

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am February 16, 2010
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, Matt Fischer, Luan Johnsrud

Guests: Absent: Paul Gerde, Pope County Commissioner
Craig Bower, NRCS

1. Chairman Keith Nygaard called the meeting to order at 7:20 a.m.

Craig Bower, NRCS

Craig reported that two HEL plans have been completed. The landowners will qualify to receive FSA payments with the plans in place. CSP deadline was October 1, 2009. CSP applications are ranked by computer and the landowner agrees to add two additional practices to qualify for the program. The deadline for EQIP signup is February 26th. They have received several applications and more landowners have expressed an interest in this program.

D. Gary Reents entered at 7:30 a.m. and Mark Halls entered at 7:35 a.m.

2. Motion by Ralph Peterson second by Gary Reents to approve the agenda. Carried.
3. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Gary Reents to approve January 19, 2010 meeting minutes as printed. Carried
4. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Garry Reents to approve the January 2010 Financial Report as presented. Carried

Staff Reports

Kelly Erickson-

- Reported that there is an Annual Shade Tree short course in Arden Hills March 17 & 18th. He can ride with Ron Feigum to the class. Motion by Gary Reents second by Ralph Peterson to pay the tuition and room expenses to attend the training. Carried
- Presented WCA-Wetland Replacement Plans 10-01 and 10-02 for South Shore Estates on Lake Reno. Based on information presented by the landowner and project review by the TEP committee, WCA-Wetland Replacement for 10-01 is 3 to 1 and WCA-Wetland Replacement for 10-02 is 2-1. Motion by Mark Halls, second by Gary Reents to approve the recommended WCA-Westland Replacement Plans 10-01 and 10-02. Carried.
- Kelly and Matt Fischer, Pope SWCD; Steve Hofstad and Pete Waller, BWSR; Steve Lawrence, Pope Land and Resources; met to discuss WCA in Pope County. Land and Resource staff will now be part of the WCA Technical Evaluation Process team. Funding for WCA activities will remain the same.
- Kelly and Matt worked on the WCA report to BWSR and submitted the report by the due date.

- Wetland Delineator's training sessions will be in July 2010. There are scholarships available. Motion by Mark Halls second by Gary Reents to apply for a scholarship for Kelly to attend the training. Carried

Matt Fischer, Farm Bill Technician

- Completed eLINK reporting for CWL projects approved by the CWL committee and Board.
- One application for the RIM Riparian Buffer program was approved for funding. The State is out of money for this fiscal year; however, we can still submit applications for 2011. Two applications have been submitted to BWSR; status pending.
- Sent out proposals to landowners for different CCRP practices. Currently working on one cp22 project.
- Attended Ordway Prairie Working Lands Initiative meeting January 28th in Sunberg. Agencies toured the target area in the morning and invited landowners to the afternoon session to outline projects that will qualify for WLI activities.
- Attended the Sauk River Watershed District public meeting January 26th in Melrose. Smaller projects that are not covered under existing ruling and regulations were discussed.
- Motion by Ralph Peterson second by Mark Halls for Matt to attend the Carbon Credits class February 23rd in Alexandria. Carried.
- Matt plans to attend a Pesticide application renewal class April 1st to renew his applicators' license.

Craig, Kelly and Matt left at 8:25 a.m. to attend the Prairie Lakes Co-Op Annual meeting in Alexandria.

5. Old Business

- Review the Proposed 2010 Budget that will be submitted to BWSR. Mark suggested checking on accident insurance for the irrigator. This would cover SWCD for equipment breakdown and is quite reasonable. Luan will contact MCIT before the next board meeting to check on this coverage. To help the CWMA program identify invasive species, we are to inform area field scouts and have them contact us if they notice infestations of invasive species. The more eyes looking the better. Board members expressed an interest in attending the TMDL stakeholders' meetings. Luan will send them meeting notices. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Mark Halls to approve the Budget dated 2-11-2010. Carried
- Reviewed final 2009 Plan of Work and Operations, Plan of Work –Goals and Objectives for 2010, and 2010 Calendar of Events. Add work with municipalities and townships on storm water issues. Motion by Mark Halls second by Ralph Peterson to approve these plans and reports. Carried

6. Reports-

Paul Gerde, County Commissioner

Paul was unable to attend. However, he had called and talked with Kelly. The most recent LEC discussion is in the Pope County Tribune. Paul encouraged us to read that article for updates.

Luan Johnsrud, Office Manager

- Scheduled and coordinated weekly staff meetings. Presented board with copies of the weekly staff meetings for review and discussion.

- Met with James Maiser to review and prepare 2009 financial reports due at BWSR by March 15, 2010.
- Signed up for 2009 QuickBooks training through Alexandria Community Ed office. Classes start February 17th for 6 weeks.
- Received Notary Public registration renewal.
- Completed MCIT 2009 payroll report and PERA 2009 year end reports.
- Attended 2010 Administrative Training retreat planning session in Alexandria. Its Area II's turn to plan this event. Registration fee expected to be between \$55-60. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Mark Halls to pay to registration fee for Luan to attend the 2010 training session. Carried.
- Met with Judy Johnston, Stevens SWCD and Melissa Behrens, NRCS to plan 2010 WaterFest and Conservation Days. Fund raising letters will be sent in February.
- Reviewed proposed 2010 budget with Randy Anderson.
- Completed 2009 Work Plan, 2010 Work Plan and Objectives to reflect relationship with Prairie Lakes Co-op at Rosholt Farm, and 2010 Calendar of Events.
- Received notification that the grant application to BWSR for the City of Glenwood stormwater project and the Swift-Pope CWMA projects were approved. Contracts should be here by the March meeting.
- Arranged for staff and Board to attend 2010 Legislative Day at the Capitol.
- Discussed sales and use tax with Kelly, completed monthly withholding reports on line for state & federal withholding.
- Assisted Ralph with Area II agenda and contacts for this event.
- Assisted Fred Kohlman, DU representative, with file preparation and distribution.

Grant Herfindahl, FSA, absent

Ralph Peterson, WesMin and Glacial Trail

- Ralph and Paul Gerde attended the Annual WesMin meeting in Breckenridge. Ralph was elected their Chairman for 2010. Dean Schmidt and Lyle Hoveland, chair presented annual reports to the group. An estimated 100 people attended the winter grazing workshop sponsored by WesMin in January. Ralph brought two copies of a DVD on Prairie Chickens. They thrive around Rothsay, Minnesota.
- WesMin received the funding from Tastefully Simple for water quality projects. Luan is to contact MAS for projects at the high school and elementary, Glenwood & Beyond and communities in Pope County for potential projects.
- WesMin is reviewing a proposal for a dry hydrant in Gilcrest Township.
- There will be a Bio-baler workshop June 3rd sponsored by WesMin.
- Discussed High Tunnels. Luan passed around a catalogue that had examples of high tunnels.
- The North Central RC&D conference will be in April. Glacial Ridge did not meet in January.

MASWCD update-Ralph Peterson, Area II Representative

- MN Sustainability framework is starting from legacy funds
- Presented MASWCD updates with the group
- Ralph shared tips on meeting with your legislator that included pictures or projects and leaving your business card.

Chairman Keith Nygaard requested the meeting closed at 10:30 a.m. closed the meeting. Re-opened the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

7. New Business

- Area II meeting will be held in Alexandria March 18th. Ralph and Keith plan to attend; Gary and Mark will check their schedules and notify Luan to register.
- Staff is to present a list for Conservationist of the Year to the board at their 2010 meeting. Include a list of conservation practices.
- Discussed inviting partners to monthly meetings. Mark suggested Julie Odlund, DNR Wetland Specialist . Luan will do some checking and present a list of people to invite at the March meeting.

10:50 a.m. Motion by Mark Halls, second by Gary Reents to adjourn. Carried