

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 19, 2015

4:30 P.M.

USDA Service Center

SWCD Office

Preston, MN 55965

Minutes

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Rasmussen, Jeanette Serfling, John Boyum, Harry Root (County Commissioner)

Gossman called the meeting to order at 4:44 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER’S REPORT

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

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1. Secretary’s Report – February 19, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

IV. REPORTS

- 1. Supervisor’s activity report

Willford had nothing to report.

Hazel reported presenting at the Forage Day meeting. The morning session was on Cover Crops and the afternoon session was on alfalfa.

Mensink had nothing to report.

Leutink reported attending the Root River One Watershed One Plan meeting.

Gossman reported attending a Friends of the Root River meeting at which they are working on becoming either a non-profit or and LLC. They are also planning events for summer.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

a. John Boyum

Boyum gave a report on the training events he recently attended.

- Minnesota Crop Nutrient Management Conference
- Nitrogen-Minnesota's Grant Challenge and Compelling Opportunity Conference
- AgPHD Soil Clinic
- Midwest Manure Summit

3. Administrator's report

a. Legislation for base funding for SWCDs

Rasmussen reported there is legislation to increase the BWSR allocation for general service grants which could double the amount of general service money received by the District. The remaining funding will be allocated based on the amount of the County allocation. It is unknown if this funding will continue long term.

b. Legislative regarding Ag BMP Loan Program cap

There is legislation that could change the AgBMP Program loan cap from \$100,000.00 to \$200,000.00. There may also be an amendment to the current legislation that could increase the cap to \$300,000.00. The cap at the local level is still decided by the Board which is currently at \$100,000.00. There is still no legislation for fees for the administration of the program.

c. Root River One Watershed, One Plan Public Kickoff Meeting

The Kickoff meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th at the Fountain Community Center in Fountain from 4-8 pm with short presentations at 5 and 7 pm.

d. Sponsorship of "Mysteries of the Driftless" at Eagle Bluff April 11th

The SWCD is sponsoring Dinner on the Bluff on Saturday, April 11th. Several maps and displays are ready for the Dining Hall. Early bird registration is \$20.00 if registered the week prior to the event, otherwise the cost is \$25.00.

e. Information Sheet: Governor Dayton's Buffer Initiative

An information sheet regarding Governor Dayton's Buffer Initiative was shared with the Board. This should help clarify Dayton's proposal in relation to the Buffer Grant Application discussion from last month.

f. MRBI letter of support for Willow and Lower South Fork Root River Rasmussen reported writing a letter in support of applying for MRBI funding for Willow Creek and the Lower South Fork Root River. She committed \$10,000.00 for cost share for seeding set aside areas for summer construction and \$20,000.00 for staff time to implement the practices, both amounts spread over a four year period.

g. Earth Day
Eagle Bluff is not having an Earth Day event this year. They will be coordinating with the Rhubarb Festival in June. In the past, the District has participated with the Earth Day event and handed out single trees to attendees. Fifty lilac bushes had been set aside for the event. Rasmussen asked the Board for suggestions of how to utilize the trees.

4. NRCS

5. County

Root reported attending a presentation with the U of MN for an Extension Educator. They are looking to continue with a half-time person. The County is hiring in Social Services and Public Health and will be awarding bids for road projects in the County.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. District fund balance discussion

Rasmussen and Serfling prepared reports which compared 2013 and 2014 income and expenses month by month, which were reviewed by the Finance Committee. Rasmussen discussed the Summary sheet and explained that the biggest differences were in the 319 Feedlot Grant and the transfers into Designated Accounts. She also explained that the large balance in the MRBI Conservation Planning Specialist Account was used to balance the budget and is the District's to us, as all the goals and requirements of the grant have been met. Therefore, those funds or a portion of those funds can be transferred back into the District account to resolve the current issues.

The Board asked that a recommendation be brought to the next meeting of how to best use the funds in the Conservation Planning Specialist account.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider the following District Cost Share Contracts:

WB14-05	Darren Bornholdt	Farmstead Windbreak	\$180.00
WB14-04	Loren Mathison	Farmstead Windbreak	\$277.50
WB14-06	Lucas Vatland	Farmstead Windbreak	\$412.50

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Willford to approve the following District Cost Share Contracts:

WB14-05	Darren Bornholdt	Farmstead Windbreak	\$180.00
WB14-04	Loren Mathison	Farmstead Windbreak	\$277.50
WB14-06	Lucas Vatland	Farmstead Windbreak	\$412.50

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

2. Consider reinvestment of Certificate of Deposit 42329 which matures on March 18, 2014

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to approve the reinvestment of Certificate of Deposit 42329 which matures on March 18, 2015 and deposit into the Money Market Account at Rushford State Bank. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider approval of grant agreement with Minnesota State University for \$3,000.00 for meetings to discuss nutrient issues

The funds have to be spent by March 31, 2015 and can be used for food for the March 24th meeting at which nutrient management tools will be demonstrated. The grant requires a \$2,200.00 in-kind match from the District. Expenses can be used from November, 2014 forward.

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Hazel to approve the grant agreement with Minnesota State University for \$3,000.00 for meetings to discuss nutrient issues. Affirmative: Leutink, Mensink, Gossman, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider subcontract with Root River SWCD for \$8,715.54 for staff time for Upper Iowa water quality monitoring and grant administration (MPCA-SWAG)

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve the subcontract with the Root River SWCD in the amount of \$8,715.54 for staff time for Upper Iowa water quality monitoring and grant administration (MPCA-SWAG). Affirmative: Gossman, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider Board commentary announcing Root River 1W1P Kick Off Meeting

Motioned by Willford seconded by Mensink to approve the publication of the board commentary announcing the Root River 1W1P Kick Off Meeting as presented. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider attendance and expenses for Area 7 Spring Employees meeting

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to approve attendance and expenses for the Area 7 Spring Employees meeting with reports from those attending. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider transfer of \$2,500.00 from Special Projects Fund to Cost-Share for Summer Construction Projects Fund

Motioned by Willford seconded by Mensink to approve the transfer of \$2,500.00 from Special Projects Fund to Cost-share for Summer Construction Projects Fund. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider approval of 2015 Conservation Corps Minnesota Host Site Agreement

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve the 2015 Conservation Corps Minnesota Host Site Agreement as presented. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider the following State Cost Share Contracts:

FY15-02	Tom Boelter	Grassed Waterway	\$3,108.00
FY15-03	Tom Boelter	Grassed Waterway	\$1,892.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to approve the following State Cost Share Contracts:

FY15-02	Tom Boelter	Grassed Waterway	\$3,108.00
FY15-03	Tom Boelter	Grassed Waterway	\$1,892.00

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

10. Consider the following Community Partners Stormwater Mini-Grant contracts:

Eagle Bluff ELC	Discovery Center Erosion Reduction	\$18,695.00
Harmony Library	Harmony Community Garden	\$18,750.00

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Mensink to approve the following Community Partners Stormwater Mini-Grant contracts:

Eagle Bluff ELC	Discovery Center Erosion Reduction	\$18,695.00
Harmony Library	Harmony Community Garden	\$18,750.00

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

11. Consider TNC funding for Decorah Shale erosion control project

Motioned by Willford seconded by Mensink to approve the TNC funding for the Decorah Shale erosion control project. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

12. Consider Healthy Forests for Healthy Water contract 2015-4-R for Harland and Joan Hilges for invasive species management in the amount of \$5,600.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve the Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2015-4-R for Harland and Joan Hilges for invasive species management in the amount of \$5,600.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on Wednesday, April 1st. Mensink volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Travis Willford