

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am July 19, 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, Anthony Wolf, Will Clayton,
Lance Nelson

Guests: None

Meeting Agenda:

1. Board Chair, D. Gary Reents call the meeting to order at 7:10 a.m.
2. Motion by Ralph Pederson, second by Keith Nygaard to accept agenda as presented.
3. Motion by tom Talle, second by Ralph Peterson to accept June 21, 2011 meeting minutes with corrections. Carried. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Randy Anderson to accept the Special Meeting June 29, 2011 meeting minutes. Carried.
4. Randy Anderson made the motion, second by Tom Talle, to approve the June-July Financial Report as presented. Carried.
5. Old Business
Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Randy Anderson, to table the review of the Pope SWCD personnel policy.
Chair D. Gary Reents opened the motion to discussion. Randy Anderson suggested forming a committee to review the entire Personnel Policy to make recommendations to the Board, and pass the revised document as a whole. Tom Talle, Randy Anderson and Kelly Erickson volunteered to coordinate the committee review activities. Each Supervisor is to review the Personnel Policy, highlight and offer suggestions. Have these documents to Luan in 2 weeks so that she can scan and send them to Personnel Policy Committee members for review.
Amendment to the motion made by Randy Anderson, second by Keith Nygaard, a committee consisting of Tom Talle, Kelly Erickson and Randy Anderson review the Personnel Policy Handbook and submit recommendations to the Board of Supervisors at the next meeting for consideration. Carried.
State Shutdown continues; expected to end soon.
6. Reports-
Paul Gerde, County Commissioner-absent

Kelly Erickson, Technician
Kelly and Luan sat in on a teleconference with the Rosholt Work Group. An open house will be held August 16th, the weather station is installed, discussed uniformity test for the irrigator (there has been ample rain, so the irrigation unit has not been used), and will process a request for chemigation.
Reviewed 8 WCA sites-various situations. Participated in to a teleconference regarding a contribution agreement for Swampbuster/WCA with NRCS.
Completed native grass seeding for spring 2011. Passed out the profit and loss previous year comparison through July 1, 2011. Sales and service are improving and there are more returning customers.
Repaired the hitch on a drill and two tires blew on a trailer.

The interns helped place tree tubes on the oak trees at Kemble's.

Matt Fischer, SWCD Farm Bill Technician

Attended Soil Mechanics-1 and Grassed Waterway training Part II.

Working on 4 Continuous CRP contracts totaling 40.3 acres. Working with 7 landowners for various programs. A teleconference for Sign-up 41 Conservation Plan will be held July 20th; work plan development must be completed by September 2nd.

Completed 2 cost share vouchers for weed control clipping on RIM/WRP projects.

Reviewed 3 sites with the WCTSA engineers of July 6th for streambank stabilization, Water and Sediment Control Basin & possible grassed waterway, and weir structure on creek running into Lake Minnewaska.

Sent out 670 postcards for the Walk-In Access program. 18 responded so far. Seven agreements for 756 acres have been signed.

Continuing to work with Kelly on WCA issues.

Luan Johnsrud, District Manager

Attended the Lakeshore Erosion-Fight the War of the Waves meeting June 22nd, Pope County Task Force July 29th, and TMDL Implementation Planning meeting July 12th.

Completed quarterly State & Federal withholding reports; submitted voucher & quarterly report to MDA for Rosholt Project; submitted final voucher to MPCA for the 8 Lake TMDL project; submitted on line 2010 Audit to the Secretary of State; updated the employment and personnel Policy for Supervisors to review.

Completed draft of the 2012 budget and discussed it with Randy Anderson. Submitted request for allocation to the Pope County Commissioners by July 15, 2011.

Anthony Wolf, Water Quality Intern

Water samples have been pulled 16 times this year. Anthony is pulling samples using bottles provided by U of M intern, Ki-en-Kim.

Continuing to take pictures weekly to log plant progressions. Plots were sprayed on June 24th. Volunteer corn was pulled by hand. All the grass is now planted and starting to emerge. East and west rows were tilled to identify different Nitrogen treatment areas.

The telephone line for the weather station has been hooked up. Helped LeRoy from Prairie Lakes Coop trench the track for the irrigator as well has repaired a few things.

The Spectrophotometer was checked and updated. Our machine is right on.

Passed the chemical applicators test.

Will Clayton, PSWCMA Intern

Surveyed additional sites in Swift County; sprayed 3 of these sites. Sprayed thistle in a few pastures –used the four wheeler on one site. Identified one new tansy site and sprayed that site. Applied chemical on 5 sites in Glenwood and 1 site in Starbuck. Applied treatment to 23 sites all together.

Moved the drills and seeded some CRP and Food plots.

Installed cattle exclusion fence at one site.

Barsness Park project up in the air due to State Shutdown.

Lance Nelson and Teila Zoller, Conservation Corps. Apprentices

They can work through July 15th, then suspended until the State budget is passed. Lance will continue to volunteer hours for his internship at school. Not sure what Teila will do at this point.

Craig Bower, NRCS

Participated in the Wetlands Initiative teleconference. SWCDs could participate through a Contribution Agreement to work on WCA/Sodbuster and receive \$400.00 for completing the paperwork. A maximum of \$20,000 could be earned through this contribution agreement. There will be another teleconference August 3rd with more program guidelines. Estimated time is 4 hours off site using slide reviews and 10 hours on site depending on site. Kelly and Craig will contact Douglas County to see if they are interested in partnering with them to implement the Westland Initiative.

Completed 10 HEL/Westland determinations. Sodbuster plan completed and signed by participant.

A Contribution Agreement is in the works for 63 CRP contracts. Pope SWCD will receive \$480 for each completed plan.

Two additional contracts for CSP were obligated July 13, 2011.

Submitted requests for payment on 10 EQIP contracts and WRP weed control & tree/shrub removal.

Grant Herfindahl, FSA

Grant completed initial report of green snap for the County Emergency Board for crop losses; 10-15% up to 30-40% in some places. Checked Iowa State for crop loss reports; 10% snap leads to about 10% loss in production; need 30% threshold to call an Emergency Meeting.

SURE deadline from 2009 pasture losses are being processed. And estimated 50-60 landowners have applied; perhaps 1/3 of the applicants will receive assistance.

The food shelf drive-Feds Feed Families has been launched. The program hopes to raise 2 million pounds of food.

The People's Garden is starting to produce. This year, FSA, NRCS, Pope SWCD and Glenwood Lutheran Church are working on the garden and donating the proceeds to the Pope County Food Shelf.

FSA expects at least a 15% cut in their programs. Minnesota expects staff reductions of up to 38 people; some through retirement or voluntary retirement buyouts.

Randy Anderson left at 9:30 a.m.

Ralph Peterson, WesMin RC&D/Glacial Trail

WesMin RC&D Executive committee met to begin to clean out the office. They will vacate the space by August 31, 2011. The next WesMin RC&D meeting will be held August 10th. They are not sure as to the future of RC&Ds. Paid the money owed for the Phelps Mill project.

Glacial Ridge Trail speakers were Nick Brown, TNC, and Curt Engstrom. Nick talked about the grazing programs in the area. The Signe project is almost completed. Randy Nelson is working on the matching funds for that project.

7. New Business

The Draft 2012 budget and Allocation Request was sent home with board members for further review.

A Signup sheet for the Pope County Fair booth, August 3rd-7th was passed around to Board members. Lance Nelson, Teila Zoller, Will Clayton, Anthony Wolf and Luan Johnsrud will also work at the booth. Matt Fischer will help with teardown on Sunday.

Rosholt Farm Field Day will be held August 16th. Pope SWCD will set up a display and participate as needed. This field day is targeted to producers.

8. Motion by Tom Talle, second by Keith Nygaard, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30. Carried.

