

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 16, 2012

4:30 P.M.

USDA Service Center

SWCD Office

Preston, MN 55965

Minutes

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Rasmussen, Jeanette Serfling, Jackie Byam (NRCS), Tom Kaase (County Commissioner)

Mensink called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Secretary's Report – January 12, 2012 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Secretary's Report – January 31, 2012 Special Board Meeting Minutes

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford reported attending the Annual Planning Meeting.

Hazel reported attending the Annual Planning Meeting and coming in for the statement opening and check review.

Mensink reported attending a JPB meeting and the Annual Planning Meeting.

Leutink reported attending the Annual Planning Meeting.

Gossman reported attending the Annual Planning Meeting and a Land Stewardship Project (LSP) meeting. He shared a quiz he received at the LSP meeting regarding the amount of money spent for nutrition and food support, crop insurance, commodity subsidies and conservation support over the last 10 years from the U.S. Farm Bill.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

3. Administrator's report

a. Crimping machine information

Rasmussen reported the details of building a crimping machine from an old pull-type chisel plow as it would have wheels for transport and enough weight to get it into the ground. She suggested that once built the District could charge \$100 for small waterways and \$300 for large waterways. Thomas and Grooters will talk to implement dealers and/or watch for one at auction.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to authorize staff to spend up to \$2,000.00 on a used digger or chisel plow to be used for a crimping machine. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

b. County frac sand mining information

Rasmussen was asked to be on a county committee for frac sand mining. The committee is in the process of drafting a resolution for a one year moratorium. A public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28th. The committee will meet again the week of March 5th.

c. Root River Landscape Plan proposals

Four proposals were received and reviewed. Zach Reusch from Winona was chosen to prepare the plan.

Kaase entered the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

d. MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol

Rasmussen reported on the Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol. She met with all the legislators from this area. Representatives Davids and Miller indicated a willingness to attend a future board meeting.

e. February 4 Eagle Bluff Dinner on the Bluff

The February 4th Dinner on the Bluff had a good turnout with approximately 80-90 people in attendance. Questions were asked about the information on display.

4. NRCS

Byam reported all NRCS trucks in Minnesota are part of a pilot program and have had GPS systems installed in them in an effort to reduce expenses by monitoring speed, energy and efficiency.

The ranking period for EQIP ends on February 17th. CSP applications will be ranked within the next two weeks. A general CRP signup is scheduled and appears to have much interest for enrolling.

5. County

Kaase reported the county has been discussing the frac sand mining issues. A public hearing is scheduled for February 28th. He reported the County wants to be well informed on what will be discussed and able to address public questions. A one year moratorium is probable which will prohibit any new mines or expansions of current ones so that the land and water will be safeguarded.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review and approve Annual Plan of Work

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the Annual Plan of Work with the changes discussed at the last meeting, plus the addition of the Bluff Country Hiking Club working with the SWCD to host another trail tour. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Review and approve Corporate Authorization Resolution

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to approve the Corporate Authorization Resolution as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Review and update supervisor's "Operating Rules, Guidelines and By-laws:

Motioned by Willford seconded by Mensink to approve the supervisor's "Operating Rules, Guidelines and By-laws" as they are currently and to sign the Commitment Pledge. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider approval of Resolution of Authority for the MDA "From Field to Watershed" project authorizing Chair to sign contracts on behalf of the Board

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve the Resolution of Authority for the MDA "From Field to Watershed" project authorizing Chair to sign contracts on behalf of

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

5. Discuss District Leadership/Self Assessment Form

Rasmussen asked if the Board had any issues they would like to address. None were addressed. Board members suggested the staff could review the form at a staff meeting with the board reviewing staff comments at a future meeting.

6. Review draft work plan and other prep for Conservation Corps apprentice

Rasmussen reported the District was selected to have a Conservation Corps apprentice who would begin in May. The draft work plan was reviewed.

Rasmussen asked that the Personnel Committee meet to review the application being submitted. The Personnel Committee will also have an opportunity to review the candidate in late April. She also asked that they be present for a teleconference to review what is expected of the work site.

7. Consider revised letter of support for LCCMR proposal for conservation easements for dry sand prairies and other sensitive areas

The revised letter expands the areas covered relating to areas for conservation easements for dry sand prairies and other sensitive areas.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the revised letter of support for the LCCMR proposal for conservation easements for dry sand prairies and other sensitive areas. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider appointment of Forestry Committee

Gossman and Leutink volunteered to be on the Forestry Committee.

2. Consider approval of Feedlot Water Quality Management Contract FWQMG FY11-2 Ross Cooper, Feedlot Runoff Control – Roof Structure, in the amount of \$14, 250.00

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Hazel to approve the Feedlot Water Quality Management Contract FWQMG FY11-2 Ross Cooper, Feedlot Runoff Control – Roof Structure, in the amount of \$14, 250.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider approval of State Cost Share Contracts as listed:

FY12-01	James Wendell	Farmstead Windbreak	\$368.88
FY12-02	Jolyn Mikesh	Grassed Waterway	\$567.00

FY12-03	Lynn Tienter	Farmstead Windbreak	\$744.00
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FY12-02	Jolyn Mikesh	Grassed Waterway	\$567.00
FY12-03	Lynn Tienter	Farmstead Windbreak	\$744.00

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

4. Consider approval and timing of step increase for employee #23015 to Grade 8, Step 4, effective March 7, 2012 per recommendation of Administrator

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Willford to approve the step increase for employee #23015 to Grade 8, Step 4, effective March 7, 2012 per the recommendation of the Administrator. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider approval for Administrator to present at the Driftless Area Symposium in LaCrosse, WI March 27 & 28 and pay registration fee of \$95 and mileage

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to grant approval for the Administrator to present at the Driftless Area symposium in LaCrosse, WI on March 27 & 28 and pay registration fee of \$95.00 and mileage. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Mensink, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider authorization for Administrator to sign contract with the contractor selected for the Root River Landscape Plan

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to authorize the Administrator to sign the contact with the contractor selected for the Root River Landscape Plan. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider payment of annual dues of \$10.00 per employee to the SEMACDE

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve payment of annual dues in the amount of \$10.00 per employee to the SEMACDE for ten employees. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Mensink, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider attendance at the SE SWCD Spring Employees Meeting and pay expenses

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Mensink to approve attendance at the SE SWCD Spring Employees Meeting and pay expenses for those employees wishing to attend. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Leutink volunteered to do the statement opening and check review on Thursday, March 1st.

Kaase left the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Hazel