

**DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, April 12, 2012

4:30 P.M.

USDA Service Center

SWCD Office

Preston, MN 55965

***Minutes***

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Gossman, Leonard Leutink, Pam Mensink

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Hazel, Travis Willford.

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Rasmussen, Jeanette Serfling, Anne Koliha, Robert Joachim (NRCS), Tom Kaase (County Commissioner), Karin Grimlund (Project Get Outdoors)

Leutink called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m. A quorum is present.

**I. AGENDA**

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the agenda. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**II. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the March 2012 Treasurer's report, subject to audit. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the January – March 2012 supervisors vouchers. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the following consent agenda items:

1. Secretary's Report – March 15, 2012 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Hiawatha Valley RC&D Council Membership for 2012 in the amount of \$300.00

Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**IV. REPORTS**

1. Supervisor's activity report

Mensink reported doing the statement opening and check review on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Leutink had nothing to report.

Gossman reported attending a Forestry Committee meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. He reported on upcoming events on the Lost Creek Trail.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

Gossman commented on an article in the Fillmore County Journal by Loni Kemp in which Grooters and Thesing were mentioned as "conservation experts" who provided information on problems and programs that could be addressed on her property.

3. Administrator's report

a. Project Get Outdoors – Karin Grimlund

Karin Grimlund, the director for the National Trout Center, was in attendance as a spokesperson for Project Get Outdoors. She talked about the program and the benefits to families and children. She described various forms of support that is needed as the program is free to those who wish to participate. A Community Asset Survey was given to everyone to complete and return to her.

b. Update on staff recognition for length of service

Rasmussen had suggested to the board the idea of giving a gift certificate to employees at each five year anniversary at increasing dollar amounts.

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to implement a staff recognition for length of service program where a gift certificate is given at the following five year increments: 10 years - \$25, 15 years - \$50, 20 years - \$75, 25 years - \$100. Affirmative: Mensink, Gossman, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

c. Rush-Pine Watershed Farmer Councils

The first meeting of the Rush-Pine Watershed Farmer Council was held at the Freemont Town Hall. Jerry Hildebrandt recruited various people who will be sharing their experiences. The next meeting will be scheduled for the end of June. Water quality data will be received from Winona State and MPCA. The effort will be supported through the Comprehensive Strategy grant.

d. Field day updates

A Land Application/Grazing Field Day is scheduled for June 19, 2012 at the Brian Hazel farm from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. followed by lunch served by the Cattleman's Association. Various speakers have been lined up for the afternoon to speak about grazing.

On June 28, 2012 a No-Till field day is scheduled at the Travis Willford farm from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. followed by lunch served by the Pork Producers. F & M Bank will be a sponsor of the event.

e. East Willow flood control structure maintenance update

Rasmussen reported the Sentence to Serve crew will help with the maintenance required on the East Willow flood control structures. The crew leader will go out with Grooters and Brent Kohn, Fillmore County Highway Department, to see what is required.

f. Root River Landscape Plan update

Rasmussen reported the plan is focused on forest stewardship. The plan writer will have the plan done in September and will focus on the Rushford-Peterson and Forestville areas. Landowners in those areas will be contacted to do plans.

g. Conservation Corps apprentice hiring update

Rasmussen reported the Conservation Corps are interviewing apprentice candidates and will be matching a candidate to the position according to their qualifications. The personnel committee will be contacted to review the candidate information. When the apprentice starts, he or she will meet with the forestry committee to determine what projects will be worked on. All costs for the apprentice are paid by the Conservation Corps.

4. NRCS

Joachim reported 24 EQIP contracts and 19 CSP contracts have been approved which require field verifications. Byam has been detailed to Wabasha County for 60 days and White will be taking maternity leave in early May. Many projects are in various stages of construction.

Speakers for the No-Till Field Day include Travis Willford talking about his no-till operation; Jim Fasching, Midwest Labs, who will talk about soil amendments and sampling techniques in a no-till operation; Nick Heronimus, Syngenta Seeds, who will talk about seed varieties specific to no-till; and Gary Thome, an economist and instructor at Riverland College in Austin will speak about the economics of no-till versus conventional tillage. A Farmer Panel will discuss their no-till experiences. Equipment will also be on display.

5. County

Kaase reported the County is continuing to meet on the frac sand issue. Roads are a big part of the discussions in respect to enforcing road limits and trucks having a secure load. A one year moratorium is in place to give more time to acquire information. The frac sand committee is scheduled to meet again on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider approval of 2011 BWSR Year-end Financial reports

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the 2011 BWSR Year-end Financial reports. Affirmative: Mensink, Gossman, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider High School Scholarship Recipient per recommendation of Education Committee

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to award the high school scholarship to Shannon Jo Merkel, a student at Kingsland High School, per the recommendation of the Education Committee. Affirmative: Mensink, Gossman, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider approval to invest \$90,441.00 from FY2012 BWSR Livestock Waste Management Grant

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the investment of \$90,441.00 from FY2012 BWSR Livestock Waste Management Grant. Affirmative: Mensink, Gossman, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider approval to pay membership for Grazing Specialist for Midwest Forage Association (\$45/yr) and Grazing Land Conservation Association (\$35/two yr.)

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the payment of memberships for the Grazing Specialist to the Midwest Forage Association in the amount of \$45.00 for a one year membership and the Grazing Land Conservation Association in the amount of \$35.00 for a two year membership. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider approval of amendment to Grazing Challenge Grant Contract GRO48, Nathan Redalen extending completion date to June 30, 2012

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the amendment to the Grazing Challenge Grant Contract, GRO48, Nathan Redalen, extending the completion date to June 30, 2012, due to the delay of his EQIP payment. Affirmative: Mensink, Gossman, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider cancellation of Grazing Challenge Grant Contract GRF47, Jim Norstad, in the amount of \$6,000.00

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the cancellation of Grazing Challenge Grant Contract GRF47, Jim Norstad, in the amount of \$6,000.00. Affirmative: Mensink, Gossman, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider return of Grazing Challenge Grant funds in the amount of \$6,000.00 to BWSR

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the return of Grazing Challenge Grant funds in the amount of \$6,000.00 to BWSR. Affirmative: Mensink, Gossman, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider approval of step increase for employee #23019 to Grade 6, Step 3, per recommendation of the Administrator, effective April 13, 2012

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the step increase for employee #23019 to Grade 6, step 3, per the recommendation of the Administrator, effective April 13, 2012. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider approval of the following State Cost Share Contracts:

FY12-08	William Yahnke	Grassed Waterway	\$1,620.00
FY12-09	Lyle Meldahl	Grassed Waterway	\$483.75

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the following State Cost Share Contracts:

FY12-08	William Yahnke	Grassed Waterway	\$1,620.00
FY12-09	Lyle Meldahl	Grassed Waterway	\$483.75

Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Consider approval of Clean Water Fund Cost Share Contract FY12-01 Brit Schriever, Manure Storage, in the amount of \$90,150.00

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the Clean Water Fund Cost Share Contract FY12-01 Brit Schriever, Manure Storage, in the amount of \$90,150.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

11. Consider approval of AgBMP loan application for Brit Schriever, Ag Waste Project, in the amount of \$100,000.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the AgBMP loan application for Brit Schriever, Ag Waste Project, in the amount of \$100,000.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

12. Consider approval to authorize Administrator to Sign subcontract in the amount of \$12,540.00 for sediment fingerprinting sample collection for Root River Sediment Budget project

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to authorize the Administrator to sign the subcontract in the amount of \$12,540.00 for sediment fingerprinting sample collection for Root River Sediment Budget project. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the April 2012 payables. Affirmative: Mensink, Gossman, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Leutink volunteered.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to adjourn the meeting. Affirmative: Mensink, Gossman, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leonard Leutink  
Board Chair