

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES**

June 15, 2010

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

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

SWCD Staff: Kelly Erickson, Matt Fischer, Luan Johnsrud
Zach Gutknecht, Intern

Guests: Paul Gerde, Pope County Commissioner
Craig Bower, NRCS, Barry Bouwman, Pope County Feedlot Officer

Meeting Agenda:

1. Call the meeting to order by Keith Nygaard, Chairman, at 7:08 a.m.
2. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by D. Gary Reents to approve current agenda as presented. Carried.
3. Motion by D. Gary Reents to approve May 18, 2010 meeting minutes as sent, second by Ralph Peterson. Carried.
4. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Mark Halls to approve financial reports subject to audit. Carried.
5. Old Business
Luan had checked AgLearn for a list of free classes for customer service, resolving conflict, ethics and legal issues. Luan will make a list of offered classes and share with the Board of Supervisors at the next meeting. SWCD employees are encouraged to take the classes by January 1, 2011.
6. Reports-
 - Paul Gerde, County Commissioner
Work on the Law Enforcement Center is expected to begin by October 1st ; continue to watch the PC Tribune for updates. Chippewa River Watershed quarterly meeting will be held in Benson on Friday. Paul attended the MN Rural County Caucus in Grand Rapids. Discussed working closer with townships, what to push at the legislature, septic system guidelines, establishing more 10 Ton roads. Discussion continues to be favorable for a county garage in Sedan. The County Equalization meeting was held last night.
 - Kelly Erickson, Technician
Kelly checked on the wells at Rosholt. They appear to be fine; water availability is the issue. Fluid has been put in tires of the 'slave' end of the irrigator and a new end gun installed. These seem to be working ok.
One tree plan came in late and will be completed Friday. The rest of the plans are done. Matt and Kelly met in Starbuck with DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers for a proposed project by the Starbuck Marina. The project is still in the concept stage; WCA issues in that area. One ag drainage project sent to Craig for review.
Observation well levels typical for this time of year.
Discuss Cost Share for Collin Anderson's project. Motion by Mark Halls, second by D. Gary Reents to pay \$8,260.00 in cost share for this project. Carried. Kelly and Luan will work on the spreadsheet for the cost share to close out this funding round.
Kelly will be on vacation July 2-9th and at Delineator Training July 12-16th.

Discussed acting as a broker for Wetland Credit transactions in Pope County. Luan talked with Brian Noetzelman, County Engineer, regarding the service for the county. The County Highway Department already provides this service, so there's no need for Pope SWCD to add that service to our list.

- Matt Fischer, Farm Bill Technician
Clean Water Legacy proposal, Robert Paulzine, \$250.00. Motion by D. Gary Reents, second by Mark Halls to approve incentive payment. Carried.
June 7th new cost share rates will be available.
Native Buffer Cost Share proposals, payments equal 75% of the total project: Gilbertson, \$329.46 landscaping buffer; Pelican Resort, landscaping buffer \$301.30; Benson, basin and rain garden, \$2,636.48. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Mark Halls to pay incentives. Carried. Two additional projects are pending.
- Zach Gutknecht, PSCWMA Intern
Busy finalizing cost share contracts for CWMA projects to close out by August 30, 2010. Generated press releases for the PC Tribune with pictures; bouncing bet, hoary alyssum, birds foot trefoil.
Weed Watcher's Training will be in Danvers June 29th.
Identifying leafy spurge and wild parsnip infestations in Swift & Pope Counties
- Luan Johnsrud, Office Manager
Completed QuickBooks payroll class.
Reviewed open invoices with Kelly and sent out statements.
Arranged for poster winner Dylan Holms to attend Long Lake Conservation Camp.
Closed out one Working Lands project. Working on Grazing Booklet for the WLI Grassland Management Project to close out that program.
Attended Pope County Fresh meeting. There are grant funds available to help with a facility for the farmer's market; food prep area, office and a bathroom. The grant funds require local matching funds. Board members suggested various partners/donations for the project. Also attending a PCF meeting today to plan a food event at the farmer's market.

Paul Gerde left at 8:35 a.m.

- Craig Bower, NRCS
2nd Sign up for CSP end date June 25th; 10 application in so far
Ethics training, 3 courses completed
Completed 2 science tours at MAHS for soils and practices
Ross, TSA engineer, is working on 2 dead animal compost projects
WRP closings-one last week; one this week.
Discussed RIM management guidelines with the group.
- Grant Herfindahl, FSA
Expecting a general CRP signup sometime this year. Priority area-prairie pothole region with crop history. Looking at Environmental benefits of the program.
2012 will be the largest number of expiring CRP contracts. There may be a bid process again to be accepted into CRP.
FSA received \$1,200 to use toward outreach for the July 17th Pope County Farmers market education day for underserved populations. They will also promote youth loans (9-18 yrs) for up to \$5,000. Pope County Fresh received a grant to sponsor and promote Local foods in Pope County.

- Ralph Peterson, WesMin RC&D/ Glacial Trail
Glacial Ridge Trail is meeting next week. Nothing new to report.
WesMin RC&D; Smokey Timbers is doing fine. The Model T tour is set for September 24th & 25th. Printing a brochure for winter grazing; Pope County dry hydrants will be installed. June 3rd Bio-mass workshop completed; July 14th WesMin meeting will be in Fergus Falls. The group will tour Blue Bird Gardens' hoop barn structure.
The July 12th Water Summit meeting in St. Cloud is very important. Everyone should plan to attend.

7. New Business

- Experience Works staff position. Person available for placement in Glenwood. Motion by D. Gary Reents, second by Mark Halls to try an Experience Works staff in the office. Carried.
- Water Management Summit for Local Governments, July 12, 2010, St. Cloud, Ralph Peterson, D. Gary Reents, Luan Johnsrud, and Matt Fisher will attend.
- Motion by Mark Halls, second by Ralph Peterson to appoint D. Gary Reents to the Sauk River Watershed Advisory Committee. Carried.
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Invasive Species grant proposal-four county project will be submitted by the July 1st deadline. Well supported program in the 4 county area.
- Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by D. Gary Reents to move large deposit into 3-6 month CD's. Carried. Also discussed Letter of Credit from Eagle Bank.

8. Motion to Adjourn by D. Gary Reents, Second by Ralph Peterson. Carried