

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 16, 2015

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, Jessica Bronson (NRCS),

Gossman called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to amend and approve the agenda moving the NRCS report to the beginning of the meeting. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford. Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

4. NRCS

Bronson reported MRBI funding for the Lower South Fork Root River Watershed and the Willow Creek Watershed has been approved. There will be two signups ending on May 15th and June 19th.

CSP appointments are being made for 38-40 contracts and will need to be submitted by May 15th.

Deb Shea, Soil Tech, has been in Ohio for NRCS orientation training.

Bronson left the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve the March 2015 Treasurer's report, subject to audit. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve the January-March, 2015 supervisor's vouchers. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Leutink to approve the following consent agenda items:

1. Secretary's Report – March 19, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Payment of Clean Water Fund Community Partners Stormwater Mini-Grant Contract for Kingsland Courtyard Planning Committee in the amount of \$2,643.40

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford reported attending the Root River One Watershed One Plan Public Kickoff Meeting in Fountain.

Hazel reported attending the Root River One Watershed One Plan Public Kickoff Meeting in Fountain, attending an MRBI meeting and the East Willow meeting.

Mensink was not present at this time.

Leutink reported attending the Root River One Watershed One Plan Public Kickoff Meeting in Fountain and the planning meeting for the event.

Gossman reported attending the Water Plan meeting, the Root River One Watershed One Plan Public Kickoff Meeting in Fountain and attended the Dinner on the Bluff and the presentation of "Mysteries of the Driftless."

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

3. Administrator's report

a. East Willow Creek Watershed meeting report

Kevin Kuehner had a power point presentation on the history of the project. There was discussion on another structure that has filled in with sediment and a funding source is being looked for to help fund the cleaning out of the structure. It still performs its flood control but doesn't trap the sediment. Consensus of the group was to keep the easements in place. Maintenance will continue to be done by Sentence to Serve crews. Several years ago, one structure had an estimate in excess of \$80,000.00 to repair. The recommendation is to put it on the Dam Safety funding list with DNR.

A NRCS engineer used a pipe rover to check the condition of the pipes in four structures. A DVD and written report of the findings will be provided to the district.

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

b. Area Employee's Meeting

Rasmussen noted some of the highlights of the Area Employee's meeting.

- A bus trip is being organized by the Rice SWCD to North Dakota to talk with farmers using cover crops
- The nitrogen fertilizer plan has been signed by the MDA Commissioner
- They were informed that former NRCS staff, Doug Miller and former State Conservationist, Bill Hunt, have passed away
- Were updated on the SWCD funding initiative

c. Root River One Watershed, One Plan Public Kickoff Open House report

Rasmussen reported 85-90 people attended the RR 1W1P Kickoff Open House. Comment cards completed by those attending noted drinking water quality and flooding as the areas of highest concern. KTTC television had good coverage of the event and articles were published in the Fillmore County Journal and the Agri News.

d. Conservation Building update

MCIT is doing an appraisal of the Conservation Building. Protective posts are going to be installed by Minnesota Energy to protect the natural gas regulator on the north side of the building.

e. BWSR LCCMR Cover Crop grant

Rasmussen and Thomas attended a LCCMR Cover Crop meeting in the Twin Cities. If the legislature approves funding in the amount of \$253,000.00, Thomas will be setting up demonstration plots with farmers using different seeding mixes and methods. Field days and workshops will be conducted by University of Minnesota Extension staff and an economic analysis done by a U of M Ag professor.

f. MN State Nutrient Reduction Grant contract extension

The MN State Nutrient Reduction Grant contract has been extended until September 30th. The grant, in the amount of \$3,000.00, is being used for producer meetings, food for the meetings, and staff time for Rasmussen and Boyum.

g. Envirothon Volunteers-May 5, Farmers' Park, Lewiston

Volunteers are needed for the Oral Presentation part of the Envirothon scheduled for May 5th at Farmers' Park near Lewiston.

h. Japanese Hops found along the Root River

At the Township meeting, Emily Justen, a representative from MDA, reported Japanese Hops, an invasive, has been found along the Root River from Preston downstream. MDA is planning to spray a water-safe herbicide to control it and will be contacting landowners along the river regarding the control program.

Justen will be working to develop a Community Weed Management Area.

i. Resolutions information

Information about the proper form for a resolution was given to the Board for their review. Ideas for resolutions should be forwarded to Rasmussen and will be discussed at the May meeting.

4. NRCS
 Moved to the beginning of the meeting.

5. County

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider 2014 BWSR Year-end Financial Reports
 Motioned by Mensink seconded by Hazel to approve the 2014 BWSR Year-end Financial Reports as presented. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman.
 Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider establishing Designated Unemployment Compensation account with balance of \$10,000.00 which was previously included in Compensated Absences Account

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Mensink to establish a Designated Unemployment Compensation account, with a starting balance of \$10,000.00 which will be transferred from the Compensated Absences account. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider transfer of \$12,127.00 from District Funds to Compensated Absences per year end calculations

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Leutink to approve the transfer of \$12,127.00 from District Funds to the Compensated Absences account per 2014 year end calculations. Affirmative: Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider transfers from Conservation Planning Account to District Fund and Designated Accounts

Rasmussen reviewed the recommended transfers from the Conservation Planning Account with the Board.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Mensink to approve the following transfers:

\$142,277.02	From Conservation Planning Account	To District
\$ 12,127.00	From District	To Compensated Absences
\$ 5,583.00	From District	To Farm Bill Assistance

\$ 1,819.00	From District	To Engineering Tech
\$ 27,552.00	From District	To Non-grant Personnel
\$ 6,942.00	From District	To Health Insurance Contingency Fund
\$ 35,000.00	From District	To Vehicle Replacement
\$ 12,173.02	From District	To Special Projects

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

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

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to award Travis Troendle, of Lanesboro High School, the \$500.00 Graduating High School Senior Scholarship, per the recommendation of the Education Committee. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider the following State Cost Share Contracts:

FY15-01	Russell Stadtmueller	Grassed Waterway	\$1,848.00
FY15-05	Dean Johnson	Grassed Waterway	\$4,980.00
FY15-04	Virgil Hogie	Grassed Waterway	\$1,620.00
FY15-06	Paul Mattson	Grassed Waterway	\$840.00

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve the following State Cost Share Contracts listed below:

FY15-01	Russell Stadtmueller	Grassed Waterway	\$1,848.00
FY15-05	Dean Johnson	Grassed Waterway	\$4,980.00
FY15-04	Virgil Hogie	Grassed Waterway	\$1,620.00
FY15-06	Paul Mattson	Grassed Waterway	\$840.00

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

7. Consider Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contracts:

2015-5-R	Thomas Ellingson	Forest Stand Improvement and Pond Cleanout	\$5,212.50
2015-1-RP	Wallace Himle	Vegetative Establishment (6 ac)	\$1,800.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Leutink to approve the Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contracts listed below:

2015-5-R	Thomas Ellingson	Forest Stand Improvement and Pond Cleanout	\$5,212.50
2015-1-RP	Wallace Himle	Vegetative Establishment (6 ac)	\$1,800.00

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

8. Consider Amendment to 319 Feedlot VI Grant increasing the amount of the grant by \$18,300.00 for a total of \$68,100.00

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve the Amendment to the 319 Feedlot VI Grant increasing the amount of the grant by \$18,300.00 for a total grant of \$68,100.00. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider approval to submit Phase XV Farm Bill Assistance Partnership Grant Response Form

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Hazel to approve the submittal of the Phase XV Farm Bill Assistance Partnership Grant Response Form. Affirmative: Mensink, Hazel, Leutink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Consider disposal of old computers

Rasmussen reported checking with the Fillmore County Food Shelf to see if they would want the old computers. She also checked with the Resource Recovery Center on the cost to dispose of them which is \$10 per unit or Best Buy will take them for free.

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Willford to donate the old computers to the Fillmore County Food Shelf, with the assurance they have been wiped clean. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

11. Discuss vehicles

Rasmussen reported the Dodge Dakota and Chevrolet Colorado are over ten years old. The Dodge has the most miles and it would most likely be the first one to trade in. The Jeep, which is the feedlot vehicle, is currently owned by the County. The County pays for insurance and fuel and the District pays the maintenance costs. Rasmussen asked for guidance regarding talking to the County about transferring the Jeep to the District or purchasing the vehicle from them. Board consensus was to talk to Mike Frauenkron and come back to the board with the information.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to approve the April, 2015 payables. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on Friday, May 1, 2015. Gossman volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Travis Willford