

**DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Monday, September 14, 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, Harry Root (County Commissioner), Kevin Kuehner (MDA), Ron Meiners

Gossman called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. A quorum is present.

**I. AGENDA**

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

**II. PRESENTATION: MDA Field to Stream Partnership – Kevin Kuehner and Ron Meiners**

Kevin Kuehner, MDA, provided information on the history of the project over the last five years, what results have been gotten, and what the next steps of the project will be.

Willford entered meeting at 4:54 pm.

Ron Meiners, who has been doing the Farm Walk-overs, told of his experiences with the farmers and the good response he has received. He has identified and prioritized the needs and reviewed them with the landowners. The majority of them have signed letters of intent to go forward and implement the identified needs.

Root suggested a condensed version of the presentation be given at a County Board meeting.

Kuehner and Meiners left the meeting at 5:38 pm.

**III. TREASURER’S REPORT**

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

#### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Secretary's Report – August 20, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

#### **V. REPORTS**

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford reported doing the statement opening and check detail. Cover crop seed was flown on and the article about he and his Dad was published in the No-Till Farmer magazine.

Hazel reported having cover crop seed flown on and also seeding cover crops with a no-till drill.

Mensink reported attending the County Board meeting to present the allocation request.

Leutink reported attending the 1W1P meeting and the County Board meeting.

Gossman reported attending the Friends of the Root River Meeting.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

3. Administrator's report

- a. County Board budget meeting report

Rasmussen reported the meeting went well as no increase in funding was requested.

- b. Root River One Watershed, One Plan update

Rasmussen reported the Policy Committee has completed the review of Sections 1, 2, and 5. They are currently working on Section 3 which is very detailed and gets into how resource concerns will be addressed.

- c. Information to date regarding \$100,000.00 annual SWCD funding; expansion of soil loss limits law statewide

BWSR has asked SWCDs to comment on the grant request and reporting process. They are trying to keep it simple. SWCDs need to show what MORE can be done with the money. Prioritization of the use of the funds and the potential workload issues it may cause will be discussed next month.

The soil loss limits law has been expanded to cover the entire state. The ordinance asks Soil and Water Districts to play a role in enforcing which might also increase the workload of the district.

A staffing plan for districts was received which might help determine staffing needs in the future.

d. Farm Bureau meeting regarding buffers, Sept. 22, 1:00 pm, Room 108  
Farm Bureau will be sponsoring a meeting on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm in Room 108 at the County Office Building. Rasmussen received a call asking that someone from the office attend. She encouraged supervisors to attend also.

4. NRCS

Bronson provided a written report stating she has been busy working on the fiscal year-end close out.

5. County

Root thanked the board for attending the County Board meeting.

The County is working on an early retirement program based on years of service and age, which may bring in some younger employees and trim some dollars from the budget.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Consider partial payment of Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2015-5-R, Thomas Ellingson, Crop Tree Release, in the amount of \$3,712.50

Motioned by Willford seconded by Mensink to approve partial payment of Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2015-5-R, Thomas Ellingson, Crop Tree Release, in the amount of \$3,712.50. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY15-09 Dan Miller, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$757.71 (Tabled from August 20 meeting)

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to remove the motion from the table. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Abstained: Hazel. Motion carried.

Rasmussen reported the landowner installed the practice on his own without cost share.

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Leutink to withdraw the motion approving Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY15-09. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Abstained: Hazel. Motion carried.

3. Continue discussion of Personnel Committee items

Rasmussen provided information on a longevity pay plan with suggested monthly or annual payments to those employees who have topped out on the Grade/Step scale at ten years. The payments would be paid on the five year anniversary of the employee and would increase by \$10.00 on each subsequent five year mark. This will replace the current policy of giving a gift certificate for recognition of length of service.

Year 10	\$20/month	\$240/year
Year 15	\$30/month	\$360/year
Year 20	\$40/month	\$480/year
Year 25	\$50/month	\$600/year
Year 30	\$60/month	\$720/year
Year 35	\$70/month	\$840/year
Year 40	\$80/month	\$960/year
Year 45	\$90/month	\$1080/year
Year 50	\$100/month	\$1200/year

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Mensink to use the schedule as presented and pay the lump sum on an annual basis on the five year anniversary date of the employee. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discuss District funded Windbreak Program

The program was implemented several years ago when BWSR removed windbreaks from state cost share. Less than \$2,000.00 has been spent of the \$8,000.00 set aside for cost share. Grooters asked Rasmussen to get Board input on whether the program should be continued. The Board supports the program.

Willford commented that the design plans are too stringent, don't have enough diversity, and don't allow for landowner input which doesn't make the program desirable for cost share.

Rasmussen will talk to Grooters and get more information for discussion next month.

2. Consider Community Partners Stormwater Mini-grant application from the Friends of the Root River in the amount of \$1,750.00 and authorizing the Administrator to sign the grant agreement

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Mensink to approve the Community Partners Stormwater Mini-grant application for the Friends of the Root River in the amount of \$1,640.00, the amount left in the grant. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford authorizing the Administrator to move any slippage, up to \$110.00, to this project. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Root left the meeting at 6:24 pm.

3. Consider Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2015-6-R, Dayna Burtness, for 6.0 acres Pre-commercial Thinning (FSI) in the amount of \$1,200.00

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Mensink to approve the Healthy Forests for Healthy Water Contract 2015-6-R, Dayna Burtness, for 6.0 acres Pre-commercial Thinning (FSI) in the amount of \$1,200.00. Affirmative: Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider FY16 Clean Water Fund SWCD Buffer Implementation and MAWQCP Implementation Requests for \$30,000.00 and \$6,000.00, respectively

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Hazel to approve the FY16 Clean Water Fund SWCD Buffer Implementation and MAWQCP Implementation Requests for \$30,000.00 and \$6,000.00, respectively. Affirmative: Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider request for transportation funding for Watershed Field Experience Grant

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Mensink to support the request for transportation funding in the amount of \$400.00 total. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider Operational Policy Handbook revision of State Cost Share Policies

The Board discussed the pros and cons of the proposed language of the policy. The policy will be considered again in the future after more information is obtained.

7. Consider November meeting date

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Hazel to move the November board meeting to Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, due to staff conflicts. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford, Hazel, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY15-09 Rick Hansen, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$1,338.00 using \$757.71 from FY2015 funds and \$580.29 from FY2016 funds

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Hazel to approve the Conservation Practice Assistance Contract FY15-09 Rick Hansen, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$1,338.00 using \$757.71 from FY2015 funds and \$580.29 from FY2016 funds. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Hazel to approve the September, 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 Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mensink volunteered.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Travis Willford