

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am August 16, 2011**

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

Supervisors: Keith Nygaard, Gary Reents, Ralph Peterson, Tom Talle, Absent : Randy Anderson,

SWCD Staff: Kelly Erickson, Matt Fischer, Luan Johnsrud, Will Clayton, Lance Nelson, Tiela Zoller Absent: Anthony Wolf

Guests: Paul Gerde, Pete Waller

Meeting Agenda:

1. Board Chair, D. Gary Reents called the meeting to order at 7:10 a.m.
2. Motion by Ralph Pederson, second by Keith Nygaard to accept the agenda as presented.
3. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Tom Talle to accept July 19, 2011 meeting minutes as sent. Carried.
4. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Tom Talle, to approve the June-August 2011 Financial Report as presented. Carried.
5. Old Business
The committee assigned to the review of the Pope SWCD personnel policy has not met to discuss changes. Continue to table action.
Luan presented the Board with copies of the proposed 2012 budget. The budget was submitted to the Pope County Commissioners for review by July 15th. Commissioner Paul Gerde noted that Pope SWCD is scheduled to meet with the County Commissioners August 30th at 10:00 a.m. to answer any questions.
Rosholt Farm Filed Day is today, August 16th for producers. This event is sponsored by Prairie Lakes Coop and production partners. Agencies and staff have contacted us requesting that we host a field day for them in 2012.
6. Reports-
Paul Gerde, County Commissioner
The Law Enforcement Center received a Certificate of Occupancy, so staff is starting to move into that portion of the building. The North steps still need to be done.
High water problems all over the County-lakes and ditches are full.
The Commissioners started to review the 2012 budget by department and line item. They hope to have a preliminary budget ready by September 15th.
Homestead Credit will affect townships-they don't receive as much back from property taxes and may have to raise their levy.
Outlined BWSR Conservation Drainage Assistance Program. Pilot program that could be used for projects in Pope County.

Kelly Erickson, Technician
Reviewed 8 WCA sites through August 15th. Met with Brian Noetzelman, County Engineer, to delineate wetlands along a county highway project due to the slope & shape of the landscape.
The drill was rented once.
Mowed 3 sites.

Drove to Becker with Ron Feigum, Stevens WCD, to pick up 800 tree tubes for the price of the gas.

Completed observation wells twice. DNR has closed 5 wells and drilled 2 new ones.

Completed a chemigation permit for Prairie Lakes Coop at Rosholt Farm.

Worked with Craig on the NRCS Contribution Agreement for swampbuster/WCA. Pope SWCD will receive up to \$12,000 over an 18 month period for completed projects. Training and BWSR support will be provided.

Preparing to do the RIM site reviews for 2012.

Went on vacation for five days.

Matt Fischer, SWCD Farm Bill Technician

Attended the EQIP local work group meeting and the general CRP teleconference.

Seven (7) continuous CRP contracts for 131.3 acres are in the works. Continuing to work on General CRP Conservation Plans. Conducted site reviews last week.

Completed Rim/WRP Conservation Plan for Richard Staples. Completed cost-share voucher for Eric Danielson

Presented cost share contract for Alan Bryce for a sediment basin. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Keith Nygaard to approve cost share contract of \$17,726.90/\$13,295.18 contingent upon landowner and land occupier signatures. Carried. This will use up most the remaining 2011 BWSR Cost Share allocation.

Six (6) Walk In Access agreements for 638.6 acres were signed in Pope County

Continuing to work with Kelly on WCA issues. WCA TEP meeting was July 27th.

Five landowners had signed up for irrigation management. They have not contacted Pope SWCD to follow through.

Kelly & Matt left at 8:00 a.m.

Luan Johnsrud, District Manager

Continue to coordinate TMDL Implementation Planning committee activities. There's a lot of interest in lakeshore restoration and sediment basins.

Attended the Pope County Task Force meeting August 29th.

Met with Holly Kovarik to discuss potential projects in the Sauk River Watershed District and Pope County.

Coordinated planning meeting with Judy Johnston, Stevens SWCD, for WaterFest September 16th, and Conservation Day, September 29th.

Participated in BWSR RFP training and CWMA webcast.

Reviewed Accounts Receivable with Kelly and sent out statements.

Submitted report the WesMin for the Tastefully Simple rain barrel project.

Processing eLink reports to close out the Clean Water Legacy and Native Buffer cost share programs. We have funds left that will be returned to BWSR.

Anthony Wolf, Water Quality Intern-written report submitted-at Rosholt for field day preparation Drawn and analyzed water samples 5 additional times since last board meeting and entered results into the computer.

Built a well cover at Rosholt.

Received a new cell for our nitrate machine-the old one was clogged.

Moved all the fence posts into a straight line; repositioned lysimeters that were too shallow; mowed and weed whipped each week.

Worked at the Pope County Fair booth August 6th and ran 15 water samples. Only 1 was higher than 10 for nitrates.

Helped cut buckthorn and spray worm wood at Langhei Working Lands site-collected native seed with Stacy Salveold, US Fish & Wildlife.

Will Clayton, PSWCMA Intern

Submitted final report for the year; wrote 4 weed of the week articles for the PC Tribune.

Worked at the fair booth and updated the CWMA display board.

Installed tree tubes at Kemble project; attended livestock tour.

Helped cut buckthorn and spray worm wood at Langhei Working Lands site-collected native seed with Stacy Salvevold, US Fish & Wildlife.

Surveyed Pasture site for PSWCMA cost share treatments with Lance.

Lance Nelson, Conservation Corps. Apprentices

Completed pasture survey with Will-potential cost share for the PSCWMA program.

Sprayed small spotted knapweed sties. Applied chemical to various sites for the cities of Glenwood & Starbuck. Created a children's coloring book for invasive weeds. Collected spotted knapweed weevils and set them on site.

Helped cut buckthorn and spray worm wood at Langhei Working Lands site-collected native seed with Stacy Salvevold, US Fish & Wildlife.

Worked the booth at the PC Fair; attended livestock tour.

Tiela Zoller, Conservation Corps. Apprentices

Developed an activity book for Pollinators for the Fair. Shared the information with Pope County Master Gardeners. Worked the booth at the PC Fair.

Helped cut buckthorn and spray worm wood at Langhei Working Lands site-collected native seed with Stacy Salvevold, US Fish & Wildlife.

Attended a livestock tour.

Kelly returned at 8:40 a.m.

Craig Bower, NRCS

Participated in the following trainings or meetings: CPC training, local EQIP, WRP local work group meetings, Civil Rights Compliance in Program Delivery, new Minnesota wetland procedures requirements, FSA/NRCS compliance teleconference.

Completed 6 HEL/wetland determinations for compliance issues for FSA.

Processed 2 EQIP payments; completed open obligations audit review for 9 contracts.

Grant Herfindahl, FSA

Farm Service Center building was without power, internet and phone service after the storm that hit Glenwood and the surrounding area August 1st.

Reported he has been documenting bins & crop damage from the August 1st storm. There are is an Emergency Conservation Program to replace farmstead shelterbelts. Consider using state cost share for trees and include sediment basins that were filled and need to be cleaned out due to the storm. Report to Grant so that he can assess losses.

Ralph Peterson, WesMin RC&D/Glacial Trail

George Swintek has been appointed to a Rural Development committee to assess local involvement in rural matters. Ralph attended an RC&D meeting in St. Cloud. Conference participants were encouraged to go slow, don't shut the doors to RC&D's yet.

Don Baloun, State Conservationist, plans to run contribution Agreements though MASWCD instead of each agency.

The Kandiyohi County engineer is coordinating the Glacial Ridge sign project. A 20% match is expected for this project. Glacial Ridge Trail Committee is planning a tour of the trail the last Thursday in September.

Ralph attended the monthly MASWCD meeting. Jeff Sparks, Water Sustainability Network, made a presentation on non-point source pollution. Also discussed was NACD's 10 Principles for a new farm bill and the Discover Farm program. Ralph encouraged Pope SWCD to participate in this program.

7. New Business

Pete Waller, BWSR, gave an agency and program update.

The State Shutdown slowed BWSR staff down, however, they are getting caught up. Their August Board meeting will be held in Little Falls. The RIM program will host a 25th Anniversary celebration September 21st at the Steele county Fair Grounds.

The Native buffer cost share funds that were returned were rolled into the general cost share program-use accordingly. The general cost share funds are up from 2010 levels.

Advised Pope SWCD to continue to coordinate the TMDL Implementation Committee activities-this process adds the 'Why' to an application.

BWSR is very pleased with the success of the Glenwood Ravine Repair project. Pete explained that grant funds will be released 50-40-10 over the grant period. The Grant Period will be from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014 to allow for 3 construction seasons.

The Conservation Corps apprentice program was funded through LCCMR as a training opportunity. With so many individuals considering retirement, the program is designed to encourage students to enter into the conservation field.

The Water Sustainability Plan, a report by the U of M, has been submitted to the Legislature. No one is sure how that plan will affect policy.

Area II meeting will be September 8th in Big Stone County. Gary, Keith, Ralph, Tom, Kelly, Matt and Luan will attend. Luan will notify Big Stone SWCD as to how many will attend and make arrangements.

SWCD Governance 101 training sponsored by MASWCD will be held September 12th & 13th in Alexandria. Gary, Keith Ralph, Tom and Luan will attend.

Luan will attend the MCIT Risk Management workshop September 21, 2001 in St. Cloud.

8. Motion by Keith Nygaard, second by Ralph Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 9:40. Carried.