

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, July 16, 2015

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, Jessica Bronson (NRCS), Harry Root (County Commissioner)

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

II. TREASURER’S REPORT

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Mensink to approve the June, 2015 Treasurer’s report, subject to audit. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to table the approval of the April-June 2015 Supervisors’ vouchers until the end of the meeting. Affirmative: Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Secretary’s Report – June 18, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Payment of Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2015-1-RP, Wallace Himle, Vegetative Establishment, in the amount of \$1,800.00

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford reported he will be interviewed by the No-Till Farmer magazine for the September issue.

Hazel was not present at this time.

Mensink reported coming in to the office for the statement opening and check review and also attended a Personnel Committee Meeting.

Leutink had nothing to report.

Gossman reported attending a Friends of the Root River Meeting and told of an upcoming activity at Eagle Bluff on July 25th from 10-2. He provided copies of an article about Steve, Bill and Mary Bailey being named Minnesota's Tree Farmers of the Year.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

3. Administrator's report

- a. Eagle Bluff Land Ethics Program with the Aldo Leopold Center – April 2016

Rasmussen provided information on an event next April at Eagle Bluff. Eagle Bluff is applying for a SE MN Initiative Grant to help market the event.

Hazel entered the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

- b. Clean Water Fund grant application period is open
The Clean Water Fund grant application period will close on August 28th. Applications are being prepared for feedlots and with Kevin Kuehner to apply for funding for practices in the small watershed that also have MRBI funding so cost share could be offered.

Ron Meiners has completed the farm walkovers and has started talking to landowners about installing practices. He reported that the response has been good. Landowners are being asked to sign a letter of intent so these practices can be included in the application.

- c. MCIT safety meeting report

Rasmussen attended a meeting with a representative from MCIT and four other Districts to discuss how to develop safety policies and provide training to employees. They discussed what is required of SWCDs, what common health and safety issues there are and what trainings could be offered at area employee meetings.

- d. MRBI application for South Branch Root River Headwaters

Rasmussen reported an application was submitted to NRCS by Kevin Kuehner for MRBI funding for the South Branch Root River Headwaters.

e. Update on Decorah shale study on Timm property
The area was surveyed last year where there was sloughing and markers were put in. Grooters re-surveyed the site recently and nothing has moved.

4. NRCS

Bronson reported all the 2015-1 CSP applications have been obligated as well as the MRBI applications for EQIP. She is working on CSP spot checks.

The EQIP Local Workgroup Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at 9:00 am.

5. County

Root reported the County is preparing for budgeting. There are lots of roads and bridges being worked on throughout the County.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider Building lease extension with C&G Properties to July 31, 2016

Due to the unknown timing for the USDA lease, the building lease with C&G Properties will be extended until July 31, 2016 or to when the new USDA lease is finalized.

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Leutink to approve the building lease extension with C&G Properties to July 31, 2016 as presented and approving the Chair and Administrator to sign. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval and timing of step increase for Employee #23027 to Grade 6, Step 2 and end of probation effective August 4, 2015 per recommendation of Administrator

Motioned by Willford seconded by Mensink to approve the step increase for Employee #23027 to Grade 6, Step 2 and end of probation effective August 4, 2015 per recommendation of the Administrator. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider approval for Chair to sign BWSR FY2016 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement in the amount of \$22,500.00

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Hazel to grant approval for the Chair to sign the BWSR FY2016 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement in the amount of \$22,500.00. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider amendment to Mower SWCD subcontract for MDA Field to Stream Partnership to extend end date from June 30, 2015 to December 31, 2015

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve the amendment to the Mower SWCD contract for the MDA Field to Stream Partnership to extend the end date from June 30, 2015 to December 31, 2015. Affirmative: Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider AgBMP loan request for Kevin Horihan in the amount of \$200,000.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve the AgBMP loan request for Kevin Horihan in the amount of \$200,000.00. Affirmative: Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider State Cost Share Contract FY14-10 Gary Hellickson, Terraces with Underground Outlets, in the amount of \$3,949.50 using \$1,062.62 from FY2014 funds and \$2,886.88 from FY2015 funds

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve State Cost Share Contract FY14-10 Gary Hellickson, Terraces with Underground Outlets, in the amount of \$3,949.50 using \$1,062.62 from FY2014 funds and \$2,886.88 from FY2015 funds. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Abstained: Mensink. Motion carried.

6. Consider Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2015-6-RP, Mike Zirbes, Prescribed Burning (RX) and Thinning (FSI) in the amount of \$747.50

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Leutink to approve the Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2015-6-RP, Mike Zirbes, Prescribed Burning (RX) and Thinning (FSI) in the amount of \$747.50. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider approval for staff and board attendance to the International Sinkhole Conference in Rochester, October 5-9, 2015

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Willford to approve attendance by any staff or board member to the International Sinkhole Conference in Rochester, on October 5-9, 2015.

Motion amended by Mensink and seconded by Willford to approve two staff or board member equivalents to attend the International Sinkhole Conference in Rochester, on October 5-9, 2015. More information is to be presented at the next meeting. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Hazel, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider approval of DNR Groundwater Level Monitoring Agreement for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$240.00

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Willford to approve the DNR Groundwater Level Monitoring Agreement for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$240.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider approval for lodging and meal expenses for two staff attending the NRCS Conservation Planning Course in Redwood Falls, August 17-21

Fischer and Koliha will be going to the Conservation Planning Course. They may be able to carpool with NRCS staff. Costs are estimated at \$800.00 to \$1,000.00.

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve lodging and meal expenses for two staff to attend the NRCS Conservation Planning Course in Redwood Falls, August 17-21. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Consider approval to accept MASWCD Continuous CRP Signup Conservation Plans Agreement to complete 17 plans at \$480.00 each by September 30, 2015

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Leutink to approve and accept the MASWCD Continuous CRP Signup Conservation Plans Agreement to complete 17 plans at \$480.00 each by September 30, 2015. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to approve the April-June, 2015 Supervisors' vouchers. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Mensink to approve the July, 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 Monday, August 3rd. Leutink volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Travis Willford