

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am September 21, 2010**

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

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

SWCD Staff: Kelly Erickson, Matt Fischer, Luan Johnsrud

Guests: Paul Gerde, Pope County Commissioner; Jim Freilinger and Becky Balk, MN Dept. of Ag, Tom Talle

Meeting Agenda:

1. Vice Chair D. Gary Reents called the meeting to order at 7:10 a.m.
2. Motion by Ralph Peterson second by Mark Halls to approve agenda as amended. Carried
3. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by D. Gary Reents to approve August 17, 2010 meeting minutes. Carried
4. Old Business
 - Pope County 8 Lake TMDL-Around 32 people attended the Stakeholders meeting, September 14, 2010. Pope SWCD will coordinate the action plan and implementation of the study. Make sure that we have a diverse group on this committee.
 - Presentation and budget request at the Pope County Commissioner's COW meeting went well. Discussed the presentation.
5. Reports-
 - Paul Gerde, County Commissioner
Paul attended an Ag Policy meeting in Alexandria last week. They discussed bio-filters on tile outlets, the need for more 10 Ton roads to accommodate grain and equipment hauling and the need for improved communication through high speed cable. Rural sewer systems guideline update review continues. Clearwater Bay cluster system bids came in much higher than expected; project is on hold for now. Bids for the Law Enforcement Center will be opened and discussed today.
 - Kelly Erickson, Technician
RIM easement reviews are completed; checked on RIM easement ownership changes. BWSR is reviewing sites to see how to use this program better. Observation wells completed for the month. Water levels are up some due to all of the rain this month. WCA reviews are in process. WCA TEP committee reviewed a site and sent a letter to the land owner indicating that there was reasonable access to a recreational property, so they would not approve constructing a road. Has been writing up tree plans and CRP grass plans for Matt. The 3020 is in for repair; water leak and power shift not working. The mechanic will call if it will be an extensive/expensive repair. One of the trailers needed 4 new tires-they were all cracked. Helped with WaterFest in September. Construction has begun on the Mrnack project. Pope SWCD is supplying cost share.
 - Matt Fischer, SWCD Wildlife Technician

Bailey easement paperwork is completed. Project still needs to be staked. Pope SWCD will receive \$2000 and will be reimbursed for expenses. Two additional easement agreements have been sent for signature.

Visited one site with Fred Kollman, DU biologist, to view a potential RIM/WRP project. Assisted with WaterFest.

All 24 bids (456 acres) for general CRP signup were accepted. 177.7 CCRP acres were accepted. Contracts will be presented before the FSA Committee Wednesday. There are 94 CRP contract expiring in 2011 (2000 +/- acres)

Jim Freilinger and Becky Bolt, MN Dept. of Ag, presented the draft Joint Powers Agreement for the lycimeter project at Rosholt Farm. First year will be November 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 with annual renewal through 2015. Pope SWCD will act as the administrator for the project. Invoices will be sent to Jim Freilinger for processing. Becky requested a Resolution of Authority be sent to her for processing so that the final JPA can be signed at the State level by November 1, 2010. Jim hope to be able to install some of the lycimeters this fall after the crop is harvested at Rosholt.

Motion by Ralph Peterson to have the County Attorney review the Joint Powers Agreement as presented and authorize Luan Johnsrud, Office Manager, and Keith Nygaard, Board Chair to sign the Agreement when verified by the County attorney. Second by Mark Halls. Carried

- Luan Johnsrud, Office Manager

Presented request from Jess Berge to apply fall chemical to thistles through the PSCWMA program. Jess had received cost share assistance through the CWMA-08 program for thistle treatments in July 2010. Motion by Mark Halls, second by D. Gary Reents to approve 50% cost share through the PSCWMA-10 program. Carried.

Made a presentation to the Pope County Commissioners of the proposed Pope SWCD 2011 budget and requested an allocation. Funds will be used for office manager salary and office operating.

Attended MCIT insurance coverage training in St. Cloud.

Processed CWMA payments and reported project on eLink. Some invoices have not been turned in by landowners for processing.

Received notice that the McKnight grant submitted on behalf of SWRD, CRWP and PDWD for areas included in the Area II JPA for technical assistance was funded. The \$120,000 grant will be managed by Stearns SWCD and pay for one technical support staff for 2 years. There is no administration funds with this program.

Co-Coordinated Waterfest with Stevens SWCD. Almost 300 students and teachers attended.

- 6. Luan presented Financial Reports and Current Bills for August-September, 2010. Motion by D. Gary Reents to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Second by Ralph Peterson. Carried.

Barry Bouwman, Pope County Weed Inspector and Feed Lot officer entered at 9:20 a.m. Discussed the importance of the CWMA invasive species program. Based on information gathered at statewide meetings that Barry attends, the need to continue to treat spotted knapweed aggressively continues.

- Craig Bower, NRCS

Presented worksheet on WHIP, SCecP, CStP, CSP, EQIP, and MRBI contracts for Pope County. Pope County landowners received \$1,963,063.55 from 2000 through 2008 for

conservation on 26,622.4 acres; \$460518.20 for 2009 & 2010 for conservation on 1679 acres.

One Swampbuster violation was reported the FSA. NRCS and FSA are proceeding with good faith exemption requirements.

Requested Contribution Agreements for Pope SWCD staff to work on General CRP conservation plans.

Finalized 3 CSP applications; obligated funds and promoted to contracts. One left to complete this week.

Completed contract for ag waste improvement in Westport Twp for an organic dairy.

Modified the contract immediately to encumber funds for use of a private engineer.

Processed seven EQIP payments

Mark Halls left at 9:50 a.m.

- o Ralph Peterson, WesMin RC&D/Glacial Trail

WesMin RC&D Board meeting was held last week. The Smokey Timber's fish fry in August was successful-they raised about \$2800.

The Forage Production booklets are done. Supply is limited, however, each SWCD office should received at least one booklet. More will be printed soon.

A dry hydrant was installed by Brooten.

Wadena Tree Planting Project has begun. Wadena was hit by a tornado last summer and lost several trees. They hope to raise money to replant 10,000 trees.

MASWCD budget committee has finalized their budget for 2011. The budget will be presented at Area meetings and at the state convention in December 2010. There is a deficit, so 2011 dues will be raised \$45.00 for the year. It has been several years since dues have increased.

Glacial Ridge Trail hosted a bus tour of the southern portion of the Trail. Sites included in the tour were Sibley State Park, Prairie Woods Learning Center, and Munson Lake State Park.

WesMin still has funds available from the Tastefully Simple grant for projects in Douglas and Pope Counties.

The Model T tour is this weekend.

7. New Business

Motion by D. Gary Reents for Kelly, Matt and Luan to attend the BWSR Academy, October 26-28, 2010. Carried

Luan has been asked to make a presentation at the Minnesota-Wisconsin Invasive Species Conference, St. Paul, November 8-10th.

Luan will be working on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Foundation Invasive Species application for Douglas Pope, Stevens and Swift counties. The application is due September 30, 2010.

Motion by Ralph Peterson to adjourn the meeting. Second by D. Gary Reents. Carried.