

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, July 14, 2011

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)

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

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to approve the July 2011 Treasurer's report, subject to audit. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve the April – June 2011 supervisors vouchers. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Payment of Grazing Management Contract GRF 46 Brian Hazel in the amount of \$4,362.10
2. Payment of State Cost Share Contract FY11-07 David Eickhoff, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$456.00

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford reported attending a Finance Committee meeting and will be participating in the radio spot at the fair.

Hazel reported that he had been working on his Grazing System installation.

Mensink reported she will be attending the JPB meeting on July 27th.

Gossman reported attending a Finance Committee meeting, a Forestry Committee meeting, helped with the dump site clean-up, and has been working on the Lost Creek Trail project. A field day at the trail is scheduled for August 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Leutink was not present.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

3. Administrator's report

a. Fairgrounds stormwater project

The Fair board is interested in a rainwater collection and recycling project around the large livestock barn. The rainwater collected would be used for washing livestock. A grant for funding and submitted jointly by the SWCD, Fair Board, and the City is being considered.

b. MRBI update

Rasmussen updated the board on the projects that have been funded and the amount of funding involved for each. Out of the \$526,000 allocated \$320,000 is being used.

No contribution agreement for the technical assistance has been received yet. The Nature Conservancy agreement should be signed soon. The Personnel Committee will be meeting in the near future to develop a job description and timeline for hiring.

c. Magnum Road dumpsite cleanup

Sixteen volunteers helped with the clean-up. Removed was 5,820 pounds of landfill material, 45 tires, four toilets, six appliances, 1 television, several sinks and a motorcycle.

d. Sale of tractor

The tractor has been advertised with bids being accepted until July 25th. Consensus was to have Rasmussen and another staff person open the bids and allow the tractor to be sold to the highest bidder at any amount over \$2,500.00.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to authorize Rasmussen to sell the tractor to the highest bidder at an amount over \$2,500.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

e. DNR Trail trial
The DNR Trail trial was settled out of court.

4. NRCS

Joachim reported a Local Workgroup Meeting has been scheduled for July 26th at 2:30 p.m. to prioritize what types of projects will be funded.

Applications are now being accepted for the Grassland Reserve Program in which participants voluntarily limit the future development and cropping of the land. Joachim reviewed the enrollment options and rental payments.

There are four class action suits against USDA for discrimination against women, Hispanics, Native and African Americans for not receiving loans from FHA. USDA is publicizing the information in newspapers, on the radio and is posted within the service center.

Four new CSP applications have been accepted.

Joachim and Rasmussen attended a No-till Field Day on June 28th near Decorah. Joachim sent out flyers to approximately 75 interested persons. An alternating schedule with Winneshiek and Fillmore for hosting a no-till event is being discussed.

Joanie Knable is working one day a week redoing the case file. Casey Taylor has been named the new Area 7 Conservationist. Mike Muzzy was hired in the Rochester field office to replace Dave Copeland. The NRCS golf tournament has been scheduled for August 20th.

5. County

No County representative present.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider approval for Chair to sign Secretary's Report from June 17, 2011 Board Meeting

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to approve the Chair to sign the Secretary's Report from the June 17, 2011 Regular Board Meeting. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider approval of Secretary's Report from the June 17, 2011 Regular Board Meeting

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve the Secretary's Report from the June 17, 2011 Regular Board Meeting. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider approval to adopt 2011 IRS adjusted mileage rate

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to approve the adoption of the adjusted IRS mileage rate as the rate for reimbursement. It was noted that the current IRS rate is \$.55 ½ cents per mile and reimbursements would follow any 2011 changes to the rate. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Consider approval of contract extension with Joel Nelson to June 30, 2012 for MDA Root River: From Field to Stream project

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to approve the contract extension with Joel Nelson to June 30, 2012 for the MDA Root River: From Field to Stream project. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider approval for Chair to sign Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement for \$11,250.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to give approval to the Chair to sign the Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement for \$11,250.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider approval of 2011 Budget revision

Per the recommendation of the Finance Committee only what is needed to equal the three month operating balance will be transferred to that fund. The balance left will be used for other special projects.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the revisions to the 2011 budget per the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider approval of 2012 Draft Budget and County Allocation Request

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to approve the 2012 draft budget and the county allocation request of \$213,150.00 per the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider approval for Chair to sign MASWCD Contribution Agreement Amendment

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to give approval to the Chair to sign the MASWCD Contribution Agreement Amendment. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider cancellation of Flood Relief Cost Share Contract FR08-01-22 Ken Visger/RR SWCD, Grade Stabilization, in the amount of \$37,500.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the cancellation of Flood Relief Cost Share Contract FR08-01-22 Ken Visger/RR SWCD, Grade Stabilization, in the amount of \$37,500.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Consider the return of FR08-01 Flood Relief Cost Share Unencumbered Funds to BWSR in the amount of \$37,500.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the return of FR08-01 Flood Relief Cost Share Unencumbered Funds to BWSR in the amount of \$37,500.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval of AgBMP Loan Application for Terry Schwarz, Ag Waste Manure Storage, in the amount of \$60,000.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the AgBMP loan application for Terry Schwarz, Ag Waste Manure Storage, in the amount of \$60,000.00, per the recommendation of the Cost Share Committee. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider approval of State Cost Share Contract FY11-14 Scott Wilson, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$680.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve State Cost Share Contract FY11-14 Scott Wilson, Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$680.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Mensink, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Discuss tree replacement due to tornado damage

The Board discussed the replacement of trees put into a State Cost Share windbreak last year that suffered tornado damage. An estimated forty trees will need to be replaced. Board consensus is to sell trees at the District's cost to the landowner. The board asked that a specific number of trees and the costs involved be submitted for their consideration.

4. Consider approval of State Cost Share Contract FY11-15 Evan O'Connor, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$635.60

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve State Cost Share Contract FY11-15 Evan O'Connor, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$635.60. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Discuss request from RSVP for donation

No action taken.

6. Discuss funding options for Watson Creek basal stalk nitrate testing project

Five or six producers are interested in doing basal stalk nitrate testing, which is a tool to evaluate nitrogen levels. A request has been submitted to the Driftless Area Initiative for funding for the project. It is hoped the participating producers will encourage others to test and use the results in their farming practice.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to approve funding from the designated Special Projects Fund for the Watson Creek basal stalk nitrate testing project as a backup plan in the event funding is not obtained from the request to the Driftless Area Initiative. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to approve the July 2011 payables. Affirmative: Mensink, Hazel, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Joachim left the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Mensink volunteered to come in for the statement opening and check review on Monday, August 1st.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Hazel