

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 17, 2011

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, Robert Joachim (NRCS), Kasey Taylor (NRCS), Tom Kaase (County Commissioner)

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

Joachim introduced Kasey Taylor, the new Area Conservationist, to the board.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Koliha provided a slide show of before and after pictures of the feedlot projects to be approved.

Gossman entered the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

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

1. Secretary's Report – October 13, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Payment of Feedlot Water Quality Management Contract FY09-05 Schriever Farms, Engineering Services for Manure Storage, in the amount of \$6,840.38
3. Payment of Feedlot Water Quality Management Contract FWQMG FY11-04 Gary Krahn, Feedlot Runoff Control, in the amount of \$23,682.00

4. Payment of Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant Contract FY11-7 Jarry Kotek, Manure Storage, in the amount of \$158,000.00
5. Payment of Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant Contract FY11-7 T/A\$ Jarry Kotek, Engineering Services, in the amount of \$5,355.00
6. Payment of Flood Relief Cost Share Contract FR08-01-21 Vince Olson, Sinkhole Treatment, in the amount of \$8,860.89

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford had nothing to report.

Hazel reminded the board of the Grazing Video Conference scheduled for December 8th in Rochester. He encouraged more use of e-mail for notification of upcoming events and cost-share programs. He suggested having a sign-up sheet at the front desk to obtain e-mail addresses.

Mensink reported coming in for the statement opening and check review on November 1st.

Leutink had nothing to report.

Gossman reported receiving calls about the silica sand issues. He suggested the board may want to take a position on the issue.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

Keene's staff report was provided to the board.

3. Administrator's report

a. Cover crop report

Rasmussen handed out a report summarizing the cover crop project. The total amount paid out was \$4,298.00 with \$1,849.00 of that amount paid out of district funds.

b. Comprehensive Plan

Rasmussen reported the Local Water Management Plan, which had been approved as the Comprehensive Plan, was approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

c. MCIT Dividend

Rasmussen reported a dividend of \$6,266.00 had been received from the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust.

4. NRCS

Joachim reported field work is continuing, but terrace projects are on hold due to the dry soil conditions. EQIP signup is expected to be in late January or early February with the ranking period following. Taylor explained how changes in the EQIP docket will affect the State of Minnesota in grazing and other core practices.

CSP payments are in the process of being approved. Random spot checks to assure contract holders are in compliance will be done.

The development of ten additional CRP plans will be funded through Pheasants Forever.

Byam will be the acting DC in Mower County through the end of December. Other soil cons will be filling in until a new DC is hired.

5. County

Kaase reported the Planning commission had areas applying for a conditional use permit for the production of silica sand but that had been pulled from the agenda. The County is trying to gather information and develop a plan on how to deal with and stay ahead of the problem. A possible moratorium may be placed on the production of silica sand. The amount of water used in the production and possible contaminants is being reviewed.

Kaase left the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider amendment to Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant Contract FY11-1 Bruce Wingert extending the completion date to December 30, 2012

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Hazel to approve the amendment to Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant Contract FY11-1 Bruce Wingert extending the completion date to December 30, 2012. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Discuss fee for selling plat books at Courthouse

The Recorders office asked to have plat books available for them to sell, but wanted a fee for selling them. Zoning also asked to be able to sell them, but without a fee.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to approve selling plat books at the Zoning office for no fee or any Courthouse office that is willing to sell for no fee or the books will be brought back to the SWCD office. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider approval to sponsor Conservation Corps application for Lost Creek Hiking Trail project

An application was submitted requesting Conservation Corp labor to work on two areas along the Lost Creek Hiking Trail and to remove buckthorn. There is no cost to the SWCD as the matching funds will come from the hiking trail group and volunteers.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve the sponsorship of the Conservation Corp application for Lost Creek Hiking Trail project. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Mensink, Leutink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Discuss information for printing newspaper insert

Rasmussen reported a meeting had been scheduled with both papers and the information obtained was discussed by the board.

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to have the Bluff Country Reader print the newspaper insert for 2012 as long as the Memorandum of Understanding is signed by each paper. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

5. Consider approval to replace tornado damaged windbreak trees planted in 2010

Rasmussen suggested two options were available which include replacing the trees for free or selling replacement trees at the District's cost.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Leutink to donate trees up to a cost of \$250.00 to replace the tornado damaged windbreak trees. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Taylor left the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

6. Consider approval of letter to legislators about Wetland Preservation Areas

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Hazel to approve the letter to legislators as presented regarding the Wetland Preservation Areas. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider amendment to State Cost Share Contract FY10-12 Rich O'Connor extending the completion date to June 30, 2012

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve the amendment to State Cost Share Contract FY10-12 Rich O'Connor extending the completion date to June 30, 2012 due to dry soil conditions. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Review and approve 2010 District Audited Financial Statements

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Hazel to approve the 2010 District Audited Financial Statements. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval to pay NACD dues

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to approve payment of NACD dues in the amount of \$500.00 and include a request to have the national convention rotate around the country instead of only having it in Las Vegas. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider approval of FY2012 BWSR SWCD Base Grant Agreement

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Hazel to approve the FY2012 BWSR SWCD Base Grant Agreement in the amount of \$53,844.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

3. Consider percentage of Technical Assistance from FY2012 BWSR SWCD Base Grant

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Gossman to approve 20% as the percentage for Technical Assistance from FY2012 BWSR SWCD Base Grant. Affirmative: Hazel, Willford, Mensink, Leutink, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Discuss Annual Planning Meeting

Board consensus was to schedule the annual planning meeting for Tuesday, January 31st at 4:30 p.m. at the Conservation Building. As in the past, the staff will review the annual plan, changes will be made and a draft copy will be given to the board at the January meeting for their review before the planning meeting. Mensink volunteered to provide food for the meeting.

5. Consider payment of Feedlot 4 Grant Cost Share Contract F4G-06 Glen McNamara in the amount of \$5,667.00

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Willford to approve payment of Feedlot 4 Grant Cost Share Contract F4G-06 Glen McNamara in the amount of \$5,667.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider payment of Feedlot 5 Grant Cost Share Contract F5G-03 Glen McNamara in the amount of \$9,333.00

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Gossman to approve payment of Feedlot 5 Grant Cost Share Contract F5G-03 Glen McNamara in the amount of \$9,333.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider approval to pay 2012 MACDE memberships

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to approve payment of 2012 MACDE membership in the amount of \$200.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Leutink, Mensink, Willford, Gossman. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider approval to transfer funds from BWSR-CREP, Pond Clean Out, and Renewable Energy Event designated accounts to Special Projects Fund

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve the transfer of funds from BWSR-CREP, Pond Clean Out, and Renewable Energy Event designated accounts to Special Projects Fund. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider approval for Nutrient Management Specialist to attend Integrated Crop Management Conference Nov. 30-Dec. 1 in Ames, Iowa

Motioned by Hazel seconded by Willford to approve the Nutrient Management Specialist to attend Integrated Crop Management Conference Nov. 30-Dec. 1 in Ames, Iowa. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Consider approval of State Cost Share Contract FY11-16 Rick Ruberg, Terraces with Underground Outlet, in the amount of \$3,978.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Hazel to approve State Cost Share Contract FY11-16 Rick Ruberg, Terraces with Underground Outlet, in the amount of \$3,978.00. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

11. Consider approval to apply for Conservation Apprenticeship Academy Grant

The Conservation Apprenticeship Academy Grant is an application to fund a summer intern for 450 hours from May through August. The hiring is done by the Conservation Corp, but the District would have a say in who is hired. Suggested projects for the intern include organizing a no-till field day, update the no-till website, water quality monitoring, and storm water projects such as rain barrels and rain gardens.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to grant approval to apply for a Conservation Apprenticeship Academy Grant. Affirmative: Hazel, Gossman, Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

12. Discuss possible promotion of LSP Holistic Management Workshops

The Board reviewed the information regarding the LSP Holistic Management Workshops and discussed whether to offer a scholarship to attend. Willford expressed interest in attending the February workshop.

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Gossman to approve attendance and expenses for Willford to attend the February workshop. Affirmative: Gossman, Hazel, Leutink, Mensink. Abstained: Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Further discussion on the criteria to be used to approve a scholarship to the public was discussed. Adult farm management instructors will be notified that an opportunity is available.

Motioned by Gossman seconded by Leutink to offer a scholarship to one farm unit (two people) for attendance at the scheduled workshops up to a cost of \$500.00 and ask that they report back to the board. Affirmative: Gossman, Leutink, Hazel, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Gossman volunteered to come to the office on Thursday, December 1st at 7:00 a.m. for the statement opening and check review.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Hazel