

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, July 11, 2013

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, Anne Koliha, Jessica Bronson (NRCS), Tom Kaase (County Commissioner)

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

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the June 2013 Treasurer's report, subject to audit. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Secretary's Report – June 12, 2013 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Hazel entered the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

2. Approve April – June 2013 Supervisors Vouchers

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve the April – June 2013 supervisors vouchers. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Willford. Opposed none. Motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

4. NRCS

Bronson reported Driftless EQIP approved 15 cover crop contracts and three MRBI waterway and structure contracts. CSP contracts will be funded by July 12th. NRCS may have emergency money to repair structures. Staff is working with CRP general and re-enrollment plans.

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

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford reported performing the statement opening and check detail.

Hazel reported he will be hosting a field day on July 18th from 5-8 pm.

Mensink had nothing to report.

Leutink reported attending the Area 7 Resolutions meeting.

Gossman reported attending a Tap Into the Root meeting and a LSP Stream Bank Grazing Field Day.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

3. Administrator's report

a. Flood damages from June 21-23 rains

Rasmussen reported approximately 30 people have called with flood damage. Six to eight sites might be eligible for EWP which is for those sites that could cause more damage from another flooding rain event. The county board has 60 days to decide whether they want to be a sponsor for EWP. If they choose to, they would be responsible for up to five years, including operation and maintenance.

ECP funds through FSA which is used for agricultural practices or sand removal could also be available. FSA has not requested funding from the state as yet.

b. Resolutions meeting

Leutink attended the meeting and reported that all of Fillmore's resolutions were passed and will go on to the MASWCD state resolutions committee for their review and recommendation.

c. Cover Crop Champion application

The Cover Crop Champion application was approved and funded. Willford will be traveling to Indiana the end of July to learn how to work with the public.

d. Invitations to legislators to meet with Board

Rasmussen asked the board how they wanted to meet with the area legislators - if they should all be invited to one meeting or try to schedule them individually as their schedules allow. Board consensus was to schedule them as their schedules allow.

e. Reminder: Radio interview for county fair

Rasmussen reminded the board of the radio interview scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Thursday of Fair Week. Hazel volunteered to speak.

f. Erosion article and ad

The Board viewed the erosion ad. Board consensus was to publish it in all the Reader affiliated papers and both the Fillmore and Olmsted County Journal.

It was suggested that once a month an article should be published. Topics for articles include: cover crops and prevented planting information, the erosion ordinance, how much money the Army Corp of Engineers spends dredging out the end of the Root River, conservation plans and compliance, and soil health.

Also discussed was whether to publish articles or to submit them as an editorial signed by the board in hopes of making a greater impact.

g. Rush Pine Watershed Farmer Led Council's cover crop program

The Rush Pine Watershed Farmer Led Council will be receiving \$10,000.00 from The Nature Conservancy for a cover crop program. The chair of the Council will be sending out a letter promoting the program and the SWCD will be the pass-through agency for the funds.

To be eligible for the program, you must live within the Rush Pine watershed. The seed will be distributed through Benson Farm Service and Rushford Farmers Co-op and they will be determining the criteria for eligibility.

5. County

Kaase reported the County has been working with the flood damage and coordinating efforts with other agencies. A tour to look at Willow Creek structures is scheduled for the afternoon of July 15th.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review SWCD fee schedule

The fees for the preparation of nutrient management plans were reviewed. Information regarding what other preparers charge was given to the board.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to implement a per acre rate as recommended for all 2014 plan updates and any new plans. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The new fee will be:

New plans (EQIP) \$0.70 per acre

New plans (non-EQIP) \$0.50 per acre
Updates \$0.35 per acre

At the last meeting, the fee for bacteria testing was increased to \$25.00, but no effective date was designated.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Leutink to implement the increase in the bacteria testing fee effective August 1st. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Mensink, Leutink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider approval of 2013 budget with revisions

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the 2013 budget with the noted changes. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Mensink, Leutink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval of Draft 2014 Proposed Budget

Rasmussen pointed out the changes that were made since last month noting the county allocation remained the same.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Leutink to adopt the 2014 draft budget with the noted revisions. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider County Budget Allocation request

The Board discussed whether or not to increase the county budget allocation request. The amount requested has stayed the same since 2008, but operating expenses alone have increased 14% since 2008.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to submit the county budget allocation request for \$210,000.00 for 2014. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network Sub-recipient Agreement for \$2,070.00 with the SE MN Water Resources Board

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network Sub-recipient Agreement for \$2,070.00 with the SE MN Water Resources Board. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider State Cost Share Contract FY13-02 Gary & Matt Hellickson, Terraces, in the amount of \$5,000.00

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Mensink to approve State Cost Share Contract FY13-02 Gary & Matt Hellickson, Terraces, in the amount of \$5,000.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider acting as fiscal agent for Bush Foundation Grant for the Root River Citizen Council (R2C2) for approximately ~~\$105,000.00~~ \$120,000.00

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Hazel to grant approval to act as the fiscal agent for the Bush Foundation Grant for the Root River Citizen Council (R2C2) for approximately \$120,000.0. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider authorization for Board Chair to sign BWSR FY2014 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement in the amount of \$22,500.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Leutink to authorize the Board Chair to sign the BWSR FY2014 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement in the amount of \$22,500.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider State Cost Share Contract FY13-03 Robert Doherty, Well Decommissioning, in the amount of \$912.50

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Hazel to approve State Cost Share Contract FY13-03 Robert Doherty, Well Decommissioning, in the amount of \$912.50. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider AgBMP loan request for Ken Sawle, Feedlot Runoff Control Project, in the amount of \$75,000.00

Koliha explained the proposed project to the board.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the AgBMP loan request for Ken Sawle for a feedlot runoff control project in the amount of \$75,000.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider sponsorship of the following 4-H Award Programs:

Champion Exploring the Environment	\$20.00
Reserve Champion Exploring the Environment	\$20.00
Champion Forest Resources	\$20.00
Reserve Champion Exploring the Environment	\$20.00
Champion Fishing Sports	\$20.00
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Champion Water/Wetlands	\$20.00
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Champion Wildlife/Biology	\$20.00

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Motioned by Mensink seconded by Hazel to approve sponsorship of the following 4-H Award Programs:

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

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the July 2013 payables. Affirmative: Mensink, Hazel, Leutink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on, Thursday August 1st. Leutink volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Mensink