

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, July 12, 2012
4:30 P.M.
USDA Service Center
SWCD Office
Preston, MN 55965

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Hazel, Leonard Leutink, Travis Willford
MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Gossman, Pam Mensink.
OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Rasmussen, Jeanette Serfling, Anne Koliha, Corey Michaels, (Conservation Corp Apprentice), Robert Joachim (NRCS), Tom Kaase (County Commissioner)

Leutink called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER’S REPORT

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve the June, 2012 Treasurer’s report, subject to audit. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve the April – June 2012 supervisors vouchers. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

No consent agenda items.

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor’s activity report

Willford reported hosting and presenting at the No-till Field Day at his farm.

Hazel reported attending both Field Days and a Cost Share Committee meeting.

Mensink was not present.

Leutink reported attending a Cost Share Committee meeting.

Gossman was not present.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets. Additional staff reports for those on vacation when packets were sent out were given to the board.

3. Administrator's report

a. County Board action regarding SWCD staff assistance for Feedlot Program
Rasmussen reported she and Koliha had met with the county board. The commissioners approved reimbursing actual hours and benefits for Koliha during the absence of the Feedlot Officer who may be out until the end of the year. The arrangement will continue until the Feedlot Officer returns.

b. Report on Field Days
Rasmussen reported the expenses were approximately \$900 and \$250 in sponsorships for the Ag Waste day and \$1,300 in expenses and sponsorships of \$200 for the No-till day. The Feedlot budget and Thomas' budget will help with expenses for the Hazel field day.

c. FY13 Clean Water Fund Grants
The application period for the FY13 Clean Water Fund Grants begins August 1st and runs through mid-September. Funding for feedlot projects, stormwater planning, technical assistance for Ronnenberg's position, and pond cleanouts will be applied for.

Kaase entered the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

d. Lighting upgrade in Conservation Building
Rasmussen reported the light bulbs in the garage of the conservation building have been replaced with more energy efficient ones which were eligible for a rebate.

4. NRCS

Joachim reported 53 people attended the No-till field day. An infiltration test was done on the no-till ground versus ground with conventional tillage.

An EQIP local workgroup meeting needs to be scheduled by August 24th with a different procedure than in the past. A FAC meeting is being discussed to possibly pursue drought relief policy.

5. County

Kaase reported he was not sure how long the Feedlot Officer would be out. The County is restructuring the zoning office and will be looking at different options if and when the Feedlot Officer returns.

Kaase had attended a meeting discussing consolidating communication centers which will improve the level and quality of service.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider approval for Chair to sign Secretary's Report from June 14, 2012

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve the Chair to sign Secretary's Report from June 14, 2012. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider approval of Secretary's Report from the June 14, 2012 Regular Board Meeting

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve the Secretary's Report from the June 14, 2012 Regular Board Meeting. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider return of FY08 State Cost Share Funds to BWSR in the amount of \$193.80

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve the return of FY08 State Cost Share Funds to BWSR in the amount of \$193.80. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Michaels left the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

4. Consider approval of Draft 2013 Proposed Budget

Rasmussen pointed out the areas that had changed since last month.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve the draft 2013 proposed budget. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider approval of County Budget Allocation Request

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve the County Budget Allocation Request in the amount of \$210,000.00 which is the same as the last several years. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider approval for Chair to sign FY13 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement for \$7,875.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to give approval for Chair to sign the FY13 Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement for \$7,875.00 when it is received. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval of revisions to 2012 Operational Policy Handbook, page 9, State Cost Share policy as recommended by the Cost Share Committee

The changes made to the policy were a result of concerns that landowners that received state cost share were also receiving payments from CSP. Well sealing to allow correction of pollution runoff was also added to the policy.

The board changed "*No State Cost Share will be paid toward practices required for federal Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) enhancements*" to read "*No State Cost Share or local SWCD incentives will be paid toward practices required for federal Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) enhancements.*"

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve the revisions to the 2012 Operational Policy Handbook, page 9, State Cost Share policy as recommended by the Cost Share Committee. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider approval to purchase three Continuous Nitrate Monitoring Units for Comprehensive Strategy Grant in the amount of \$60,236.92

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve the purchase of three Continuous Nitrate Monitoring Units for the Comprehensive Strategy Grant in the amount of \$60,236.92. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Discuss cover crop program

Ramussen reported only five had signed up so far for the cover crop program. The deadline to signup has been extended to July 31st. A meeting has been scheduled with Keith Haugen, CPS; Rich Biske, The Nature Conservancy; and the new Hiawatha RC&D director to discuss the possibility of seeding with an air flow and ideas to get cover crops more widespread.

Koliha left the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

4. Consider State Cost Share Contract FY12-10 Rodney Koliha, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$945.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve State Cost Share Contract FY12-10, Rodney Koliha, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$945.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider approval to attend MASWCD Leading Change: Leadership Workshop for SWCD Supervisors and Staff

Tabled until next month.

6. Consider Fillmore County Fair Sponsorship for 2012

The board discussed whether the SWCD would participate in the sponsorship and, if so, at what level.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to participate in sponsorship of the Fillmore County Fair at the Blue Ribbon Level at a cost of \$500 which includes daily name recognition at the fair, 1/2 page ad in the sponsorship program, a hanging banner during Grand Stand Events, two event passes and recognition on their Facebook and website pages. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider approval of up to \$2000 from SWCD Water Sampling budget for water monitoring equipment as match to MDA Conservation Innovations Grant

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve up to \$2,000.00 from SWCD Water Sampling Budget for water monitoring equipment as match to the MDA Conservation Innovations Grant. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider resolution recommending FSA State Committee open CRP land for haying and grazing due to drought conditions

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve Resolution 12-04 recommending the FSA State Committee open CRP land for haying and grazing due to drought conditions changing "Southeast Minnesota to "Fillmore County". Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on Wednesday, August 1, 2012. Leutink volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Hazel