

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

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

Supervisors: Keith Nygaard, Gary Reents, Ralph Peterson **Absent:** Mark Halls, Randy Anderson,

SWCD Staff: Kelly Erickson, Luan Johnsrud, Craig Bower, NRCS

Guests: Paul Gerde, Pope County Commissioner, Holly Kovarik, SRWD, Colleen Oestreich, NRCS

7:20 a.m.

Ralph Peterson reports:

WesMin RC&D:

The transfer of WesMin to Smokey Timbers Foundation is complete.

The Model 'T' Tour, held Labor Day weekend 2009, attracted 10 cars compared to 25 vehicles in 2008.

WaterFest went well despite the rain.

WesMin is updating their website. Watch for the changes.

Farm Rescue made a presentation to the WesMin RC & D members. David Edmunds, a local farmer, had benefited from this group in 2009.

Glacial Ridge:

The new brochure is complete and ready for distribution. This brochure will include a section on Birding.

The group is replacing old Glacial Ridge Trail road signs with Glacial Ridge Scenic Byway signs.

MASWCD:

The MASWCD Board is busy with 2009 convention planning activities. The convention is set for December 6-8th in Duluth at the Duluth Event and Convention Center.

Ralph reviewed the MASWCD membership dues. In 1987 annual dues were \$675 per district. In 2007, they were a maximum of \$2750 per district and \$1820 minimum. Dues are based on equalized net debt capacity.

7:30 a.m. Gary Reents entered

7:35 Craig Bower entered

Presentation by Holly Kovarik, Sauk River Watershed District Administrator

Ms. Kovarik made a presentation to the board. Sauk River Watershed District (SRWD) includes Stearns, Todd, Douglas and portions of Westport, Grove Lake and the Ashley Creek area in the northeast corner of Pope County. Their nine member board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month

in the evening. SRWD is now the Ditch Authority for some the ditches in the Watershed District. They are busy reviewing the ditch guidelines and will hold public meetings this fall. The Watershed District has the authority to levy on real estate taxes for specific projects. Funding for most of their work is through grants. Holly offered their services to Pope SWCD as needed.

Meeting Agenda:

Chairman, Keith Nygaard called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

Review Minutes of the September 17, 2009 meeting minutes added to the current agenda.

1. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Gary Reents to approve August 24, 2009 meeting minutes. Carried

2. Motion by Ralph Peterson, Second by Gary Reents to approve the September 17, 2009 meeting minutes as printed. Carried.

3. Kelly's Report

Kelly is working on 2010 Tree Order with Stevens SWCD.

WCA Project Review for the Jacobson project. The Jacobson's had hired an engineering firm to complete an independent site review. This report re-confirmed the wetland boundaries, the same as the local TEP. Kelly met with the Jacobson family and Steve Hofstad, BWSR, to review the plan to avoid the wetland to construct a road. When the road is moved to the north, all of the criteria to build the road have been met. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Gary Reents to approve the site plan based on the Delineation report and recommendations. Carried

The drills are rented out this fall. New parts have been ordered.

Presented cost share projects:

Polly Kruger, \$4,153.00 project, \$3,114.00 cost share. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Gary Reents, to approve the cost share for Mr. Kruger. Carried

Cullen Anderson, sediment basin and tile project, \$10,395.00 project cost. \$7,796.00 cost share portion. Motion by Gary Reents, second by Ralph Peterson, to approve cost share for Mr. Anderson. Carried

4. Financial Report-Current Bills for August, 2009.

- Profit & Loss year to date report
- Treasurer Report
- Check Register, Checking & Savings

Motion by Ralph Peterson second by Gary Reents to accept the Financial Reports as presented. Carried. Ralph suggested sending the reports to Randy Anderson for review.

Presentation by Colleen Oestreich, NRCS

NRCS is working through OMB for NRCS to continue to collect funds for IT computer seats. Currently, NRCS provides one computer seat for Pope SWCD. We have two additional seats and receive one seat per year free for a \$3,000 annual fee. NRCS will pick up the tab for 2009 for this seat. However, Pope SWCD should prepare for 'Plan B' where we would have to install our own computer system. In the event that Pope SWCD has to have their own computer system, NRCS will still provide one seat 'free'.

The Contribution Agreement is more for the phone system's technical assistance than for a leasing fee.

5. Old Business

- BWSR Academy of the North-Cragun's Resort-November 2, 3, 4th. Kelly and the new Farm Bill technician will attend the training. Luan is to register them for the conference and make reservations.
- Farm Bill Technician Position has been offered to the highest scoring applicant. Keith Nygaard indicated that he would be talking with the applicant more in the evening. Motion by Gary Reents, second by Ralph Peterson, to raise the hourly rate \$0.50. Carried

6. Reports-

- Paul Gerde, County Commissioner
The septic system inspections are underway for the North Fork Crow River Watershed District. Mixed reviews from landowners on this program.
Sketches are coming soon for the Law Enforcement Center. They have been advised that the City of Glenwood must be involved in the process. The group is working with the State DOC for determinations for 48 hours extended stay or 72 hours holding which is a Class I determination. The Pope / Douglas Solid Waste facility is waiting for their permit the 3rd burner. The permitting process has taken longer than expected, so the cost of construction may be higher.
- Luan Johnsrud, Office Manager
See attached. Board members advised Luan to continue to stay in contact with Brian Banister to recover the CWL money.
- Craig Bower, NRCS
See attached report
- Grant Herfindahl, FSA-not present

7. New Business

- Water Testing Clinic will be held October 13th in SWCD office.
- Open House – Tree Sales November 6, 2009 from 9-2. Motion by Gary Reents, second by Ralph Peterson to purchase 144 cups to celebrate 60th Anniversary for Pope SWCD. Carried
- MASWCD Resolution packets printed for review by Supervisors. Vote at the October 20, 2009 meeting. The ballots are due at the MASWCD office by October 31, 2009.

Chairman Keith Nygaard requested closing the meeting.

Meeting reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Ralph Peterson at 9:49 a.m., second by Gary Reents. Carried