Chair, Board of Supervisors
Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District