

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 14, 2013

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, Kasey Taylor (NRCS),
Andrea Horsman (NRCS), Tom Kaase (County Commissioner)

Willford called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the February 2013 Treasurer's report, subject to audit. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Secretary's Report – February 12, 2013 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford reported preparing for the Cover Crop Field Day being held on his farm.

Hazel had nothing to report.

Mensink had nothing to report.

Leutink was not present.

Gossman reported on his trip to Washington, DC as a member of a fly-in to talk with representatives, senators and the Department of Ag about the Farm Bill and conservation.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

3. Administrator's report

a. Root River Citizen Conversations

Rasmussen reported a series of six citizen led meetings, held in six locations are scheduled to have interactive conversations about conservation. She encouraged the board to promote and attend the meetings.

b. Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol

Rasmussen attended the Day at the Capitol on February 25th and 26th. She reviewed some of the items that were discussed including legislation allowing a \$5 fee to the SWCDs for each land transaction in the county, allowing sales to SWCDs from DNR State nurseries, and simplifying the process for SWCD's to merge.

c. MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program

This is a pilot program which watersheds could have applied for by March 1st and could provide \$1 million per year per watershed. The program standards and qualifications are still uncertain. The program will go statewide in three years and can be looked at again at that time.

The program would provide certification for farmers that meet certain criteria to participate in the program and would protect them from enforcement.

d. Ag BMP Annual Review

Rasmussen noted two possible changes to the AgBMP program:

- Allowing funds to be allocated for administration to the SWCDs from the overages at the state which would require a statute change
- Raising the loan limit from \$100,000 to \$200,000 per person. Local caps could still be determined by the SWCDs.

4. NRCS

a. Kasey Taylor, Area Conservationist

Taylor complimented the board for being conservation minded.

The job opening for the District Conservationist has been posted and applications are being received until March 21st in hopes of having the position filled by the first part of May.

NRCS is working with the Ultima employees to increase their technical training to help locally.

The budget is being addressed. No furloughs will be imposed, but a 5% cut throughout USDA will affect the delivery of conservation programs.

Taylor discussed local ag mitigation banking which is available for farmers to obtain bankable credits. Acres coming out of CRP would be ideal. Other acres would need to be assessed.

- b. Andrea Horsman, Acting District Conservationist
Horsman reported that six EQIP applications have been approved in the second ranking with two more received for ranking. EQIP applications are still being accepted for the last ranking period ending April 19th. April 15th is the deadline for forestry practices.

Sod-buster applications continue to come in with fifteen so far this month.

Taylor left the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

5. County

Kaase reported the county has been doing a cost analysis on whether to put concrete or blacktop on County Road 24. Concrete has a substantial cost savings due to the life of the concrete and the maintenance that is required.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider FY2007 State Cost Share Final Financial Report

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve the FY2007 State Cost Share Final Financial Report. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider attendance at SE Area Employees Meeting and pay dues and expenses

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve employee attendance the SE Area Employees Meeting and pay dues and expenses. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider investment of BWSR Competitive Grant Funds as listed:

Clean Water Assistance	\$87,522.00
Community Partners	\$22,620.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Mensink to approve the investment of the BWSR Competitive Grant Funds listed below at Rushford State Bank for a twelve month term at .75%.

Clean Water Assistance	\$87,522.00
Community Partners	\$22,620.00

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

3. Consider reinvestment of the following Certificates of Deposit

CD42329	Matures on 3/18/2013
CD60782	Matures on 3/24/2013

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the reinvestment of the Certificates of Deposit listed below at the renewal rate at the current banks.

CD42329	Matures on 3/18/2013
CD60782	Matures on 3/24/2013

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

4. Consider payment of Feedlot 5 Grant Cost Share Payment to Dan Sorum in the amount of \$13,350.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Mensink to approve the payment of Feedlot 5 Grant Cost Share Payment to Dan Sorum in the amount of \$13,350.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider State Cost Share Contract FY12-16 Ryan Montgomery, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$632.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve State Cost Share Contract FY12-16 Ryan Montgomery, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$632.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider approval of Contract Amendment with WSU to extend end date from March 31, 2013 to June 30, 2013

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the Contract Amendment with WSU extending the end date from March 31, 2013 to June 30, 2013. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider Environmental Defense Fund Professional Services Agreement for \$21,000.00 for outreach and Technical assistance in Watson Creek

Staff met with representatives from Purdue University regarding the Environmental Defense Fund Agreement, which is a social science case study in Watson Creek. Rasmussen noted her concerns with the agreement. Staff also had concerns that this agreement could undo the trust that has been established with producers in Watson Creek. Board members also agreed that the relationships that have been developed are too valuable to jeopardize. Board consensus was to not enter into the agreement, but leave the opportunity open for the future.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Mensink to decline entering into the Environmental Defense Fund Professional Services agreement at this time. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider approval of Resolution 2013-1 regarding Administration of Wetland Conservation Act

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve Resolution 2013-1 naming the District Administrator or his/her designee as the responsible authority for the administration of the Wetland Conservation Act. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Consider letter to Rep. Collin Peterson regarding conservation compliance

Gossman and members of the Land Stewardship Partnership (LSP) have written a letter to Rep. Collin Peterson regarding conservation compliance which would be signed by the Board. Board members had the opportunity to look at the letter and comment on it.

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Hazel to make needed corrections and send to Rep. Peterson, MASWCD, and NACD. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Mensink