

**DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, February 19, 2015

4:30 P.M.

USDA Service Center

SWCD Office

Preston, MN 55965

***Minutes***

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pam Mensink.

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Rasmussen, Jeanette Serfling, Jennifer Ronnenberg, Caleb Fischer, Jessica Bronson (NRCS), Harry Root (County Commissioner)

Hazel called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. A quorum is present.

**I. AGENDA**

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

**II. TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Secretary's Report – January 15, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Secretary's Report – January 27, 2015 Special Board Meeting Minutes

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

**IV. REPORTS**

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford attended Tour de Forage and met with Thomas and others. He also attended the Cover Crop Conference in Des Moines.

Hazel attended the annual planning meeting, was on the panel for the Tour de Forage and on a panel for a grazing event, did the check detail and attended Dinner on the Bluff sponsored by the SWCD.

Mensink was not present.

Leutink had nothing to report.

Gossman reported attending the Friends of the Root River Meeting, the Forestry Field day in Wabasha County, and Dinner on the Bluff sponsored by the SWCD.

## 2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

Ronnenberg reported on the Minnesota Wetland Conference she attended which is on-going training for certification for WCA.

She reminded the Board of the upcoming nitrate clinics – one at the National Trout Center from 10 am-2 pm on February 21, and one at Marzolf Implement in Spring Valley on March 4<sup>th</sup> from 11 am-1 pm.

Fischer also reported attending the Minnesota Wetland Conference. He went to Farm Bill Training also where they talked about cover crops, wetlands and the benefits of pheasant habitat.

Fischer and Ronnenberg left the meeting at 5:06 pm.

## 3. Administrator's report

- a. MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol  
Rasmussen reported there was much discussion on the SWCD funding initiative which doesn't sound very likely. Legislators are in support of the SWCD but funding would come from the general fund.
- b. Eagle Bluff Dinner on the Bluff  
Two supervisors and two staff attended Dinner on the Bluff. There was good discussion and good SWCD exposure. The next SWCD sponsored event is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> when a video on the driftless area will be shown.
- c. BWSR Administrative Training  
Area staff attended the training. BWSR reviewed their guidance on how to calculate overhead and hourly rates for use with grant reporting.
- d. DNR Watershed Field Experience Grant  
This grant was applied for by DNR and has been funded. The funds will be used for school groups to attend Forestville and Whitewater areas to learn about watersheds.

e. Update on Extension staffing

Rasmussen updated the board on Extension staffing. At this point, a decision won't be made until the 2016 budget.

f. Conservation Corps Minnesota applications

Rasmussen reported the SWCD has been selected as a site for an apprentice again this year. Applications are being accepted until March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The crew application to work on the Lost Creek Hiking Trail was not funded.

g. BWSR Buffer Grant application period is open

Rasmussen reported the application period is open until April 3<sup>rd</sup> on a first come, first serve basis. One million dollars is available to support ag shoreland buffer inventory needs. This has been discussed with Zoning and they support the application. The grant will support 25% of Koliha's position and possibly some cost-share.

There was lots of discussion and concern by the board about whether this grant will be tied to the Governor's program. The SWCD could be labeled as a regulatory agency.

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Hazel to apply for the grant and after more review a decision can be made whether or not to accept the grant funds if funded. Affirmative: Leutink, Hazel, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Gossman asked that the staff develop a protocol/checklist for the board to review to assist with a decision. More discussion with BWSR is also needed as to how the funds will be used and the final terms.

4. NRCS

Bronson reported that Dave Copeland, the Assistant State Conservationist, is retiring on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen CSP renewals have been sent out and 18 new applications have been received.

5. County

Root reported that the County has recently implemented a smoking policy at both the Court House and the County Office Building. The County is required to conduct Right-to-know meetings and need to have 100% participation and they are at 53% currently.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Review and approve the Annual Plan

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Hazel to approve the Annual Plan as presented. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Review and approve Corporate Authorization Resolution

The Corporate Authorization was reviewed and signed by the board members present.

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

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

The supervisor "Operating Rules, Guidelines and By-laws" were reviewed and the board members signed the Commitment Pledge and Standards.

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve the supervisor's "Operating Rules, Guidelines and By-laws" with no additions or changes. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider approval of Authority to Contract Resolution 2015

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Leutink to approve the Authority of Contract Resolution 2015 authorizing the Chair to sign contracts on behalf of the Fillmore SWCD.  
Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider investment of \$100,000.00 into Money Market at Rushford State Bank

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to approve the investment of \$100,000.00 into the Money Market at the Rushford State Bank. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider the confirmation of payment of Minnesota Energy Resources bill in the amount of \$174.92 which was paid prior to the February board meeting and was within the approval authority of the Administrator

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve the confirmation of payment of the Minnesota Energy Resources bill in the amount of \$174.92 which was paid prior to the February board meeting and was within the approval authority of the Administrator.  
Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider pre-approval of the Minnesota Energy Resources bills for the next twelve months not to exceed \$400.00

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Hazel to pre-approve the Minnesota Energy Resources bills for the next twelve months not to exceed \$400.00 per month. Affirmative: Leutink, Gossman, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider approval of Healthy Forests for Healthy Water contracts as listed:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract #</b>	<b>Practice</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Scott & Pam Nielsen	2014-1-R	Pond Cleanout	\$1,500.00
Scott & Pam Nielsen	2014-2-R	Forest Road Improvement	\$3,468.00
Scott & Pam Nielsen	2014-3-R	Invasive Species Mgmt. (10.5 ac)	\$3,412.00
Bryan Mehus	2014-4-R	Invasive Species Mgmt. (4 ac) Pond Cleanout	\$2,800.00
Dahl Creek Farm	2015-1-R	Pond Cleanout	\$1,500.00
Brian Dahl	2015-2-R	Native Veg. Planting (3.6 ac)	\$1,080.00

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Brian Dahl	2015-2-R	Native Veg. Planting (3.6 ac)	\$1,080.00

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

4. Consider approval to change Internet service to Harmony Telephone Company

Due to issues with slow internet speed, Harmony Telephone was contacted. We can double the current speed for the same cost.

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve changing the internet service to Harmony Telephone Company. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider approval to Nutrient Management Specialist to attend Midwest Manure Summit February 24-25 in Green Bay, WI (Registration \$195 + travel, no hotel)

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Hazel to grant approval to the Nutrient Management Specialist to attend the Midwest Manure Summit February 24-25 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Registration is \$195.00 plus travel cost, no hotel is needed. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider ordering 50 Fillmore County Plat books

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Leutink to approve ordering fifty (50) more Fillmore County Plat Books. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

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

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on Monday, March 2, 2015. Leutink volunteered.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Travis Willford