

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am July 21, 2009**

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

Supervisors: Present: Mark Halls, Keith Nygaard, Gary Reents, Ralph Peterson, Randy Anderson
SWCD Staff: Kyle Hanson, Luan Johnsrud, Craig Bower, NRCS, Absent: Kelly Erickson
Guests: Paul Gerde, Pope County Commissioner, Committee member, Pete Waller, BWSR

Meeting Agenda:

1. Call the meeting to order by Chairman Keith Nygaard at 7:10 a.m.
2. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Mark Halls to approve the agenda with the addition of Pete Waller, BWSR. Carried
3. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Gary Reents to approve June 16, 2009 meeting minutes as presented. Carried
4. Financial Report-Current Bills. June, 2009
Motion by, Ralph Peterson, second by Gary Reents, to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Carried
5. Old Business
 - o Choose 2009 Outstanding Conservationist
Kelly Erickson checked with Darrel and Dennis Danielson for 2009 Outstanding Conservationist. They have accepted the award.
 - o Sauk River Watershed District has offered to share a booth at the fair and split the rental fee. Holly Kovarik is to inform Pope SWCD as to what they are having at the booth. Randy passed around a signup sheet for the Supervisors to complete to work at the fair booth. Motion by mark halls second by Randy Anderson to have a drawing for five (5) Dairy Queen gift certificates and five (5) potted trees or conservation trees at the fair booth. Carried.
 - o Working Lands Initiative Grassland management Tour is August 19th and 20th. Publicity for the event included the Linder Farm Network, State Cattlemen's meeting in July 2009, news releases to area radio and newspapers, and personal invitations to legislators.
6. Reports-
 - o Paul Gerde, County Commissioner
Paul thought that the CWMA meeting at the Minnewaska House was educational and had a good turnout. The Weed Tour with the commissioners was also well attended. Attendees included Commissioners, Pope SWCD staff, Pope County Feedlot officer, DNR, USFWS, and Pope County highway department. Chippewa River Watershed is excited about the TMDL study the Pope SWCD is administering. There is a Best Management Practices meeting for the Law Enforcement Center to meet with the new architect today.
Paul mentioned the Pope County lost an estimated \$110,000 in allotment to the county for 2010. Therefore, stay in front of the Commissioners to keep them informed as to what Pope SWCD is doing for Pope County.
 - o Kelly Erickson, Technician, on vacation
 - o Darrin Welle, CWMA Intern

MNDOT has agreed that when CWMA provides the map of infestations, they will provide the chemical. The area by Blaire's Slough has been treated.

The Railroad must be spraying for thistles; there are fewer of them on the line. Coordinated the Commissioners Weed Awareness Tour July 14th. Good attendance and interest from the commissioners. Schwieters' let us use one of their vans as a courtesy. See attached map for invasive weed species locations in Pope County.

Randy Anderson entered at 7:35 a.m.

- Pete Waller, BWSR
Pete updated SWCD Supervisors and Staff with BWSR funding levels for 2010. Competitive Grants will be announced in September and October 2009 with funding notifications out in January 2010 and contacts ready February 2010. MPCA is doing more TMDL studies to fix problems on the ground. Pete encouraged Pope SWCD to apply for funding to implement completed TMDL studies. There will probably be more applications than funding the first round; however, there will be a continuous funding stream for 25 years. So keep on applying.

Easements-Is that a marketable product to landowners in Pope County? Mark mentioned that permanent easements may not be very popular. Randy commented that property rights should be left up to landowners to manager the easements through haying, grazing, or burning, etc. pope SWCD receives \$1,500 for the paperwork and \$500 for each conservation plan for each easement completed.

Mark Halls invited Pete to the Grassland management Tour, August 19th and 20th. The group has also invited legislators to the tour as well.

Pete echoed Pau Gerde's suggestion that Pope SWCD staff and Supervisors appear before the County Commissioners often to keep them abreast of what Pope SWCD is doing in the county and partnerships with surrounding counties.

Cost Share dollars will be around \$19,000, down from previous years. Pope SWCD can use up to 20% for administration. Instructions will appear with the grant agreement.

The Farm Bill Technician Position grant agreement should be coming soon. Pete will check on their progress.

Pope County had eight (8) RIM/WRP applications submitted with six (6) funded. We had good response from landowners for this program in Pope County.

Craig Bower entered at 8:10 a.m.

- Kyle Hanson, SWCD Wildlife Technician

July 14-Attended WCA meeting on new rules and changes at Fergus Falls was very helpful.

July 21-Attended WLI meeting for Woody Vegetation

July 27-31st Attending Wetland Delineator training and testing

Assisted Mike Majestic from Edmonds & Oliver to take vegetation samples at Leven and water samples at Trappers Run.

WCA Applications and Violations. We need a policy to determine who makes the decision to formal application and appeals process. The WCA Technical team would be Kelly Erickson, Kyle Hanson and Steve Hofstad (BWSR). The Team will review applications for presentation and determination. Motion by Mark Halls second by Garry Reents that Pope SWCD Board becomes the Local Government Unit (LGU) to make decisions based on application and presentation form the Technical panel. BWSR will act as the local appeals Board for formal appeals. Carried.

Kyle presented a WCA application from Langhei Twp Board to replace culverts and widen a Twp road. The footprint of the road will be wider. WCA guidelines for roads are specific. Motion by Gary Reents second by Ralph Peterson to follow applicable WCA guidelines for Langhei Twp road project. Carried.

Discussed Jacobson project proposal. Proposed road will impact wetland. We need delineation done so that they have a plan in place to lessen impact on the property.

Kyle presented two (2) CWL contracts. Motion by Mark Halls second by Ralph Peterson to approve contracts. Carried.

- o Luan Johnsrud, Office Manager
Randy will work with Luan to update and revise the Quickbooks and financial report form to allow for loan advances to be properly reported.
- o Craig Bower, NRCS

Quarterly audit was completed. CSP contracts are done.

Melissa and Craig completed 6 EQIP contracts. These contracts totaled \$130,000. One organic farm application was accepted.

2-CRP27 contracts expired; CP38 contracts are also slated to expire this year.

Melissa and Craig attended a teleconference for CP40 and CP 41; Feedlot and pasture Assessment. Craig applied for a contribution Agreement that would pay Pope SWCD for irrigation management on 3 EQIP contracts. It would pay more than the individual landowner. Funding pending.

Mark Norton, WRP/Rim specialist has accepted a full time position in South Dakota. We will have that position filled sometime in august.

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

WesMin is on Schedule to transfer Smokey Timbers to the Foundation. The annual Fish Fry was to contributors only this year.

Ralph attended the State MASWCD July 14th. They discussed the new Cap & Trade bill passed by the House for the direct Clear Energy Bill that would exempt farms from carbon emmitions. Fertilizer prices by increase as a result of the Cap & Trade ruling. Farmers that use no till may be able to sell their carbon credits to consumers.

China announced Solar Energy Program.

Ralph attended the Supervisor Refresher course in St. Cloud July 14th and 15th. He shared his handouts with the board.

Glacial Ridge Trail received grant approval for funding in 2010. The Model-t Tour is set for September 4-6th.

7. New Business

- o Motion by randy Anderson, second by Ralph Peterson to sign the documents from James Maiser. Carried.
- o Motion by Gary Reents, second Randy Anderson to sign the revised WLI-Grassland Management grant to correct the end date. Carried. Mark Halls abstaining.
- o Signed agreement for WesMin RC&D staff to assist with Water Fest.
- o Resolution for Glenwood State Bank Resolution for CD on deposit at that financial institution. Motion by Garry Reents, second by Randy Anderson to approve Resolution as presented. Carried
- o Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Mark Halls to open a separate checking account at Eagle Bank for the Pope County TMDL study passes through funds. Carried.
- o Keith Nygaard, Kelly Erickson and Luan Johnsrud will be attending State convention Planning meeting in Duluth, August 18th. Therefore, we need to change the august regular meeting date. Consensus is to have the meeting August 25, 2009 at the SWCD office at 7:00 a.m.

8. Next Scheduled meeting date, August 25, 2009 at the SWCD office at 7:00 a.m.