

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am April 19, 2011  
Meeting site: USDA Service Center,  
1680 N. Franklin Avenue  
Glenwood, MN 56334**

**Supervisors:** Keith Nygaard, Gary Reents, Ralph Peterson, Tom Talle, Randy Anderson  
**SWCD Staff:** Kelly Erickson, Matt Fischer, Luan Johnsrud  
**Guests:** Paul Gerde, Pope County Commissioner

**Meeting Agenda:**

1. Meeting called to order by Chair D. Gary Reents at 7:05 a.m.
2. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Keith Nygaard to approve current agenda. Carried
3. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Keith Nygaard to approve March 15, 2011 meeting minutes as presented. Carried

Paul Gerde entered at 7:20 a.m.

4. Financial Report-Current Bills. March 2011-April 2011. Motion by Keith Nygaard, second by Tom Talle to accept the financial reports as presented. Carried.

Randy Anderson entered at 7:25 a.m.

5. Old Business
  - Review and discuss updates to Pope SWCD personnel policy put on hold. Luan will review the current policy and distribute to the Board prior to the May meeting.
6. Reports-
  - Paul Gerde, County Commissioner  
Commissioners were invited to Stevens County for an outcome based management training session presented by Tom Murphy, Beltrami County. Beltrami County has combined the offices of Environmental Services and Beltrami SWCD.  
Rainbow Rider has more ridership than previous years. Traverse County has been added to the route.  
The Chippewa River Watershed Project TMDL study is ready to line up practices. Water in the watershed is clear and high this spring.  
Construction on the courthouse is going as planned. They hope to have the outside completed by Waterama.  
Attended a Retreat for Commissioners and Department Heads the last Friday in March. Another Retreat is scheduled for the end of April.  
Provided brief update of the proposed purchase land and donation of land to the DNR that was noted in last week's PC Tribune. The County and the State do not support land transferred to the State at this time. Popular belief is that the State Legislature sets the PILT payment, however this may not be true. PILT cut payments were cut by 12% this year. Pope County does not have a lot of acres under this designation. However, in some counties, it may be as high as 85%. Kelly mentioned that

about 1% of Pope County is controlled by DNR and other conservation groups have additional acres. There are also permanent easements under the RIM/WRP that the landowner maintains and pays taxes on, however meeting attendees did not know how taxes on those parcels are computed.

- Ralph Peterson, WesMin RC&D/Glacial Trail

WesMin RC&D will no longer receive federal funding for staff support, so the staff is gone and the office is closed for the time being. WesMin is at 'zero' budget. The project files are being stored in the Douglas County SWCD office. The Board reviewed the open projects files and assigned generating completion reports for each open grant to Board members at the April meeting. The board hopes that all open grants are completed by the end of 2011.

WesMin Board members plan to present the Otter Tail County Commissioners with a check for the Phelps Mill project. That will take care of the WesMin cash reserve.

There is an estimated \$3,600 left in the Tastefully Simple grant funds. Ralph encouraged us to develop a water quality project to use these dollars.

There will be a statewide RC&D meeting May 4<sup>th</sup> to outline the situation and give direction. Some RC&D offices have funds available for staffing and will continue to operate.

May 4<sup>th</sup> is the target date for the Wadena tree planting program. Volunteers have been lined up to help plant trees that day.

Glacial Ridge Trail is going strong celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year this year. It has an open grant for signage that they plan to complete by the end of the year.

- Kelly Erickson, Technician

Work has been completed on the 3010 at Norm's Repair.

Observation wells have been checked 2 times this spring.

Tree and grass plans are ready for spring. Trees will be delivered April 28<sup>th</sup>. Kelly drove to Hutchinson to pick up 30 rain barrels.

Six WCA contacts this month-mostly for to repair or replace field drainage tile.

Visited the Feedlot project site with the JPII Engineer; plans pending.

The water is on at Rosholt Farm. The well pumps close to 260 and the irrigator is set at 270, so we're close. A new well plus wiring could cost as much as \$35000. The existing well was dug in 1999.

Kelly will be out for 4-6 weeks on medical leave this summer. Kelly outlined plans for seasonal help to complete the tree planting and seeding if required. At this time, the trees should be planted and seeding should be almost completed before he is on medical leave.

Weed fabric delivered and unloaded.

- Anthony Wolf, Rosholt Water Quality Technician

Four sections of 3 lysimeters were installed Monday; four more left for today. They should be done with the installation today. They will begin drawing water and sampling.

- Matt Fischer, SWCD Farm Bill Technician

Attended RUSLE2 Training, CRWP annual meeting, NWTF Banquet and met with WCTSA engineers.

Assisted landowners with general CRP signup. Not a lot of new land offered, but the majority of expiring contracts was offered back; processed 57 offers for general sign-up, many pursuing CCRP options. 2681.5 acres have been offered under SU41 and CCRP so far.

Two closing for RIM/WRP, one RIM Riparian buffer easement has been recorded and payment has been issued

CWL-Curtis Hoium CWL final payment request requested. Partial payment was approved in January for the collection of the soil samples. Motion by Keith Nygaard second by Randy Anderson for final CWL payment for Curtis Hoium. Carried.

Ran RUSLE2 calculation for one sediment control basin.

Helped Kelly unload weed fabric, completed the XI Farm Bill Assistance Grant and Walk-In Access Grant.

o Luan Johnsrud, Office Manager

Coordinated and attended Town Hall meetings for Lake Emily, Gilchrest, Malmedal, Strandness, Trapper's Run and Pelican. Continue to coordinate TMDL Implementation committee activities.

Updated 2011 PSCWMA work plan.

Completed poster contest presentations to Pope County 5th and 6th grade students. Posters are due May 6<sup>th</sup> and will be judged at the May 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Attended Administrator's training. Interesting and directed toward office staff, managers, and bookkeepers.

Participated in the Conservation Corps host site teleconference training. The apprentices will stop in on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> on their way to training and begin work on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Ralph Peterson suggested targeting buckthorn in Barsness Park and working with the city of Glenwood to complete that task.

The Rosholt 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2011 report and invoice were submitted for reimbursement.

o Craig Bower, NRCS

Participated in 3 meetings & trainings.

Completed 19 determinations for FSA for compliance issues on HEL/wetlands

Reviewed and submitted 16 applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). One application accepted so far.

Received notice that 3 high tunnels will receive EQIP funding; 1 organic EQIP and 7 regular EQIP contracts were approved for funding. One CCPI-TNC application is waiting for approval. Pope County is the only application for CCPI-TNC funding in Minnesota.

Closed on WRP easement contract; another one should be closed within the next two weeks.

One of five WHIP applications was approved for funding.

o Grant Herfindahl, FSA

Grant reported that Matt Fischer was a big help with the CRP signup. There are close to 100 contracts that will expire in 2011. They will be notified Mid-May if any of the contracts submitted was accepted. Some of the plans included shrubs and grassland planting. 20% of the CRP acres will be expiring in 2012. If a general CRP signup is not offered, we will need to look for appropriate conservation practices for those acres.

7. New Business

o Reviewed the cost share documents for the City of Glenwood ravine repair project. Motion by Ralph Peterson second by Tom Talle to approve \$169,028 for cost share. Carried.

o Pope SWCD staff and Board members are to present names for the 2011 Conservationist of the Year at the May meeting.

o Review Year to Date Goals and Objectives-Luan will update the Goals and Objectives completed through April 2011 and distribute to the Board at the May meeting.

o Motion by Randy Anderson, second by Keith Nygaard to authorize Luan Johnsrud to complete the grant application for a MPCA –Green Corp volunteer. Carried.

8. Next Scheduled meeting date May 17, 2011 SWCD office at 7:00 a.m.

