

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, October 13, 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, Ryan Thesing, Robert Joachim (NRCS), Tom Kaase (County Commissioner)

Mensink called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approve July – September 2011 supervisors vouchers
2. Payment of Flood Relief Cost Share Contract FR08-01-07 Dan Miller, Repair Grassed Waterway, in the amount of \$425.00

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford had nothing to report.

Hazel had nothing to report.

Mensink had nothing to report.

Leutink was not present.

Gossman reported attending the opening of the Lost Creek Hiking Trail with approximately 100 people in attendance. The trail has garlic mustard growing on it and a grant is being sought to fund two kiosks to inform trail users how to prevent the spread of garlic mustard and the importance of wiping it off your boots.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

- a. 6th Grade Conservation Day
A report was given to the board for their review.

Ryan Thesing, the newly hired Conservation Planning Specialist was introduced to the board.

Gossman gave an update on his daughter, Sarah, who was the summer intern.

3. Administrator's report

- a. Fall SE Area meeting report
Rasmussen reported BWSR is encouraging partnership with partner organizations to inform residents of funding opportunities. Winona SWCD is a sponsor of the Green Fire Frozen River Festival which tells the story of Aldo Leopold. The JPB engineering staff is receiving training on stream bank restoration.
- b. Root River Projects
Civic Engagement meetings have been held with Lions, Kiwanis and several other volunteer groups. MDA received a conservation innovation grant for simplified edge of field monitoring equipment on two pasture sites. The USGS has funding to install nitrate monitoring equipment in the Upper South Fork of the Root River.
- c. Midwest Natural Resources Group November meeting
The Midwest Natural Resources Group will be meeting in Chicago on November 2nd. Area members will be reporting by video conference to them.
- d. Funding from MN Conservation Corp for projects and apprentices
Money has been received from the Clean Water Fund for potential labor intensive projects. Applications are due November 15th. Apprentice applications are due in December and are for an eleven month position.

4. NRCS

Joachim reported he was dealing with budget issues as the agency is operating under a continuing resolution. Byam is continuing to help in Mower County.

Staff is continuing to work on construction projects. Three structures are complete with five terrace projects yet to be completed this year.

Fillmore County has generated \$1.26 million in EQIP, WHIP and CSP contracts. Future EQIP projects will be based on a multi-state docket which is being revamped to unify payments between states.

Casey Taylor, the new area conservationist, plans to attend the November board meeting.

5. County

Kaase reported on the redesign of Community Services and how the regionalization of services is being looked at by the state. The changes are proving to be more efficient and have a lower cost of delivery.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider approval for Chair to sign Secretary's Report from September 15, 2011 Board Meeting

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve the chair to sign the Secretary's Report from the September 15, 2011 Board Meeting. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider approval of Secretary's Report from September 15, 2011 Regular Meeting

Motioned by Willford seconded by Gossman to approve the Secretary's Report from the September 15, 2011 Regular Meeting. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Review resolutions.

Resolutions were reviewed and supervisor ballots were submitted for compilation on the master ballot.

4. Consider renewal of Bacteria Lab Certification in the amount of \$2,400.00

The board discussed raising the fee for bacteria testing. Rasmussen and Magee will discuss further and come back to the board with a recommendation.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve the renewal of Bacteria Lab Certification in the amount of \$2,400.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider approval of Grant Agreement Amendment for 2009 Clean Water Legacy Grant extension from September 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve the Grant Agreement Amendment for the 2009 Clean Water Legacy Grant extension from September 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider approval to use Special Project Funds for cover crops and basal stalk nitrate testing

Rasmussen explained how much funding was expected to be received, from whom, and how much additional funding will be required to cover the costs associated with cover crops and basal stalk nitrate testing.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to approve the use of approximately \$4,100.00 of Special Project Funds for cover crop and basal stalk nitrate testing expenses. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Discuss options for 2012 newspaper insert

Rasmussen asked for guidance as to who should publish the 2012 insert. Board consensus was to interview both the Fillmore County Journal and the Bluff Country Reader and discuss with them a potential two year printing option. Rasmussen was asked to bring back the information obtained to the board for their final decision.

8. Consider approval of cost estimate from AlphaGraphics to print plat book

The Records Office had inquired whether they would be able to sell the new plat books at the courthouse. Board consensus was to allow the sale of the plat books at the courthouse with monthly payment to the District for sales made.

The board also discussed whether to give or sell plat books to county departments. Consensus was to notify the county departments that they were available for sale and let them purchase them. Non-printable CDs will also be available for sale.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the cost estimate from AlphaGraphics to print 250 plat books. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to sell the plat books for \$30.00 each. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Discuss printing of additional forestry brochures

The original brochures had been manipulated to center the information on each of the pages. The information and arrows on the map portion did not move as did the rest of the information. Gossman asked to have 200 additional brochures printed stating he would forego per diem(s) to cover the cost of the printing.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to cover the cost of 200 additional forestry brochures by the District. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Review draft 2012 Proposed Budget

Rasmussen reviewed with the board the most significant changes on the 2012 proposed budget.

A Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled before the December meeting to discuss the problems reimbursable grants cause with cash flow.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Authorize attendance to the MASWCD Annual Convention on December 4 – 6, 2011

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to authorize attendance for supervisors, staff, the Outstanding Conservationist families, and Charlie Fravel to the MASWCD Convention on December 4-6, 2011 and pay expenses. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider reinvestment of CD 41076 which matures on October 26, 2011

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve the reinvestment of CD 41076 which matures on October 26, 2011. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider approval of resolution adopting the Fillmore County Local Water Management Plan as the SWCD Comprehensive Plan

The addendum to the resolution was distributed to the board for their information and review.

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve the resolution adopting the Fillmore County Local Water Management Plan as the SWCD Comprehensive Plan. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Mensink, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Update on Wetland Preservation Area program

The Wetland Preservation Area program exempt status has been repealed so the revenue received from the six enrolled properties will not be reimbursed to the County. Rasmussen asked if legislators should be contacted or the County approached on how it will affect them. Board consensus was to write a letter to Greg Davids to ask his help in getting the money back.

5. Consider approval of NRCS Contribution Agreement in the amount of \$3,655.00

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve the NRCS Contribution Agreement in the amount of \$3,655.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider donation to Minnesota Historical Society in the amount of \$50.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve a donation to the Minnesota Historical Society in the amount of \$50.00. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Kaase left the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Joachim and Thesing left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Hazel