

DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 16, 2011

4:30 P.M.

USDA Service Center

SWCD Office

Preston, MN 55965

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leonard Leutink, Pam Mensink, Travis Willford

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Gossman, Brian Hazel.

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Rasmussen, Jeanette Serfling, Sarah Gossman, Jackie Byam (NRCS), Tom Kaase (County Commissioner)

Mensink called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. A quorum is present.

I. AGENDA

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

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Kaase entered the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Payment of State Cost Share Contract FY10-13 Biswajit Paul, Well Decommissioning, in the amount of \$850.00 using \$550.00 from FY10 funds and \$300.00 FY11 funds
2. Payment of State Cost Share Contract FY11-09 Robert Stoskopf, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$256.00
3. Payment of State Cost Share Contract FY11-08 Chuck Brunsvold, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$488.00
4. Payment of State Cost Share Contract FY10-09 Todd Hendrickson, Farmstead Windbreak, in the amount of \$1,680.00
5. Payment of State Cost Share Contract FY09-14 Jerry Johnson, Terrace with Tile Outlet, in the amount of \$2,886.05

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

IV. REPORTS

1. Supervisor's activity report

Willford reported attending the May board meeting

Mensink reported attending the May board meeting.

Leutink reported performing the statement opening and check review and attending the May board meeting.

2. Staff reports

A written report was included in the board packets.

Rasmussen introduced Sarah Gossman, the summer intern, to the Board.

3. Administrator's report

- a. Midwest Natural Resources Group, June 10 meeting report
Rasmussen reported on the meeting she attended in Peoria, Illinois. The MNRG group reviewed the Root River action plan which identified the needs for the Root River and what types of assistance the federal agencies can provide. EPA can provide some assistance for monitoring which was part of the Comprehensive Strategy and will now free up \$100,000.00 which can be used in other areas. In the fall some revisions will be made to the action plan and each agency will designate a contact person. Support from the Corp of Engineers will fund the development of a website and form an organization. In the future, work will be with individual agencies rather than the larger group.
- b. Budget Review
- c. Follow up on gift certificates sent to Rural Preserves applicants
Several recipients of the gift certificates expressed appreciation for the certificate they received.
- d. Update on selling the tractor
The tractor has been repaired and is ready to sell. Estimated income from the sale is estimated to be between \$2,000 and \$3,000. An individual has shown interest in purchasing the tractor; but because the SWCD is a public entity, it was suggested that it should be put out on bids or taken to Gehling's to sell. Board consensus was to sell the tractor at Gehling's next auction instead of putting it out on bids.
- e. State government shutdown implications

A letter received from BWSR indicates that grants in progress that funds have been received for may continue to operate. The grants that are on a reimbursement basis would need to discontinue work on July 1, 2011.

f. Report on Southeast Area Resolutions Meeting

Rasmussen attended the resolutions meeting where only four resolutions were presented. The wording on Fillmore's resolution was changed to explain more clearly its intent. The other three resolutions were reviewed. Only three will be sent on to the state MASWD convention as one was defeated.

4. NRCS

Byam reported three more CSP applications have been approved for a total of eleven. NRCS is finishing up on MRBI contracts which need to be completed by July 1st. Twenty-four of 28 CRP contracts have been accepted.

Most compliance reviews have been completed. Several whistle-blower complaints have come in. This year has seen more erosion than usual. They are trying to get landowners to be more responsible.

NRCS is offering an "early-out buyout" program to select groups of employees. Next year it will be available to most employees. Potentially a large number of employees could be leaving.

5. County

Kaase reported that the proposed Veteran's Cemetery didn't get passed and included in the plan which set the project back, but the County will continue to work on it. The Board of Equalization met and had residents in attendance, but the Board was not able to do anything to help them.

Gossman left the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

V. OLD BUSINESS

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

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

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

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

3. Review revision of soil erosion policy

Rasmussen changed the soil erosion policy which read "No response from landowner. No further action by SWCD. Outcome documented." to:

"No response from landowner. Contact original complainant, if known, and inform them about how to file a formal complaint with the Zoning Office or FSA. Follow up on complaint if contacted by Zoning Office. Outcome documented."

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to approve the change to the policy as presented. Affirmative: Mensink, Leutink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

4. Discuss plat book front cover and SWCD information due July 8

Rasmussen reported the SWCD is allowed two pages of information plus the front cover in the new plat book. She felt no picture currently in the photo library was suitable for the cover photo. The consensus of the board was to see if Bob Joachim would take a picture of bluffs, trees and/or rivers to use for the front cover.

The two information pages were reviewed by the board. No changes were suggested.

5. Consider approval for Chair to sign NRCS Contribution Agreement for Technical Assistance in the Root River Watershed in the amount of \$200,000.00

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve the Chair to sign the NRCS Contribution Agreement for Technical Assistance in the Root River Watershed in the amount of \$200,000.00 and have the Personnel Committee review the agreement when it is received. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

6. Consider approval for Chair to Sign Funding Agreement with The Nature Conservancy for Root River Technical Assistance

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to approve the Funding Agreement with The Nature Conservancy for Root River Technical Assistance. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

7. Consider approval of Work Plan with The Nature Conservancy for targeted buffer outreach in priority watersheds in the Root River in the amount of \$6,650.00

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to approve the Work Plan with The Nature Conservancy for targeted buffer outreach in priority watershed in the Root River in the amount of \$6,650.00. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

8. Consider approval of revised Farm Bill Assistance Grant Application

The program was changed and the SWCD was asked to reapply. The areas that can be worked on were broadened to include stormwater management and special CRP for wellhead protection areas. The time was increased from .25FTE to .30 FTE.

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to approve the revised Farm Bill Assistance Grant Application. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

9. Consider amendment to Feedlot Water Quality Management Contract FY09-05 Schriever Farms extending the completion date to June 30, 2012

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve the amendment to Feedlot Water Quality Management Contract FY09-05 Schriever Farms extending the completion date to June 30, 2012. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

10. Choose 2011 Outstanding Conservationists

The suggested candidates and their achievements were reviewed.

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to name Larry and Irene Mathison and Loren and Carrie Mathison as the 2011 Fillmore County Outstanding Conservationists. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

11. Discuss County Fair booth display

Ideas for the fair include the usual posters and displays, create a soil erosion poster which would include information about keeping your conservation plan updated; a display with water samples showing sediment and turbidity; online registrations at the SWCD website for daily drawings for trees, new plat books, bacteria testing, or rain barrels; outdoor display with working rain barrel, displays from MPCA and possibly an Agro-Forestry display.

Rasmussen asked for a volunteer for the radio spot at the fair on Thursday, July 21st at 4:30 p.m. Willford volunteered with Mensink as a backup. Grooters will prepare the interview questions.

12. Review 2011 Budget and 2012 Budgeting Process

The budget comparison as of the end of May, 2011 was reviewed by the board. The 2012 allocation request to the County is due by July 18th.

Rasmussen noted that BWSR is indicating that the amount of state cost share received for FY2012 will be cut by 48%. All of the state cost share dollars can be requested to be used for technical assistance, but there would be no funding for conservation projects.

The County is looking at a 1.5% increase for personnel. Rasmussen will have comparisons of personnel costs for the next meeting.

13. Consider amendment to Feedlot Water Quality Management Contract FY09-04 Randy Ness extending the completion date to December 30, 2011

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve the amendment to Feedlot Water Quality Management Contract FY09-04 Randy Ness extending the completion date to December 30, 2011. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval of Ground Water Level Monitoring Well Agreement for FY2012

Motioned by Willford seconded by Leutink to approve the Ground Water Level Monitoring Well Agreement for FY2012. Affirmative: Leutink, Mensink, Willford. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

2. Consider the return of FY2009 State Cost Share Unencumbered Funds in the amount \$704.94

Motioned by Leutink seconded by Willford to approve the return of FY2009 State Cost Share Unencumbered Funds in the amount of \$704.94. Affirmative: Leutink, Willford, Mensink. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Serfling asked for a volunteer for the statement opening. She will contact Gossman or Hazel to see if they are available on July 1st.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Mensink