

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am March 16, 2010
Meeting site: USDA Service Center,
1680 N. Franklin Avenue
Glenwood, MN 56334**

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

SWCD Staff: Matt Fischer, Luan Johnsrud, Absent: Kelly Erickson

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

1. Chairman Keith Nygaard called the meeting to order at 7:10 a.m.

Paul Gerde entered at 7:150 a.m. and Randy Anderson entered at 7:25 a.m.

2. Motion by Ralph Peterson second by Gary Reents to approve the agenda as corrected. Carried.
3. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Gary Reents to approve February 17, 2010 meeting minutes as corrected. Carried
4. Motion by Randy Anderson, second by Ralph Peterson, to approve the February 2010 Financial Report as presented. Carried

Craig Bower entered at 7:50 a.m.

5. Old Business

- Staff presented three candidates for the Conservationist of the Year for 2010. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by D. Gary Reents to ask LuVerne and Mary Jo Forbord to have this honor. Carried. Luan will contact the Forbords to see if they are willing to accept this honor.

6. Reports-

Paul Gerde, County Commissioner

- The 85 page Local Sewer Regulations have been delayed; no provisions for enforcement of this ruling was included in the regulations.
- The bonding bill that included \$5 million for Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Facility was under review by the Governor this week. The Governor removed the funding using a Line Item veto this week.
- The Law Enforcement Center committee is working with the parties involved to finalize the plan for moving offices and building above the existing east side of the courthouse.
- Payment in Lew of Taxes (PILOT) by cut as much as 6% or more from the tax rolls.
- Paul participates in the MN Rural County Caucus and Ag Task Force. The two agencies met to discuss rural issues during the past month.

Kelly Erickson, written report presented by Luan Johnsrud

- WCA; worked on two issues with Matt and Steve Hofstad. Wetland credits for Mr. Zacher and wetland cleanout for Mr. Mitchell.
- Five tree plans are in process. Contracts have not been signed yet.
- Completed some small repairs on the drills to prepare for spring.
- Completed 3 new grass plans for CP38 signup that just had more acres assigned to them.
- Signed up for Wetland delineators training in June. Even if Pope SWCD staff received a scholarship in 2009, we can apply for a scholarship again. Alternative July date, Kelly will be

on vacation. Request that if the spring planting is not completed by the June class, Matt be allowed to attend in his place. Motion by Ralph Peterson to apply for a scholarship for Kelly. If Kelly is not able to attend, send Matt in his place. Carried

Matt Fischer, Farm Bill Technician

- Presented two CWL applications; David Olson, CWL08+105 and Hefta Farms, CWL08+106. Motion by D. Gary Reents second by Randy Anderson to approve the contracts as presented. Carried.
- Attended a Carbon Credit Class. No mandate for sign-up yet.
- Attended WLI Grasslands, Ordway and Woody Vegetation meetings.
- Attended Pope Swift CWMA organizational meeting.
- Attended the Pheasant Restoration Banquet. Designed two new brochures for conservation programs and handed them out at the banquet. CP38-Back 40 Pheasant Habitat and CP25 grass mix, food plot, irrigation corners, receive soil rental rate for 10-15 years.
- Working on RIM/WRP contracts that were approved.

Comment made by Randy Anderson regarding eastern red cedar and Siberian elm infestations. Are there programs to help remove them? WLI, US Fish and Wildlife, and EQIP may have some money to help remove those.

Paul Gerde left at 8:50 a.m.

Randy Anderson presented the Financial Statement Report for 2009. He suggested reading the concerns as the most important part of the report. Based on accountant review, everything appears to be in order. Motion by Randy Anderson, second by D. Gary Reents to accept the 2010 Financial Statements as presented. Carried

Board reviewed Staff meeting minutes. They appear to be in order.

Luan Johnsrud, office manager

- Scheduled and coordinated weekly staff meetings. Presented board with copies of the weekly staff meetings for review and discussion.
- Pope SWCD was awarded two Tastefully Simple Water Quality grants through WesMin RC&D. One for \$750 for 2010 WaterFest, the other for 2010 for the City of Glenwood rain garden project as part of the city Beach project. Luan also wrote the grant for Glenwood and Beyond for aqua pavers for a node along the Lakewalk project.
- Attended three WLI meetings.
- Coordinated the Pope Swift CWMA initial meeting.
- Working on the on line Quickbooks 2009 class. Must be completed by April 9, 2010. The classes are informative and there are more features that we can use that will be helpful. There is a QuickBooks payroll class that will be offered in April 2010. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Randy Anderson to pay the tuition so that Luan can take that class as well. Carried.
- IRS and Minnesota Dept. of Revenue are set up on line to pay withholding taxes.
- Attended the Stoen Farm Supply annual meeting. Informative and Ron Stoen agreed to have our weed awareness brochures on their counter.
- Poster Contest presentations are underway. The posters are due in the office April 16th and we will judge them at the April 20th meeting.

Grant Herfindahl, FSA, absent

Craig Bower, NRCS

- Working on finalizing CSP contracts. Five have been completed/signed and submitted to AO for second-level approval. The contracts will be \$146,211 of annual payments to local farmers and \$731,055 total over the next 5 years.

- LWG information incorporated into Pope County EQIP ranking system. 13 applications were completed and it appears that we may have 5 applications funded at this point. Two applications are from state-wide pools and have not heard the decisions on those applications.
- Contribution Agreement is approved for Pope SWCD and EQIP assistance. The district staff will help with 4 irrigation management contracts and receive \$2680.50 in 2010. Motion by Ralph second by D. Gary Reents to sign the Contribution Agreement of EQIP assistance. Carried.

Ralph Peterson, WesMin and Glacial Trail

- Ralph reported the Dean Schmidt had completed a cost allocation work plan for West Min RC&D. Their costs are an estimated 14% of each grant to administer a project.
- Smokey Timbers received a grant from the Bremer Foundation of \$9,000 each year for 5 years. This will help to service the debt. Their annual fish fry will be March 26th.
- Two dry hydrants will be installed in Gilcrest TWP.
- Leader Lions received a grant for a grazing tour in 2010.
- Rod Wenstrom, Otter Tail Co., said that they will be hosting a high tunnel workshop sometime soon. Ralph will keep us posted.
- WesMin received the Circle of Diamond award.
- There is concern for continued federal funding for RC&Ds. Ralph and Keith sent letters to our legislators to request continued funding.
- Sauk Center Chamber of commerce joined the Glacial Ridge Trail group, so there will be additional signs installed in that area.
- Glacial Ridge Trail is still working on erecting signs along the trail with grant funds. Now the funding source wants to hire a consultant for \$35,000 to advise the group on what to put on the signs along the trail.
- There will be a meeting for the Model "T" tour in May. The tour will be sometime in mid-September.

7. New Business

Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by D. Gary Reents to spend up to \$400.00 on promotions, (shirts for Matt and Luan to wear to events, and pens) . Carried

Check on Banner for the Fair. What's the cost if we revise the design.

Reminder that Area II is meeting Thursday, March 18, 2010 at the Douglas County Public Works building in Alexandria.

8. Motion by D. Gary Reents second by Ralph Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Carried