

POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING AGENDA
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00a.m.
October 19, 2010

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

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

SWCD Staff: Kelly Erickson, Matt Fischer, Luan Johnsrud

Guests: Paul Gerde, Pope County Commissioner, Tom Talle, Craig Bower

Meeting Agenda:

1. Chairman Keith Nygaard called the meeting to order at 7:05 a.m.
2. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by D. Gary Reents to approve current agenda. Carried
3. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by D. Gary Reents to approve September 21, 2010 meeting minutes as sent. Carried

Randy Anderson entered at 7:15 a.m.

4. Motion by Randy Anderson, second by D. Gary Reents to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Carried.
5. Old Business

- BWSR Academy –Kelly, Matt and Luan will be attending the Academy next week. Report on individual sessions at the November meeting.

Paul Gerde entered at 7:20 a.m.

6. Reports-

- Paul Gerde, County Commissioner
Rainbow Rider will receive up to 7 hybrid busses through the stimulus package financing. These busses run on fuel or electricity. There is one bus in the Alexandria area already. Rainbow Rider is looking for garage space in Douglas County. Options include purchasing an existing building or build on a new site.
Construction on the courthouse has started. Plans are underway to restore the north steps as close to the original design as possible.
County Road 17 will have new culverts, a 24' new top with 2' paved shoulders to allow for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- Kelly Erickson, Technician
The 3020 has been repaired, not as extensive repair as expected. There have been some equipment rentals this fall.
One grass seed sale so far this fall. Price for seed varies, discussed pricing and the local ecotype seed requirement by BWSR/Legislature.
Accounts receivable are current for the most part. One bill outstanding. Staff will contact that landowner to make arrangements for payment.
Pope SWCD will have a limited number of trees to give away. The profit margins are not there and we pay use tax on trees that we donate.
Assisted with Conservation Day at SWELL for Pope and Stevens 5th grade students.
Met with Ernie Schmidt, DNR forester, to resolve a tree issue.
Observation Wells completed for October. One RIM easement was staked.
Rosholt Farm has been winterized. The beans have been harvested.
- Matt Fischer, SWCD Wildlife Technician

Presented Clean Water Legacy requested for payment on CP21, 27, 28, & 37 practices. Contracts number CWL08-128 through 136; +128 Chilian 2.4 acres, +129 Carruth 35.8 acres, +130 Carruth 10.6 acres, +131 Henry 4.7 acres, +132 Arnold 9.5 acres, +133 Haugen, +34 Langan 17.9, +135 Langan 8.6 acres, +136 Krzesowiak Game Farm Partnership 7.9 acres. Motion by D. Gary Reents, second by Ralph Peterson to pay contracts listed. Carried

Assisted with the Scavenger Hunt at Conservation Day at SWELL.

Attended the Area II meeting at Prairie Lakes Environmental Center, Spicer.

Attended LiDAR training in St. Cloud. This program will be able to identify water flow on stream banks, high erosion areas and where basin will form. Pope County LiDAR maps should be ready to use by next spring.

Met with Fred Kollman and a landowner to review a RIM/WRP project – initial stages of application.

Staked Bailey's RIM project.

Sending out letters requesting additional information to landowners accepted into the General CRP signup.

Sent out 4 proposals to landowners for the CCRP program. Two CP37 proposals accepted by Landowners.

Old RIM contract has Siberian Elm growing on it. Looking for funding to remove them and need to talk with the neighbors to contain the spread of this invasive tree.

- Luan Johnsrud, Office Manager

Coordinated 8 Lake TMDL Stakeholder meeting October 14th. Meetings will be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The group is working on organizational issues first.

Working on eLink reports for CWMA and PSCWMA programs. PSCWMA interim report completed.

Participated in a teleconference with Rosholt Farm partners October 12th. Jim Freiling, MN Dept. of Ag, hopes to install some lycimeter this fall.

Attended COLA meeting October 13th. Pope SWCD staff will continue to attend meetings in 2011 as a COLA partner.

Completed and submitted an application to US Fish and Wildlife Foundation for a four county CWMA program and BWSR for Feedlot update. Notification of funding will be after January 1, 2011.

Discussed Stewardship opportunity by advertising on the Pope County Area Churches website. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Randy Anderson to continue to send a letter to area churches with links to Stewardship information instead of participating in the website. Carried.

Presented PSCWMA10-02 application for invasive species treatment. Motion by D. Gary Reents, second by Randy Anderson to pay cost share for project up to 75%. Carried

- Craig Bower, NRCS

Attended an NRCS employee meeting last week, teleconference with State Conservationist and ABC training.

Completed 11 determinations to FSA for swampbuster compliance issues on HEL/wetlands.

Met with COC on 9/22 for a good faith exemption on a potential wetland violation.

General CRP guidelines still not finalized. Plans need to be submitted by 12/31/2010.

Chippewa River Watershed Project and Land Stewardship program are promoting a 10-10 project to include more grass based farming.

Received funds through MRBI (Mississippi River Basin Initiative) for one project, and 2 EQIP projects-feed lot updates.

- Ralph Peterson, WesMin RC&D/Glacial Trail

Ralph passed out the WesMin Coordinator's report. The model "T" tour only had 4 participants this year, probably due to the weather conditions.

A dry hydrant was installed at Lake Johanna for the Brooten fire department to use. The water level has been drawn down in Jenny Lake, Douglas County, as a way to remove rough fish.

Steve Vahn, RC&D Forester, will work on the Wadena Tree project. They have been able to raise \$16,000 toward that project. The goal is \$100,000.

State conservationist, Don Baloun, is scheduled to meet with WesMin on Wednesday, October 20th.

The annual RC&D meeting will be January 26th in St. Cloud at the Kelly Inn.

Additional brochures are being printed for the Glacial Ridge Trail project. Their website is up and running-check it out.

- Other

7. New Business

- Motion by Randy Anderson, second by D. Gary Reents to sign the RIM-WRP Partnership contract for 2011. Carried
- District Capacity Award SCORE Sheet-reviewed and signed to submit to MASWCD
- Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by D. Gary Reents to have Keith Nygaard, as the delegate to the Area II Joint Powers board. Carried
- MASWCD 2010 Resolutions-Reviewed, discussed and voted on. Ballot to be sent to MASWCD by November 1, 2010.
- MASWCD State Convention is set for December 5-7th at the Crowne Plaza, St. Paul. - Supervisors Ralph Peterson, Keith Nygaard, D. Gary Reents and Randy Anderson will attend. Staff Kelly Erickson, Matt Fisher and Luan Johnsrud will attend along with Conservation family, Luverne and Mary Jo Forbord. Luan is to complete the registration forms and reserve hotel rooms for the event.
- Open House and 10% discount for early tree orders will be November 10th from 9-2.
- Luan will present at the Minnesota Wisconsin Invasive species Conference November 8-9th. By volunteering for 8 hours, she will receive free conference registration. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Randy Anderson to pay for mileage, housing and meals for the conference.

Motion by D. Gary Reents, second by Randy Anderson to adjourn the meeting. Carried