

Bridgewater Township Newsletter

December 2020

March Bridgewater Township Election

The annual election and meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9th, 2021. This election will include four of the five Supervisor positions and the position of Treasurer. Candidates that would like to apply for the position of Supervisor or Treasurer need to obtain and submit the forms between December 29th and January 12th at 5:00 pm. Please contact the Clerk for copies of the forms and for further information regarding the positions.

- One Treasurer, 2-year term
- One Supervisor "A" – 3-year term
- One Supervisor "B" – 1-year term
- One Supervisor "D" – 3-year term
- One Supervisor "E" – 2-year term

Snow Removal and Mailboxes

We would like to remind Bridgewater Township residents that it is unlawful to deposit snow onto public roadways or to push snow across public roadways per Minnesota Statute 160.2715. Snow deposited or pushed onto the road can create hazards to the public and snow removal operations. Citizens that violate this statute could face misdemeanor and/or civil penalties if the snow creates a hazard that contributes to an accident. The Township snow removal/sanding trucks will be out as soon as possible following a 2" snow event.

The Township is not responsible for any damage resulting from snow thrown in the road right-of-way. Mailboxes damaged during snow removal operations will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Only those mailboxes located and installed in compliance with MN State Statute 160.072 and MN Rule 8818.0100, and damaged by direct contact with township equipment will be repaired at the Township's expense.

Internet access in rural areas

Internet options are often limited in rural areas. While current fiber optic and satellite dish internet has some availability in the area, there is a new internet option that is being talked about. Space X has recently started launching a series of satellites with a goal of providing affordable, reliable, internet services worldwide. The program is currently in limited beta testing with expanded beta testing beginning in January 2021. Below are two websites with information regarding this new internet provider.

<https://www.satelliteinternet.com/providers/starlink/>

<https://www.starlink.com/>

Farmers Protecting Rice Creek by Alan Kraus

The Cannon River Watershed Partnership and area farmers are learning how an intensive use of cover crops in a 4,100-acre watershed could impact the water quality and stream habitat of Rice Creek, the only trout stream in Rice County Minnesota. They're also learning how the cover crop practice impacts farm profit. Since 2018, 11 farmers have been planting cover crops on 940 acres, 27% of the tillable acres, in the Rice Creek watershed and CRWP along with St. Olaf College have been testing water from 15 drainage tiles to compare nitrate concentrations between fields with cover crops and those without. In addition, two stream locations are being tested for nitrate, total suspended solids and total phosphorus along with macroinvertebrate and fish populations (to be surveyed in 2021) to compare current and previous conditions. John Becker, one of the Rice Creek area farmers participating in this project said that he is excited about this project because cover crops protect the soil and prevent erosion. "Once the soil gets amended, the soil grows better crops. This is good for the soil, good for the crops and good for the stream," said Becker.

Findings through 2019

- 27% of the tillable acres – Planted with cover crops
- 29.7% less Nitrate in tile drainage with cover crop
- Lower Stream Nitrate – now below 10 mg/liter
- 16.1% higher Soybean yields when following a cover crop
- 1.8% lower Corn yields when following a cover crop
- 6.1% less Nitrogen/Bu of Corn when following a cover crop
- Estimated 9000 lbs. of Nitrate & 200,000 lbs. of sediment prevented from entering Rice Creek annually

Bridgewater Township Board – Contact Information

Glen Castore – Board Chair

Kathleen Kopseng – Supervisor

Thomas Hart – Supervisor

Tracy Jonkman – Supervisor

Andy Ebling - Supervisor

Email: board@bridgewaterwp.org

Frances Boehning – Clerk

Phone: 507-645-1656

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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 am to noon.

Township Website: www.bridgewaterwp.org

Cindy Nash – Township Zoning Administrator

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