

POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 2010

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

Supervisors: Mark Halls, Keith Nygaard, Gary Reents, Randy Anderson,
Ralph Peterson
SWCD Staff: Kelly Erickson, Matt Fischer, Luan Johnsrud
Zach Gutknecht, Intern
Guests: Craig Bower, NRCS, Tom Talle, Barry Bouwman, County Ag.
Inspector

1. Call the meeting to order by Chairman Keith Nygaard at 7:10 a.m.
2. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Gary Reents to approve revised agenda. Carried
3. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Randy Anderson to approve April 20, 2010 meeting minutes as presented. Carried
4. Financial Report-Motion by Randy Anderson, second by Gary Reents to accept treasurer's report as presented. Carried. Request Luan prepare a budget vs. actual report through May 2010 at the June board meeting.

Discussed the Native Buffer Cost Share program. Motion by Gary Reents, second by Randy Anderson to request an extension from BWSR so that we can spend down more of the money. Carried.

Kelly Erickson-report

Ten tree plans in the works. Four projects were cancelled due to money concerns. We have a lot of Colorado Blue Spruce left this year; ordered the same as 2009. There are some grass seeding plans in the works.

Hired Kirsta Anderson as seasonal help to plant trees. Kirsta has helped plant trees before. Observation wells have been checked for May. Reports submitted.

Replaced the battery on the 'C' at Westport. Water pressure is limited at Rosholt Farm. Watch the pump and check out the well. How close is the pump to the bottom of the water? May need some adjustment. Board advised Kelly to have well & pump checked out and referred him to a couple of businesses.

Motion by Mark Halls, second by Randy Anderson to approve cost share amendment for Collin Anderson.

Luan is to check on client relationship/customer service, sensitivity training, and affirmative action training opportunities for staff and board members with MCIT, MASCDW and the County HR department.

Matt Fischer-report

Helping with the tree planting and moving drills this month.

CP38 program popular and is working on plans for landowners.

Four Native buffer cost share projects in the works. Found seed and plant plugs at Morning Sky Greenery in Morris for this program. Hope to plant in June 2010.

Need title insurance for the RIM easement that he's working on. Pope SWCD will receive \$2000 for processing this program.

Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Randy Anderson to pay CWL contracts CWL08-109-Schoeneck, CWL08-110 Duane Solvie Trust; CWL08-111-Solvie. Carried
Matt will be in charge of irrigation management at Rosholt Farms for 2010.
The application for the 2011 Farm Bill Technician position is due June 1, 2010. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Gary Reents to continue the program and submit the grant application. Carried. Discussed the list of potential partners to ask for our local match.

Craig Bower entered at 8:10 a.m.

5. Old Business

- 2010 Poster Contest Results-Luan and Melissa will be presenting awards to the contest winners. Luan has contacted the overall winner to arrange for their stay at Long lake Conservation Camp.
- Area II meeting, Thursday, June 3rd, Morrison County SWCD & 50th Anniversary. Luan is to send a congratulations card and follow up with board members to attend the meeting and anniversary celebration.
- CWL extension requested until December 31, 2010. Motion by Gary Reents, second by Mark Halls to sign grant extension documents when they arrive.
- MCIT training offerings-Luan has contacted them for training videos. They have not arrived yet, so will have to follow up on that order.

6. Reports-

- Paul Gerde, County Commissioner, by phone message
Law Enforcement Center committee has been meeting weekly. Watch the Tribune for updates. The lot by the Public Health building had been discussed. They were considering a 'bounce tank' to hold stormwater on that area. The lot is expected to be ready in the next three years. Attended a Bonanza Aquifer meeting.
Next board meeting June 1st.
- Zach Gutknecht-CWMA Intern
Completed chemical applicator's testing and submitted them yesterday; will take a week to 10 days to receive the license.
Presented CWMA cost share applications for approval; Grove Lake Twp, Ben Wade Twp., Westport Twp, Bakko Farms, Dave Cooley, Martin Jenniges, Dan Jenniges Dave Heinke .
Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Randy Anderson to approve cost share contracts for CWMA08-1 through CWMA08-08. Carried

Luan Johnsrud, office manager

Started QuickBooks 2009 payroll class.

Assisted planning and planting Minnewaska People's Garden at the USDA Service Center
Met with Dave Iverson, City of Glenwood Administrator, Pete Waller and Jeff from BWSR to discuss the City of Glenwood Project.

Wrote an article for the Tribune to generate interest in the Pope SWCD supervisor candidate position for District 5.

Made an Arbor Day presentation at the Glacial Hills School and presented students with trees.

Worked at the Area II Envirothon at Spicer.

Submitted a letter of inquiry to the McKnight Foundation on behalf of Area II for funds through the Mississippi River Initiative program. The grant would pay for technical assistance for unpermitted feed lots and education in Area II.

Met with representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Prairie Lakes Coop, and Stearns SWCD to discuss Rosholt Farms. We have been asked to be the administrative lead for a nitrate monitoring and irrigation monitoring project.

Craig Bower, NRCS

Several cost share projects are started or in the works.

CSP sign-up is in process

Four EQIP contracts have been approved for payment.

Completed several reviews for per Swamp buster program guidelines.

WRP applications for this year have been submitted; 8 application from Pope County, 20 from Kandiyohi County, and 1 from Swift County. Contract award announcements are expected in July 2010.

Barry Bouwman, County Ag Inspector entered 9:10 a.m.

Ralph Peterson, Glacial Hills Trail and WesMin

Historic signage grant for Glacial Hills Trail project is in process.

Participated in a Glacial Hills Trail bus tour Monday, May 17th. The tour was very interesting with good speakers. The Group is considering setting up future tours that will include Swift and Kandiyohi Counties plus accommodate the public and more publicity groups.

Wes Min is in the process of planning a biomass workshop, has awarded more dry hydrants has awarded funding to the Leader Area for a grazing tour in Motley.

Rod Wenstrom, West Ottertail County Wes Min representative, indicated that Blue Bird Gardens located northwest of Underwood has a high tunnel facility. They are considering a tour of the facility. Douglas County has two units. The high tunnels must be located on crop land and cost share is available.

They had discussed how to complete a Form 990 for the IRS.

WesMin Board has discussed the drawdown of lakes to control the carp populations.

Reminded everyone of the Area II meeting in Morrison County June 3rd. Morrison SWCD will be celebrating their Anniversary. And has invited everyone to attend. We will be reviewing Resolutions for presentation at the state convention at this meeting.

Barry Bouwman updated the group on the Cooperative Weed Management Area program.

Spotted knap weed will be targeted this year; it's starting to appear more in Pope county. This invasive puts toxins in the soil so that other plants do not survive. Wild parsnip and common tansy continue to be a weeds of concern; trying to stay ahead of those with treatments. Army worms are showing up and could be a problem this year. They are the land owner's responsibility-we do not have money for treatments. Emerald Ash borer is still at least 100 miles out.

7. New Business

Resolutions for the 2010 Annual MASWCD convention; Stearns SWCD had emailed a copy to be reviewed by the Board prior to the Area II meeting.

Closed the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

Motion by Gary Reents, second by Ralph Peterson to take Luan off probation and become the office manager; compensation to remain the same until January 2011. Carried.

Discussed inviting partners, BWSR, Legislators, DNR, DU, US fish and wildlife, Dept. of Ag to monthly board meetings.

Motion by Mark Halls, second by Randy Anderson to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. Carried.

