

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 12, 2014

4:30 P.M.

USDA Service Center

SWCD Office

Preston, MN 55965

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Gossman, Leonard Leutink, Pam Mensink, Travis Willford, Brian Hazel

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Rasmussen, Jeanette Serfling, Dan Bradt, (CCC Apprentice), Jessica Bronson (NRCS), Tom Kaase (County Commissioner), David Rosmann, (LSP)

Hazel called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve the May, 2014 Treasurer's report, subject to audit. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Secretary's Report – May 15, 2014 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Payment of State Cost Share Contract FY13-04 Jerry Olson, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$1,560.00
3. Payment of State Cost Share Contract FY13-10 Ryan Thon, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$825.00
4. Payment of State Cost Share Contract FY13-11 Matt Reiland, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$638.00
5. Payment of State Cost Share Contract FY14-01 Tim Sand, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$1,716.00

6. Payment of State Cost Share Contract FY13-05 Don Cooper, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$1,500.00
7. Payment of State Cost Share Contract FY12-20 Feine Farms Partnership, Grassed Waterway in the amount of \$456.00
8. Payment of State Cost Share Contract FY12-10 Rodney Koliha, Grassed Waterway with tile, in the amount of \$2,498.63

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford reported doing the statement opening and check detail.

Hazel had nothing to report.

Mensink had nothing to report.

Leutink had nothing to report.

Gossman reported attending a Forestry meeting at Isinours. A Forestry Field Day is being planned for July 30th with the assistance of the two interns. He also attended the Root River Citizen's Conservations meeting in Chatfield.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

3. Administrator's report

a. Eagle Bluff events schedule

Rasmussen reported the two "Dinner on the Bluff" events being sponsored are a Driftless Zone video on April 4th and Soil Health on February 7th. The Outstanding Conservationist recognition will also be on February 7th at Eagle Bluff.

b. Women Caring for the Land workshop update

Rasmussen reported only nine had signed up for the workshop. Bronson and Koliha will be on the bus to answer questions of those attending. Jim Paulson will be available to talk about the forage plots.

c. Root River Citizen Conversations update

Rasmussen updated the board on the upcoming Root River Citizen Conversation meetings. The meetings are gathering information about local resources on how to care for our water and watershed.

Bronson entered the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

d. Root River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy update
Rasmussen reported she and the other counties in the watershed have been working on the impairment table and the practices to fix the impairments which is part of the Root River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy. PCA will do the rest of the document.

e. County fair booth and radio interview
Rasmussen reported the SWCD fair booth would be in the west end of the commercial building this year. A banner from Agroforestry has been requested for display. Also on display will be "root boxes" which will tie in with the Soil Health theme.

Serfling told the board about the SWCD banner and magnets that will be ordered for use at the fair.

The radio interview will be on Thursday afternoon as in the past. Mensink volunteered to speak.

Rasmussen introduced Dan Bradt, one of the Conservation Corp apprentices.

f. LSP Project updates – David Rosmann
Rosmann reported he was hired by the Land Stewardship project to work with landowners on cover crops, with conservation technicians in planning field days, and scheduling "kitchen table conversations".

He has been assisting Bernau with nutrient management plans and Thomas with grazing plans.

Kaase entered the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Rosmann left the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

4. NRCS

Bronson reported the new soil con, Travis Mead, started on June 2, 2014.

She reported her office is busy with construction, CSP approvals, and CRP sign-ups.

5. County

Kaase reported Commissioner Amundrud has retired and four people have filed for his position so a primary will be held.

The County is in contract negotiations and working on the budget. In order to keep the levy at 0%, they are looking at other options for funding which include implementing a "Wheelage Tax" or increasing the sales tax by 0.5% which, between the two, could potentially generate \$1 million dollars for the county.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider cancellation of District Cost Share Contract WB14-02, Kent Duxbury, Farmstead Windbreak

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Leutink to approve the cancellation of District Cost Share Contract WB14-02, Kent Duxbury, Farmstead Windbreak. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider amendment to State Cost Share Contract FY13-07 Lynn Steinbrink, Grassed Waterways, extending the completion date to December 31, 2014 due to construction delays

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to approve the amendment to State Cost Share Contract FY13-07 Lynn Steinbrink, Grassed Waterways, extending the completion date to December 31, 2014 due to construction delays. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider Resolution 14-01 DNR Deer Population Goals and Deer Damage to Forest and Crop Land

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Mensink to approve Resolution 14-01 DNR Deer Population Goals and Deer Damage to Forest and Crop Land, as presented, and submit it for consideration at the SE MASWCD Resolutions meeting on June 25, 2014. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider return of FY2012 State Cost Share funds to BWSR in the amount of \$3,660.46

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the return of FY2012 State Cost Share funds to BWSR in the amount of \$3,660.46. Funds are slippage from completed contracts and cannot be re-allocated. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Discuss summer construction cost share program

Rasmussen explained the summer construction cost share program provides funding for seeding so a project area can be left unplanted with a crop in the spring. One of the approved contracts is in construction but would still like to use the funds to seed after completion. Board consensus was to allow the seeding after the projection as it will provide better erosion protection.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Appoint Hiring Committee for Conservation Technician position

Gossman reported having a conflict and asked to be replaced on the Personnel Committee for this hiring process. Mensink volunteered to replace him. The Hiring Committee will consist of Hazel, Mensink, Jennifer Ronnenberg and Rasmussen.

Thirty-four applications were received. Rankings will be done by June 25th and interviews to take place the week of July 7th. Board consensus was to interview the top four applicants.

Kaase suggested doing a telephone pre-screening to weed out the bad applicants before the interviews. He will provide Rasmussen with an example of what the County uses.

2. Consider approval for Chair to sign BWSR FY2015 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement in the amount of \$22,500.00

Rasmussen reported the grant agreement hasn't been received, but this approval will expedite the process when it is received.

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Mensink to grant approval for Chair to sign the BWSR FY2015 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement in the amount of \$22,500.00. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider approval for Chair to sign DNR FY2015 Healthy Forests, Healthy Waters Grant Agreement

Rasmussen reported the agreement has not been received. The Grant will be for approximately \$150,000.00 to fund contractors and forestry practices plus 15% for District administrative costs.

All contracts and payments from the grant will be approved by the Board.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to grant approval for Chair to sign DNR FY2015 Healthy Forests, Healthy Water Grant Agreement. Affirmative: Leutink, Mensink, Gossman, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider approval for Chair to sign DNR Root River Watershed Grant Agreement for approximately \$4,200.00 to hire forestry intern

Rasmussen reported at the last meeting that the application for a forestry intern had not been funded, but recently received notification that it had been approved. It is possible that two interns may be funded by the grant.

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Leutink to grant approval for the Chair to sign the DNR Root River Watershed Grant Agreement for approximately \$4,200.00 to hire forestry intern(s). Affirmative: Gossman, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider approval for Administrator to offer employment contract to forestry intern(s) with approval from Personnel Committee

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Willford to grant approval for the Administrator to offer an employment contract(s) to the forestry intern(s) with approval from the Personnel Committee. Affirmative: Gossman, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider selection of 2014 Outstanding Conservationist

The board reviewed the list of names submitted by Staff. After discussion, the list was narrowed down to two names. More information will be brought back to the board at the next meeting about the two selected plus any other names that may be suggested.

7. Consider Minnesota DNR Ground Water Level Monitoring Well Agreement for FY2015

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Willford to approve the Minnesota DNR Ground Water Level Monitoring Well Agreement for FY2015. Affirmative: Gossman, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider sponsorship of the following Fillmore County 4-H awards:

Champion Exploring the Environment	\$20.00
Reserve Champion Exploring the Environment	\$20.00
Champion Fishing Sports	\$20.00
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Champion Forest Resources	\$20.00
Reserve Champion Forest Resources	\$20.00
Champion Wildlife/Biology	\$20.00
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Affirmative: Gossman, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Bronson left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the June 2014 payables. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on Tuesday, July 1st. Mensink volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leonard Leutink, Jr.