

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, October 11, 2012

4:30 P.M.

USDA Service Center

SWCD Office

Preston, MN 55965

Minutes

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Leonard Leutink.

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Rasmussen, Jeanette Serfling, Robert Joachim (NRCS),
Tom Kaase (County Commissioner)

Vice Chair Willford called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the September 2012 Treasurer's report, subject to audit. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Secretary's Report – September 13, 2012 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the July-September 2012 supervisor's vouchers. Affirmative: Gossman, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Hazel entered the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity report

Kaase entered the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

Willford had nothing to report.

Hazel had nothing to report.

Mensink reported attending the Local Water Management Technical Committee meeting on September 25th.

Leutink was not present.

Gossman reported attending a "Tap into the Root" meeting on October 2nd.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

a. 6th Grade Tour Report

Grooters prepared a report about the recently held 6th Grade Tour that was distributed to the board for their review.

3. Administrator's report

a. Hiawatha Valley RC&D meeting

Rasmussen reported on the RC&D meeting and the projects that are currently being worked on. The next meeting is scheduled for November 26th and the annual meeting on January 28th.

b. Preparation for SWCD newspaper insert

Rasmussen reported that she and Serfling will be meeting with Jason Sethre of the Fillmore County Journal to start the process for the newspaper insert. The Board was asked for ideas or topics for the insert.

c. Soil Health Field Day with Land Stewardship Project (LSP)

A field day at the Brian Hazel farm, hosted by the Land Stewardship Project, is scheduled for November 17th to further promote the information from the recent Soil Health Video Conference.

4. NRCS

Joachim reported that field work is starting although conditions aren't very good for building structures. NRCS policy has changed so local field staff can't work with their own county on tiling requests and wetland issues. A SWAT team has been organized to work only on these issues. Byam, a member of the SWAT team, has been detailed two days a week to work out of the Mower office. DC's are performing spot checks in other counties.

Two hundred active contracts with payments of \$1.83 million are being managed in Fillmore County. Ronnenberg processed 126 CRP contracts.

A settlement regarding a suit that was filed claiming women and Hispanics were discriminated against is ongoing.

In January, NRCS will begin housing an administrative assistant for a one year appointment.

5. County

Kaase reported meetings have been rather short as not much is going on in the county. There have been personnel changes in the Sheriff's department. Testing is underway at the old Mabel motel for meth residue. There is some controversy in the Village of Rushford as to who is responsible for maintaining an abandoned cemetery.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review resolutions.

Resolutions were reviewed and each supervisor's ballots were submitted for compilation on the master ballot.

2. Consider approval to authorize the Vice Chair to sign Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement for \$7,875.00 in the absence of the Board Chair

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Mensink to authorize the Vice Chair to sign the Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement in the amount of \$7,875.00 in the absence of the Board Chair. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider closeout of FY2007 State Cost Share Program

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Mensink to approve the closeout of FY2007 State Cost Share Program. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval of FY2013 BWSR SWCD Program and Operations Grants Agreement

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Hazel to approve the FY2013 BWSR SWCD Program and Operations Grants Agreement and authorize the Vice Chair to sign. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider percentage of Technical Assistance from FY2013 BWSR SWCD Program and Operations Grant Agreement

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve 20% as the percentage to be used for Technical Assistance from FY2013 BWSR SWCD Program and Operations Grant

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

3. Consider reinvestment of the following Certificates of Deposit:

CD 67414	Matures on October 13, 2012
CD 42346	Matures on October 21, 2012

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the reinvestment of the following Certificates of Deposit:

CD 67414	Matures on October 13, 2012
CD 42346	Matures on October 21, 2012

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

4. Consider closeout of FY2008 State Cost Share Program

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Mensink to approve the closeout of FY2008 State Cost Share Program. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider approval to transfer the balance of funds of the Sustainable Ag Grant to the Grazing Specialist account

Rasmussen explained that funds from the Sustainable Ag Grant could be used for staff time and the balance can be transferred to the Grazing Specialist account.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the transfer of the balance of funds of the Sustainable Ag Grant to the Grazing Specialist account. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider approval to transfer the balance of funds of the CTIC Solid Pack Manure Study Grant to the Nutrient Management Specialist account

Rasmussen explained that funds from the CTIC Solid Pack Manure Study Grant could be used for staff time and the balance can be transferred to the Nutrient Management Specialist account.

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the transfer of the balance of funds of the CTIC Solid Pack Manure Study Grant to the Nutrient Management Specialist account. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Review MRBI Technical Assistance Grant fund balance and projected income

Rasmussen reviewed the spreadsheet with the board showing projected excess funds from the MRBI Technical Assistance Grant and asked that they start thinking about how

these funds can be used. Staff is a priority, but putting some of the excess into designated accounts such as vehicle replacement or computer and equipment replacement could also be considered.

8. Consider approval of BWSR Amendment for FY11 Clean Water Fund Grazing Grant for \$126,316.00 to extend expiration date one year to December 31, 2013

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the BWSR Amendment for the FY11 Clean Water Fund Grazing Grant in the amount of \$126,316.00 to extend the expiration date one year to December 31, 2012. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider approval of BWSR Amendment for FY11 Clean Water Fund Feedlot Grant for \$561,593.00 to extend expiration date one year to December 31, 2013

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the BWSR Amendment for FY11 Clean Water Fund Feedlot Grant in the amount of \$561,593.00 to extend the expiration date one year to December 31, 2012.

10. Consider donation to Minnesota Historical Society in the amount of \$50.00

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve a donation to the Minnesota Historical Society in the amount of \$50.00. Affirmative: Mensink, Hazel, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

11. Consider approval for travel expenses for Administrator to attend Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds meeting in Ankeny, IA October 31-November 1

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve travel expenses for the Administrator to attend the Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds meeting in Ankeny, IA October 31-November 1. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

12. Authorize attendance to the MASWCD Annual Convention December 2-4, 2012

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to authorize as many staff and supervisors who wish to attend the MASWCD Annual Convention December 2-4, 2012 and pay expenses. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on Thursday, November 1st. Serfling will send an email the week of the statement opening to Mensink, Willford and Leutink to see who will be available.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Hazel