

POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EMERGENCY MEETING AGENDA
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am June 29, 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, Teila Zoller, Anthony Wolf, Luan Johnsrud
Guests: None

1. Call to Order by Chair D. Gary Reents at 7:08 a.m. Board members and staff received copies of the latest correspondence from funding sources regarding operating during a shutdown for reference.
2. Discussed Operating Options in the event of a State of Minnesota shutdown
 - a. DRN
Working Lands Initiative Langhei #3 is funded until June 30, 2012. This grant has a \$1000 line item for staffing. We may be able to use some of that for staffing a part time position. A letter dated August 24, 2011 from DNR indicated that unless notified in writing by the Department to cease work, you may continue to work under already existing grant agreement(s) as long as the period starting July 1, 2011 is an eligible time period to incur grant expenses and you understand that you are taking on some risk with the decision to continue work; there is some risk that legislative action may preclude DNR's ability to reimburse costs; in the event of a shutdown, agency staff would not be available to answer questions, etc..
 - b. Review Conservation Corps Apprentice program-
An email from James Adkinson, Program Director, indicated that in the event of a State shutdown, apprentices will be suspended from the AmeriCorps system starting Monday July 11th and apprentices will be not be able to serve at their SWCD after July 9th. If the suspension is for an extended period of time, the apprentice can opt to work past August 19th to accumulate 450 hours or receive a partial, pro-rated AmeriCorps Education Award based on total hours worked.
 - c. Rosholt Farm
The filing of a new Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) has been further delayed by the threat of a shutdown. Pope SWCD and its partners for this project cannot bill for items/services received after June 30th, 2011 or the date we have a new JPA signed, sealed and executed. Without an executed JPA in place, it is up to Pope SWCD and their partners to continue operations. The irrigation system is ready to go for the season. To keep the data consistent, water testing should be conducted after irrigation and rainfall. Anthony Wolf has been working as a water quality intern at the Rosholt site. His salary is reimbursed through the JPA with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The Board discussed options and additional funding streams. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Randy Anderson, to continue to employ Anthony Wolf full time for the month of July and try to adjust this financial commitment by sharing the cost through various programs. This decision will be made on a month by month basis to keep the research at Rosholt Farm intact. Carried.
 - d. Board or Water and Soil Resources has indicated that most of the open grants will be accessible during a shutdown. However, BWSR staff would not be available to provide technical assistance or approve work order changes.
 - i. Farm Bill Technician-Pope SWCD cannot bill time against the 2012 grant until it is signed and executed. BWSR staff presented a proposed 2012 budget for review. The Farm Bill

program is reimbursed by the State, partner match and Pope SWCD. However, Pope SWCD has been informed that we can use the Walk In Access money that we have already received toward the 2012 Farm Bill Assistance Program position for the month of July 2011. Motion by Ralph Peterson, Second by Keith Nygaard to enter sign the BSWR Farm Bill grant agreement when it arrives. Carried.

1. NRCS Contribution Agreement has been proposed so that Pope SWCD staff 9 (usually the Farm Bill Technician) can provide technical assistance to landowners that have accepted CRP's and other conservation programs. Reimbursement is expected to be \$480 per contract plan completed. There are an estimated 64 contracts that need to be written in 1 ½ months. NRCS is not sure how the proposed agreement will have handled.
- ii. Open Grants-BWSR provided grantees with a list of Active and Suspended grants based on June 22, 2011 MMB. However, this is subject to change. Pope SWCD staff will continue to monitor the BWSR website for updates through June 30th. This site and eLink reporting will close down at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, June 30th. BWSR has advised grantees to print off any report pages that are needed before that date and time.
3. The Repair Bid from Brownies for '92 Chevy was discussed. The vehicle is safe to drive; however, the tires will wear faster. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Keith Nygaard to repair the '92 Chevy per bid. Carried. Randy Anderson suggested starting a safety file listing the date, class subject, instructor and who attended the class.
4. Received the Request for 2012 Appropriation letter from Pope County Coordinator; this is a month earlier than previous years. Randy Anderson will review the budget with Luan and have it ready to submit to the Pope County Commissioners in July.
5. Motion by Keith Nygaard, second by Tom Talle to adjourn at 8:00 a.m.