

POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2010

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

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

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

Guests: Paul Gerde, Pope County Commissioner
Craig Bower, NRCS, Grant Herfindahl, FSA
Tim James, MPCA
Tom Talle

1. Call the meeting to order at 7:10 a.m. by Keith Nygaard, Chair.
2. Motion by Mark Halls, second by D. Gary Reents to approve agenda with additions. Carried
3. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by D. Gary Reents to approve June 15, 2010 meeting minutes as printed. Carried
4. Old Business
 - Experience Works staff position. Pope SWCD still qualifies for this program, however the person that we had interviewed found a job with better salary. Experience Works will keep us on the list for staff placement.
5. Reports-
 - Kelly Erickson, Technician
Tree planting and grass seeding is complete for the 2010 spring season. Kelly has been checking RIM easements for compliance; the lower five townships of Pope County are completed. Will be taking one week of vacation the first week in July, then attending Wetland Delineator training the second week of July.
 - Matt Fischer, Farm Bill Technician
Presented 4 Clean Water Legacy Projects; Kevin Roers-CWL08-114 Manure Pit closure; Jim Eichhorst-CWL08-117 Buffer Strip; Clark Family Farms Partnership-CWL08-118 tile, underground outlet & tile intake; Chippewa County CWL08-120 gully washout repair. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Marks Halls to pay cost share as presented. Carried.
Presented Native Buffer Cost Share proposal for Olson, stream buffer. Motion by Mark Halls, second by D. Gary Reents to approve payment for cost share for the project. Carried.
Attended Water Management Summit in St. Cloud July 12th. Well attended and informative.
Seven CCRP projects are in processing; working on two RM easements for landowners in Pope County. Also completed conservation plans for three RIM/WRP easements.
We received notification from BWSR that the 2011 Farm Bill Technician position will be funded. We will be working hard to secure additional local match contributions.
Assisted EOR with curly-leaf pond weed survey at Lake Ann.

Paul Gerde entered at 8:30 a.m.

- Paul Gerde, County Commissioner
 - Paul attended the MN Rural County Caucus. Counties and Townships are encouraged to work together and include the Ag committee from AMC. Identify issues and lobby together for the 2011 legislative session.
 - The Bonanza Valley project submitted by the DNR did not receive Lessard-Sams funding. The DNR will apply to Clean Water funds instead to fund the project. Julie Adlund, DNR will be the lead for this project.
 - The County is reviewing U.S. Fish and Wildlife easements.
 - Plans to rebuild a 1 mile portion of County Road 17 are underway.
 - The plan for the addition to the Courthouse should be final today and include final dollar estimates.
 - There was tornado damage around Lake Scandi last week. Not sure on the total cost or amount of damage.
- Zach Gutknecht, PSCWMA Intern, absent
- Luan Johnsrud, Office Manager
 - Presented the following CWMA Invasive species cost share contracts for review: Dave Cooley CWMA08-05, thistles; Westport TWP CWMA08-03, wild parsnip, spotted knapweed and thistles; Ben Wade TWP CWMA08-02, wild parsnip & leafy spurge; Grove Lake TWP CWMA08-01, wild parsnip; Bangor TWP CWMA08-10 wild parsnip; Dan Jenniges CWMA08-07 thistles. Motion by D. Gary Reents, second by Ralph Peterson. Carried. Mark Halls abstained.
 - Pope Swift Weed Awareness training held in Danvers. About 20 people attended the event. Invited Big Stone County and surrounding counties to the event as well.
 - Discussed Freshness Festival sponsored by FSA and Pope County Fresh. FSA received a grant to outreach and education for underserved populations to promote healthy eating, farmers markets and growing your own produce. Pope SWCD has been asked to act as the fiscal agent. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by D. Gary Reents to act as the fiscal agent. Carried.
 - Attended the Water Management Summit with Matt and Gary. Well attended and informative. Discussed how conservation programs are delivered.

Tim James entered at 8:30 a.m.

- Craig Bower, NRCS
 - CSP application period ended June 16th. Twelve applications were processed.
 - NRCS staff attended training for that program. The application is done on line so landowners had to come into the office complete the application.
 - State Conservationist, Don Baloun, visited our office to affirm the importance of the partnership with NRCS and SWCD agencies.
 - Pope County has one application in for the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI).
 - Cost share projects completed: Polly Kruger. Mrnack cost share ready to start construction.
 - Discussed the WRP program; there may be changes in the near future.

Paul Gerde left at 8:45 a.m.

- Ralph Peterson, WesMin RC&D/ Glacial Trail
 - The Model T tour will be held September 25th & 26th.
 - WesMin RC & D will have their July meeting at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls. There will be a tour at Blue Bird Gardens to view a hoop barn.
 - Publication of the Winter Grazing brochure/booklet is underway.
 - Wadena is requesting assistance to replace 100,000 trees that were destroyed during the tornado that hit that community earlier this summer.
 - WesMin RC&D is in the process of updating their bylaws.
- Grant Herfindahl, FSA

Discussed the lease agreement for the building; current rate is \$14.95 per square foot. Expect an increase for new lease. Requested that Pope SWCD identify staff to attend FAC meeting to negotiate lease. Motion by D. Gary Reents, second by Ralph Peterson to appoint Luan Johnsrud to represent Pope SWCD at FAC meetings; to continue to co-locate Pope SWCD office with FSA and NRCS and negotiate a new lease. Carried. There will be a general CRP sign up this year. Staff training will be July 28th, FSA, NRCS and SWCDs have been invited to attend this training. Expect a soil rental rate increase range from \$63-118/acre.

Tim James, MPCA presentation

Tim gave a power point presentation of the TMDL study for each of the 8 lakes involved in the study. A draft of the Pope County TMDL study is in review. Stakeholders meeting will be held to review the plan, make comments and prioritize BMP's for the target lakes. The review and implementation plan has to be in place by June, 2011. Tim outlined the findings to date and potential BMP's that may be identified/recommended to reduce the phosphorus level in each lake. Luan is to print out the draft copy of the study and send to each Board member for review and comment. Mark Halls will read his from the computer.

Randy Anderson entered at 9:35 a.m.

6. New Business

- Pope County Fair booth. Continue with drawing for potted blue spruce and DQ gift certificates.
- The 2011 Budget Request for Pope County commissioners is due July 30th. Randy Anderson will review the budget with Luan.

D. Gary Reents left at 9:50 a.m.

- Rosholt Farm field day will be held July 27th. Pope SWCD & NRCS staff will attend and have a display.
- Luan will attend BWSR-RFP training July 4th in Fergus Falls.
- MASWCD sent out call for Candidate nominations. Board is to review and consider making a suggestion.
- MN River Basin Advisory Start-up Team requested members to serve on one of three committees. Mark Halls agreed to serve on the Western Basin committee if selected.

7. Financial Report-Current Bills. July-July 2010, Profit & Loss for June 2010, Profit & Loss actual vs. Budget through June 30, 2010, Balance sheet, Treasurer's Report, Checking and Savings Registers. Discussion followed. Reconciliations match; verification of Bank statements completed by Randy Anderson. Motion by Randy Anderson, second by Ralph Peterson to approve Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried.

8. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Mark Halls to adjourn at 11:10 a.m.