

POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am May 17, 2011

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

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

1. Call the meeting to order by Chair, D. Gary Reents at 7:00 a.m.
2. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Keith Nygaard to accept current agenda. Carried
3. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Keith Nygaard to approve April 19, 2011 meeting minutes as corrected. Carried
Paul Gerde entered at 7:08 a.m.
4. Motion by Randy Anderson, second by Tom Talle to accept the Financial Report-Current Bills. April 2011- May 2011 as presented subject to audit. Carried
5. Old Business
 - Luan will gather updates to Pope SWCD personnel policy and share them with the board.
 - Motion by Keith Nygaard, second by Ralph Peterson to nominate Greg Stoen family as Pope County Conservationists of the Year 2011. Carried. Kelly Erickson will talk with the Stoen family to see if they are willing to serve in this capacity.
 - The board reviewed Year to Date Goals and Objectives. Matt Fischer indicated that 30-40 acres of filter strips will be installed in 2011. Five landowners had signed up for irrigation management on 7 fields, so we made our 1000 acre goal.
6. Reports-
 - Paul Gerde, County Commissioner
Rainbow Rider continues to have more riders each month. The courthouse building project is on task. The Board of Commissioners attended a retreat and generated a mission statement, "Enhancing Quality of Life by Providing Innovative Services for our Community Every Day." A recycling trailer is parked at Tom's Food Pride on Mondays in Glenwood and Wednesdays in Starbuck. An 11 member advisory committee has been formed to look into expanding the HRA to and HRA/EDA. Paul attended the Road & Ditch meeting. It's too expensive to keep tar on some stretches of roads, so they will be put back to gravel and resurfaced in 2 years. Paul noted that in State Statute, SWCDs are supposed to provide council to flood control on land transfer parcels. Paul requested that Pope SWCD staff review these guidelines before the next Board meeting.
 - Kelly Erickson, Technician
Discussed the Rosholt Project and the condition of the building with the Board. The doors and window are in disrepair and should be replaced. Motion by Keith Nygaard, second by Randy Anderson to contact a local contractor for a bid to repair these items if it doesn't cost too much (\$750.00). Carried.
One drill has been repaired. Drill delivery outside of the county will be \$100.00 and \$75.00 inside of Pope County. This increase should help to cover the cost of the extra gas.
Prepared and completed a presentation with Matt and Luan at MAHS Go Green event.

Trees will be delivered April 28th; tree sale/pickup will be April 30th and May 1st. Rented out tree planter to 4 landowners. Seven tree plans done, 4 left to complete.

14-15 grass plantings coming up-soil temperature is too low to plant yet.

Completed 5 WCA Contacts-1 Cease & Desist order.

Brian Noetzelman requested that Kelly and Matt meet with him to review Co. Rd. 30 area before construction begins.

Kelly will be on Medical Leave beginning June 2nd for an undetermined amount of time.

- Matt Fischer, SWCD Farm Bill Technician

Completed Basic Surveying training and Hydrology modules in AgLearn

Completed conservation plan for Cook Waterfowl in Sec. 4 & 9 in Rolling Forks

Participated in the WCA TEP meeting May 4th with Kelly and Steve Hofstad.

Presented CRP Promotion and Implementation Agreement with: Rice/Koronis Lake Associations, and Pope SWCD. Rice Lake Association will pay \$375 and Koronis Lake Association will pay \$625 to identify and prioritize ecologically sensitive areas located in Pope County that are part of the North Fork Crow River Watershed. Pope SWCD staff will contact identified landowners in this area and promote conservation programs. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second Tom Talle to enter into the said agreement with Rice/Koronis Lake Associations. Carried Outlined the new Walk In Access programs. There will be web training on Thursday, May 19th with additional information for this program.

Five landowners have signed up for irrigation management for a total of 7 fields.

Spoke with a few lakeshore owners on Minnewaska and Reno about shoreline erosion and possible restoration. These projects may qualify for a BWSR RFP to be released this year.

Helping Kelly with tree planting this year.

- Luan Johnsrud, Office Manager

Attended the Pope County Task Force meeting May 23rd; made a presentation on the TMDL study and other programs offered through Pope SWCD office.

Met with PSCWMA work group to plan 2011 activities; began working with intern for security clearance.

Participated in the Conservation Corps teleconference for host agencies. Lance and Teila will stop in the office May 23rd on their way to training. They will be in the Pope SWCD office May 31st through mid-August. Submitted draft conservation Corps work plan.

Worked with Melissa at the Sr. & Jr. Envirothon May 27th held at Prairie Woods Learning Center, Spicer.

Coordinated townhall meetings for Lake Ann, Reno and Leven that are included in the 8 lake TMDL study. Our contract with MPCA for these activities ends June 30, 2011.

Participated in the Glacial Hills Elementary field day at Glacial State Park May 13th.

Mr. Maisner was in the office May 16th to conduct our annual audit. He expects to have our report completed within the next month. Per Mr. Maisner, our records look good.

Introduced Will Clayton, PSCWMA intern. Will started working Monday, May 15th. He will be coordinating PSCWMA activities in Pope and Swift Counties.

- Anthony Wolf, Water Quality Intern, Rosholt Farm

Completed installing the Lysimeters April 18th, there are 27 sample ports with 216 lysimeters. They were planning to draw samples every other day; however some the Lysimeters did not have enough water to sample, so they will be sampling every 4 days until there's enough water. Some areas already indicate higher nitrate levels.

The weather station was assembled April 20th; we will pour a cement slab for the base when weather permits. The weather station will measure temperature, rain fall, and wind speed/direction in real time. Prairie Lakes Coop has offered to help with the installation and act as the host for the weather station information.

The test plot has been tilled and 2 corn plots have been planted; waiting to plant the beans. Answer Plot was at Rosholt Last Friday. MN Corn Growers donated seed for the plot.

- Craig Bower, NRCS
Attended NEPA training and participated at the Go Green event at MAHS. Greg Duchene, NRCS grazing specialist gave a presentation.
Completed 19 determinations for compliance issues on HEL/wetlands
Still waiting for FSA approval of CRP general sign-up; 57 applications submitted
Completed field verification for 1 CSP application accepted in Pope Co.
Audit on 12 EQIP contracts and verification done by AO. Pope County has 3 CCPI projects underway.
Jeff Duchene, NRCS grazing specialist, working with 3 landowners in Pope Co.
Closed on one WRP easement
One WHIP application approved/funded; waiting for applicant's signature on contract.
Melissa Behrens is working on one special project with a civil engineer; Area II engineer is coming to look at two projects.
- Ralph Peterson, WesMin RC&D/Glacial Trail
Met with statewide RC&D coordinator May 4th to start the shut down process for RC&Ds. Some offices have other income streams and will be able to remain open, others will complete the closeout process. The office space in Alexandria is still in use. The working files may be housed at Douglas SWCD and historical files sent to the Douglas County Historical Society. The next WesMin RC&D meeting will be held June 8th.
Glacial Ridge Trail has ordered 25,000 new brochures. Four Board members attended Leadership Academy. One presenter talked about social media used by non-profit organizations and suggested using that in addition to a website.
- Grant Herfindahl, FSA
Grant indicated that USDA computer system blocks face book, so that medium wouldn't work for us.
FSA funded at 95% for the rest of 2011 fiscal year. Lost discretionary budget; they will be able to call 1 county committee meeting, the rest are cancelled until the beginning of the next fiscal year, October 1, 2011. There isn't a budget for field reports or money for mileage. However offices will not close or experience staff lay off-yet.
A \$30 billion cut is proposed in the 2012 Farm Bill budget. Cuts may include not having a loan program.
More acres will be coming out of CRP in 2012 than in 2011.
The Fence Post news notes delivered through email has been well received.

Paul Gerde left at 8:45 a.m.

7. New Business

- Matt explained the Petition Documents for Allen Braaten RIM-WRP Project. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Keith Nygaard to support the petition as presented. Carried.
- Area II meeting, June 2nd in Alexandria. Ralph Peterson, Keith Nygaard, Tom Talle, and D. Gary Reents plan to attend with Pope SWCD staff.
- Judged Posters for annual Poster Contest. Luan and Melissa will hand out certificates at each school's awards ceremony.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

