

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 15, 2012

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, Anne Koliha, Dawn Bernau, Robert Joachim (NRCS)

Leutink 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, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Secretary's Report – February 16, 2012 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford had nothing to report.

Hazel reported attending a cost-share committee meeting.

Mensink had nothing to report.

Leutink reported performing the statement opening and check review and attending a cost-share committee meeting.

Gossman reported attending the water planning meeting where discussion involved frac sand mining and a presentation was given by Ronnenberg about rain gardens and storm water management.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

- a. Nutrient Management update – Dawn Bernau
Bernau gave a presentation on the purpose of the nutrient management plan and the different phases. She reviewed the topics discussed over the last year and presented an overview of the manure plot near Rushford including project goals and results.
- b. Recognition of Dawn Bernau for 5 years of service
Rasmussen presented Bernau a certificate for five years of service to the District as the nutrient management specialist.

Bernau left the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

3. Administrator's report

- a. SEMACDE meeting highlights
Rasmussen and Bernau attended the SEMACDE meeting held at Ironwood Springs. BWSR reported on the biennial budget request which will determine funding for the next three years. The Clean Water Fund will set aside 20% of its budget for yearly funding requests. This is scheduled to start in FY14 & FY15.
- b. LCCMR RIM proposal
The LCCMR Rim proposal has been modified again but is now ready to publicize for potential participants.
- c. MDA Field to Stream project update
The MDA Field to Stream project has received more funding extending the project until June, 2013 or possibly December, 2013. Sediment fingerprinting sampling has been extended for the next two years.
- d. Root River civic engagement activities
The first meeting of the Citizens Group is scheduled for May 1st. Rush-Pine has a farmer led group forming.

Gossman volunteered to be a member of the Civic Engagement Committee.
- e. Progress report on MRBI conservation planning
Rasmussen reviewed the goals set for the MRBI conservation planning specialist and the goals achieved so far, which have surpassed the original goals.

A watershed meeting is being planned for the Watson Creek area.

4. NRCS

Joachim reported Jim Fritz was chosen as the new Area Resource Conservationist and will start his duties in early April. Byam will be detailed to Wabasha County for a month starting in April as acting DC and will then be detailed out west to help with wetlands. White will be on maternity leave from approximately May 1st until July 1st, so Joachim will be asking for engineering help from the Area Office.

Currently, staff is conducting CSP interviews, first round of EQIP signups, and CRP general signups. A no-till field day is in the planning stages.

5. County

No county representative was present.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on purchasing a crimper

Staff has been checking prices on old chisel plows to convert to a crimper which are approximately \$4,000-\$5,000 and not readily available. Ron Gehling has indicated interest in purchasing a crimper and renting it out. Jim Harstad also has one which he is willing to sell to Ron Scheevel. Due to the options available, Board consensus was to wait on the purchase of a crimper at this time.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider reinvestment of the listed Certificates of Deposit

CD60782	Matures on March 24, 2012
CD67465	Matures on March 30, 2012

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to authorize Serfling to research current certificate of deposit rates and reinvest the listed Certificates of Deposits:

CD60782	Matures on March 24, 2012
CD67465	Matures on March 30, 2012

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

2. Discuss transfer of Local Water Management Base Grant funds from the County to the SWCD similar to WCA grant

Rasmussen talked with Shirl Boelter regarding the transfer of the Local Water Management Base Grant funds who suggested that it be listed in the budget for next year. For that to happen, the SWCD needs to make the recommendation to the County. Boelter explained that the Finance Committee will make the recommendation to the Commissioners for their approval.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to make a recommendation to the County to transfer the Local Water Management Base Grant Funds to the jurisdiction of the SWCD.

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

3. Ag BMP Loan Program Report, Anne Koliha

Koliha reviewed the AgBMP loan program figures for 2011 and the budget for 2012 with the board.

4. Consider State Cost Share Contracts as listed below:

FY12-04	Mike Benson	Grassed Waterway	\$945.00
FY12-05	James Priebe	Grassed Waterway	\$882.00
FY12-06	Norris Storlie	Farmstead Windbreak	\$371.00
FY12-07	Steve McCallson	Farmstead Windbreak	\$513.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the State Cost Share Contracts as listed below:

FY12-04	Mike Benson	Grassed Waterway	\$945.00
FY12-05	James Priebe	Grassed Waterway	\$882.00
FY12-06	Norris Storlie	Farmstead Windbreak	\$371.00
FY12-07	Steve McCallson	Farmstead Windbreak	\$513.00

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

5. Consider approval of Feedlot V Sub-recipient Agreement with the SE MN Water Resources Board in the amount of \$100,000.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the Feedlot V Sub-recipient Agreement with the SE Water Resources Board in the amount of \$100,000.00.

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

6. Consider approval of revision to Operational Policy Handbook, page 9

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Willford to approve the revision to the Operational Policy Handbook, page 9 with the addition of *Seeding and mulching are not eligible for cost share but are required for final payment of earth moving projects in order for those projects to be considered complete.*, and the deletion of *if District Technician cost estimates exceed \$4,000.* Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider approval of Rules for the 2012 State Cost-Share Program

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the Rules for the 2012 State Cost-Share Program with changes as discussed and the addition of *#15. For any special project funding where cost share exceeds \$5,000, the SWCD earnest money policy will*

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

8. Consider approval to transfer earnest money for cancelled projects to personnel accounts

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve the transfer of earnest money for cancelled projects to personnel accounts. Earnest money for cancelled feedlot projects would go to the Engineering Technicians account and state cost share cancelled project earnest money would go to the non-grant personnel account. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Mensink, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Approve use of No Till Promotion funds for No Till Field Day in July

Joachim reported on preliminary planning for a No Till Field Day at Travis Willford's. Potential speakers will be Gary Thome, an economist from Riverland Technical College; Jim Fasching, Midwest Labs, experienced in soils and proper sampling techniques; and possibly a speaker from the No-Till Farmer. No-till equipment could be displayed and lunch would be served. More details will be forthcoming.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve the use of No Till Promotion funds for the No Till Field Day on June 28th. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Consider approval of FY12 BWSR Livestock Waste Management Grant Agreement C12-102 in the amount of \$180,882.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the FY12 BWSR Livestock Waste Management Grant Agreement C12-102 in the amount of \$180,882.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Mensink, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

11. Consider approval of FY2012 BWSR Sub-recipient Agreement for the SE SWCD Tech Support JPB in the amount of \$183,600.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the FY12 BWSR Sub-recipient Agreement for the SE SWCD Tech Support JPB in the amount of \$183,600.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Mensink, Willford, Leutink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Mensink volunteered to come in for the Statement Opening and Check review on Monday, April 2nd, 2012.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Hazel

DRAFT