

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 14, 2013

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, Joe Magee, Jessica Bronson (NRCS), Margo Dennesen, Innovo Benefits, (by phone)

Willford called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to approve the October, 2013 Treasurer's report, subject to audit. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, 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 – October 16, 2013 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford had nothing to report.

Hazel reported attending the insurance meeting with staff and the PEIP insurance representative, came in for the statement opening and check review, and attended a U of MN Soils Course.

Mensink reported attending the LWM Citizen's meeting and the Field to Stream Presentation.

Leutink had nothing to report.

Gossman had nothing to report.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

3. Administrator's report

a. BWSR Board vacancy information

The Board was reminded of BWSR Board vacancies and the information that had been sent via email.

b. Discussion topics for legislators at December meeting

Two legislators may be attending the December board meeting. Board members were asked what topics should be discussed with them. Topics suggested include stability to base funding from BWSR and Clean Water Council recommendations. Other topics should be emailed to Rasmussen prior to the next meeting.

c. U of M Cattle Pond Bacteria Study

Thomas has been working with Tim Goldsmith, U of M, using funds from The Nature Conservancy for lab costs, for the study of bacteria in cattle ponds. A report is being prepared with the results from the study.

d. Grant opportunities: BWSR, Bush Foundation

Rasmussen told the board about two grant opportunities, one with BWSR and one with the Bush Foundation. Applications are due December 13th.

4. NRCS

Bronson reported they are working on CSP payments. Applications are now being accepted for EQIP projects. Staff is busy with construction projects. A large number of 1026 requests for sod busts and tiling are still being processed.

5. County

No county representative was present.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss health insurance options (Margo Dennesen, Innov Benefits, joining by telephone to answer questions)

Magee entered the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

The Board reviewed the current rates for insurance, the projected rates for next year, and the scenarios provided by Margo Dennesen, Innovo Benefits, who joined the meeting by telephone to answer questions. They discussed possible incentives for employees to move to higher deductible plans and changing to a three tier system. They also discussed possible personnel policy changes for current employees and new employees.

Board consensus is to set aside time at the December meeting to review new issues or developments and to call a special meeting after the first of the year to focus only on insurance.

Bronson left the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

Magee left the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

2. Discuss windbreak program

The Board discussed using Special Project Funds for windbreak cost share as BWSR has discontinued funding for them.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Mensink to fund the cost of the trees for windbreaks at 50% with a cap of total dollars committed to the program of \$8,000.00 from Special Project Funds. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Mensink, Leutink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider renewal option for DNR Lease

Rasmussen reported that DNR suggested inserting a renewal option into the lease.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to include a renewal option of \$15.00 per square foot into the lease with DNR for the Conservation Building. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Discuss donation for MASWCD Auction at the State Convention

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Hazel to designate \$100.00 be used to purchase items for the MASWCD Auction. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider NACD dues for 2014

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to pay dues to NACD in the amount of \$500.00 for 2014. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider payment of MACDE dues for 2014 (9 employees @ \$20)

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Gossman to approve the payment of the MACDE dues for 2014 for nine employees at \$20.00 each. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider Clean Water Fund Cost Share Contract FY13-1 Steve Oian, Manure Waste Storage, in the amount of \$164,403.00 for construction of the facility and \$8,000.00 for private technical assistance services for a total of \$172,403.00

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Mensink to approve Clean Water Fund Cost Share Contract FY13-1 Steve Oian, Manure Waste Storage, in the amount of \$164,403.00 for construction of the facility and \$8,000.00 for private technical assistance services for a total of \$172,403.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider Feedlot V Grant Cost Share Contract F5G-07 Payment to Dean Richards, Feedlot Runoff Control, in the amount of \$15,000.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the payment of Feedlot V Grant Cost Share Contract F5G-07, Dean Richards, Feedlot Runoff Control, in the amount of \$15,000.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Discuss planning meeting

The annual planning meeting will be conducted on Tuesday, January 28th at 4:30 p.m. at the Conservation Building. Items for discussion include the AWARE Program. The district policy needs to have several OSHA requirements in it. Mensink and Gossman volunteered to bring food for the meeting.

6. Discuss recognition luncheon

The Board discussed possible locations to hold the recognition luncheon in Harmony which include the Golf Course, The Hall, and Wheelers.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Mensink to schedule the recognition meal for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28th following the annual planning meeting at a yet to be determined location in Harmony. The time of the Annual Planning Meeting will be changed to 3:30 p.m. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider approval to apply for Cover Crop Champions Grant

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Leutink to grant approval to apply for the Cover Crop Champions Grant. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Gossman, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider attendance and expenses for Nutrient Management Specialist at Minnesota Short Course, December 10-12, 2013

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve attendance and expenses for the Nutrient Management Specialist at the Minnesota Short Course, December 10-12, 2013. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Discuss newspaper insert

The Bluff Country Reader will be printing the insert this year. The timing of the insert will be changed to the end of January or the first part of February. Topics will be discussed at the December meeting.

10. Consider State Cost Share Contract FY13-13, Brian Hazel, Terrace Restoration, in the amount of \$2,250.00

Motioned by Mensink seconded by Leutink to approve State Cost Share Contract FY13-13, Brian Hazel, Terrace Restoration, in the amount of \$2,250.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Leutink, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Abstained: Hazel. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening and check review on Wednesday, December 4, 2013. Gossman volunteered.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Mensink