

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am June 16, 2009**

**Meeting site: USDA Service Center,
1680 N. Franklin Avenue
Glenwood, MN 56334**

Supervisors: Present: Mark Halls, Keith Nygaard, Gary Reents, Ralph Peterson, absent: Randy Anderson

**SWCD Staff: Kelly Erickson, Kyle Hanson, Luan Johnsrud
Craig Bower, NRCS**

Guests: Paul Gerde, Pope County Commissioner, Committee member

Meeting Agenda:

1. Call the meeting to order by Chairman Keith Nygaard at 7:08 a.m.
2. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Gary Reents to approve the agenda as corrected.
3. Motion by Gary Reents second by Ralph Peterson to approve May 19, 2009 meeting minutes as presented. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Gary Reents to finalize hiring Darrin Welle as the Cooperative Weed Management Area Intern for 2009. Motion carried.

Mark Halls entered at 7:20 a.m.

4. Financial Report-Current Bills. May, 2009
Motion by Gary Reents, second by Mark Halls, to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. The program accounts on the spreadsheet do not balance. The account balances; saving, checking, CD at Glenwood State Bank are the correct amounts. Luan is to work with Randy on the report to make corrections as needed to balance the treasurer's worksheet.
Mark Halls will check with BWSR to see if our draft 2009 budget is adequate.

5. Old Business

- o MN River Source Joint Powers Board –Termination 2009
Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Gary Reents to sign the Resolution for Termination of the MN River Source JPB (#7) Agreement. Motion Carried.
- o West Central Technical Service Area Joint Powers Agreement was presented and discussed. Motion by Ralph Peterson ,second by Gary Reents to signed the WCTSA Joint Powers Agreement. Motion carried. Motion by Mark Halls, second by Gary Reents, to appoint Ralph Peterson as the Pope SWCD supervisor on the Board. Motion carried. Keith Nygaard volunteered to act as the alternate to the WCTSA Joint Powers Board.

Paul Gerde entered at 7:45 a.m.

- o Choose 2009 Outstanding Conservationist
Kim Kruger declined the Outstanding Conservationist of the year award. Kelly Erickson will check with Darrel and Dennis Danielson for 2009 Outstanding Conservationist.
- o Board members signed the MPCA Environmental consultant Standard Service Contract and Emmons & Oliver Resources, Inc. Environmental Services contract for the Pope County 8 Lake TMDL Study.

6. Reports-

- o Paul Gerde, County Commissioner

Paul thought that the presentation at the COW meeting June 9th went well. SWCD should receive their second half of their appropriation. Pope SWCD brings in over \$1 million for conservation programs compared to the \$70,000 invested by Pope County. It appears that people just don't understand the program process.

During a MN Rural County Caucus (MRCC) meeting Paul had attended, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program was discussed. It appears that DNR (state) payments are larger than U.S. Fish and Wildlife (federal). In some instances, land purchased by the DNR is moved off the tax rolls. Some counties have added a no net gain/no net loss clause so that property taxes stay the same. The dollars lost in tax revenue from the sale of land to DNR is being examined. DNR may have to pay 25% up front to compensate for the loss.

RIM-agl and tax may not qualify for green acres; the land is not considered 'productive'. Green Acres designation is to encourage people to use land for what its best suited. The committee for the Law enforcement Center is interviewing three (3) architects to generate plans for a second story addition on to the east end of the courthouse.

- o Kelly Erickson, Technician

Spring planting is completed. There are approximately 100 acres left for drill rental. The irrigation unit is up and running. Keith and Randy are working on that project as well. The mouse eating the wires in the motor was a blessing in disguise. The bearings were also out in the motor so if it had started, there would have been more damage. Kent electric repaired the motor damaged by the mouse and completed additional repairs on the motor.

Due to the additional work to reinstall the motor, the bill from Wildman Electric for work on the irrigation system was more than budgeted. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Gray Reents to use Eagle Bank loan funds to pay Wildman Electric and Kent Electric bills. Motion passed.

Observation Well checks are done for the month. A new contract has been signed. Sauk Rapids DNR office hosted a water usage meeting. There is concern that the level of water in aquifers is connected to Bonanza Valley water usage.

Paul Gerde left at 8:50 a.m.

- o Kyle Hanson, SWCD Wildlife Technician

Kyle received a scholarship of \$450 to attend Delineator Training July 27-31st in Little Falls. The total cost to Pope SWCD will be \$400 plus \$100 for the test fee.

Steve Hofstad of BWSR reviewed five sites with Kyle and Kelly for WCA compliance. One of the sites included building a road based upon WCA approval. The site did not meet WCA sequence; avoid, minimize and mitigate. Three of the five (5) sites were ok; two sites would not meet WCA guidelines.

At the time of the board meeting, the Farm Bill Technician grant request had not been funded yet. Local match will still be 10% of the grant funds. Kyle listened to a teleconference explaining program guidelines as follows: LCCMR, lottery money, will be the source of funding, the position will now be under a contract, SWCDs will pay upfront costs of this position and be able to bill for reimbursement every six (6) months. Some of these items are still subject to change. A new contract should be mailed in July from BWSR.

FSA-CRP program updates. SAFE acres are gone. Wetland Restoration acres and duck Nesting Habitat acres have been cut. There is still money for trees and filter strips. There may be a new CRP sign up beginning October 1, 2009; probably a continuation of an existing program.

Kyle presented five (5) Clean Water Legacy contracts for review and incentive payment. Motion by Gary Reents, second by mark halls to accept and pay incentive payments for contracts presented. Motion carried.

- o Darrin Welle, CWMA Intern

Studied and passed pesticide test-non-commercial application license.

Completed two (2) Weed of the Week articles for print in the Pope County Tribune. Advertised and promoted the Weed Awareness workshop/training to b held June 14th at the Minnewaska House on radio, TV, and newspaper.

Trained on Arc Pad for the Trimble GPS. Drove along the Douglas/Pope County border, Swift County line to identify and map invasive weeds.

Collected beetles with Monica Chandler in Big Stone County to distribute in large infestations of leafy spurge in Pope County.

- o Luan Johnsrud, Office Manager

Meet with CWMA group to coordinate summer 2009 activities. Met with Working Lands Initiative (WLI) Cattle Grazers group to plan August 19 & 20th tours. Attended WLI meeting at Forbords' to discuss woody vegetation removal and treatment. Attended Area II meeting in Glenwood.

Attended planning meeting for State Convention in December 2009. Luan will be working with Audrey Kleespies and Jean Diggins for the hospitality room.

Presented poster and mural contest winner awards at area schools.

Met with Stephanie Tverdik, Versatile Design, to coordinate website design and development. This project is to be completed by July 1st.

Developed Power Point presentation for the Pope County Commissioners COW meeting, June 9th. Met with board members to review presentation and revise as needed.

Completed Spring 2009 newsletter with Melissa Behrens, NRCS.

Worked with James Maisner to complete the annual audit.

- o Craig Bower, NRCS

Attended EQIP teleconference, appeals training, Chief webcast and FAC meeting with L. Otte (new lease process). Melissa and Craig received their LincPass.

FSA news from May 22, 2009: Effective immediately until further notice do not approve any CP-1 offers involving Cp23, Cp23A, Cp27/Cp28 and CP38E.

A few CRP contracts (9/30/09) have been offered re-enrollment. They received a letter from KC FSA.

EQIP application deadline was May 22nd. Ranking and obligation deadline fast approaching. Will cover new filter strip practice... also a special organic incentive fund. Application may be extended to June 30th.

- Grant Herfindahl, FSA-not present
- Ralph Peterson, WesMin RC&D/MN River Resource/Glacial Trail

WesMinn received vegetable barrels free barrels from SunOpta in Alexandria. These used barrels can be refitted for rain barrels. Mark Halls volunteered to check on other sources for barrels.

The installation of Dry Hydrants sponsored by WesMinn is complete. There may be more money available for additional hydrants for this successful project.

WeMinn has funding for workshops. Perhaps there are funds for one of the Working Lands Tours for education.

The Smokey Timbers project is coming along. Eventually, the property will be passed on to the Smokey Timbers Foundation. Smokey Timbers hosts a fish fry/fund raiser July 11th from 11-2.

Glacial Ridge Trail Model-T tour schedule and brochures are ready for distribution.

A meeting is scheduled for June 26 to disband the old Area II Joint Powers Agreement.

7. New Business

- 60th Anniversary for SWCDs Recognition/Celebration use this event as a display at the Pope County Fair
- Two murals and one poster from Pope County received recognition at the Area II meeting. These students will receive cash awards from Area II.
- New Joint Powers Agreements Establishing the West Central Technical Service Area for Area II. Motion by Gary Reents, second by Mark Halls sign the agreement and resolution for enter into the West Central Technical Service Area Joint Powers Agreement.
- Motion by Gary Reents, second by Mark Halls to join with Area II for a 319 Grant Application. Motion carried.
- Upcoming event, Count Commissioners' tour July 14, 2009 at 1:00p.m. for the CWPA project.

8. Next Scheduled meeting date July 21st, 2009, SWCD office at 7:00 a.m.