

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am September 20, 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
Guests: Paul Gerde, Pope County Commissioner

Meeting Agenda:

1. Vice Chair, Keith Nygaard called the meeting to order at 7:05 a.m.
2. Motion by Tom Talle, second by Ralph Peterson to approve the agenda as amended. Carried
3. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Tom Talle to approve the August 16, 2011 meeting minutes as printed. Carried.

Randy Anderson entered at 7:15 a.m.

4. Financial Report documents reviewed by Randy Anderson. The audit statements are in order; district funds are stable and up from the previous year. Motion by Randy Anderson, second by Keith Nygaard to accept the Financial Report as presented. Carried.
5. The Personnel Policy review committee will meet September 30, 2011 at 7:00 a.m. to review and discuss updates.
6. Reports-

Paul Gerde, County Commissioner

Pope Douglas Solid Waste 3rd burner is working well. The Recycle trailer that has been in Starbuck and Glenwood is funded through October and has been an asset.

Paul attended the Chippewa River Watershed Project quarterly meeting. Water is high throughout the watershed.

Budget meetings at the county continue. Union negotiations have started-2 commissioners, county coordinator and HR staff participates in these meetings.

Rainbow Rider funding has been cut by the state and the City of Alexandria. Service will be provided Monday through Friday and no overtime is allowed.

Clearwater Bay Sewer District bids are higher than in 2010; however, a majority of the landowners voted to go forward with the project.

The furniture was delivered to the Law Enforcement Center. Open house will be sometime in October. Plan to repair/replace the front steps are completed, however, there isn't a contractor available to do the work at this time so it's on hold for now.

The Pope County HRA has expanded to form an HRA/EDA; the board has expanded from 5 to 7 members. A new Board Chair is in place.

The Pope County Cattlemen are sponsoring a grazing public lands meeting today at the Minnewaska House.

D. Gary Reents entered at 7:30 a.m.

Kelly Erickson, Technician

Attended Rosholt Field Day; attended WCA training in Montevideo; attended the Rosholt work group meeting in Elrosa; attended Area II meeting in Ortonville.

Had 2 drill rentals-1 mowing job & 1 packer rental; hauled some equipment to Rosholt for winter storage; had the C-Farmall repaired Completed 2 tree plans for DNR

Monitored a wetland restoration in Reno Twp., worked on wetland delineation for Pope County HWY Dept. completed 2 WCA checks on possible violations.
Completed Observation Wells; worked on site reviews for RIM easements
Helped with WaterFest.

Discussed bidding on 2012 CRP plans. Pope SWCD does not have a tractor to pull tillage equipment and some of the CRP projects may need a light disking for field prep. The District does own a small disk, however, may not be cost effective use of time. Randy Anderson suggested doing a feasibility study for potential CRP tillage as related to equipment needs. BWSR Academy is the last October 25-27th. Kelly and Matt are registered to attend.

Matt Fischer, SWCD Farm Bill Technician

Attended 3 training session for sediment basins.

Completed 51 General CRP Conservation Plans; contribution Agreement for Reimbursement in processing phase. Working with one landowner to re-enroll some of land in continuous CRP. Sent request to BWSR to pay for spraying 1 RIM/WRP easement.

Worked with Area II engineers to get estimates and pollution reduction estimates for 6 sediment basins for the BWSR grant application due September 22nd.

Farm Bill grant agreement has been signed by all parties-can start charging time to that program.

Attended Ducks Unlimited banquet, assisted with WaterFest, worked with Kelly on WCA issues and attended the WCA TEP meeting September 7, 2011.

Luan Johnsrud, District Manager

Attended Chippewa River workgroup meeting, Rosholt Farm work group meeting, Area II meeting in Ortonville, County Emergency committee meeting.

Attended and presented the 2012 allocation request to the Pope County Commissioners and answered several questions.

Attended the MASWCD-SWCD Governance 101 training session; interesting and useful information presented.

Coordinated WaterFest with Stevens SWCD

Closed out the Clean Water funds project and submitted report the BWSR on eLink.

Preparing grant applications for BWSR funding; application are due September 20th. Funding will be announced in December 2011.

Presented request for cost share assistance from the City of Benson for Invasive Species treatment. Board tabled request until October meeting.

Anthony Wolf, Water Quality Intern

Attended Rosholt Field Day August 16th

Gathered and analyzed water samples at Rosholt 5 times since the last board meeting. Help LeRoy mow on Fridays. Set up the irrigation efficiency test and ran the irrigator twice. U of M was out and took soybean samples September 9th.

Attended the Area II meeting; assisted with WaterFest

Craig Bower, NRCS

Presented at WaterFest, filled in as acting DC in Alexandria September 1-9th, participated in MN DC, Swamp busters and FSA/NRCS compliance teleconferences.

PRS reporting completed for year-met 5 of 7 goals. Fiscal year end is September 30, 2011

Grant Herfindahl, FSA

County Emergency meeting was held to determine if there enough crop loss to qualify for a Secretarial Disaster Declaration. Wheat and oats may be 30%, watching the soybean due to the early freeze last week. Some corn fields experience 10-70% green snap due to summer storms. SURE (Supplemental Disaster program) expires September 30th. The next Emergency Management meeting will be held October 12th. There may be federal funding for fully washes, replace farmstead tree groves and physical loss for buildings after insurance has paid.

An estimated 7000 acres of CRP is expiring in 2012-haven't heard anything regarding a new general signup; contact your legislators with questions. Expect several changes in the 2012 Federal Farm Bill.

Ralph Peterson, WesMin RC&D/Glacial Trail

John Beckwith has been hired by RC&D to begin after October 3rd. In Minnesota, there are 10 RC&D's without staff. It may take up to two years to get something on the ground.

Mike Jergenson was elected the new Area II Chairman. Mike will take office after the December annual convention.

Sarah Statter attended the National Scenic Byway Conference and came back with several new ideas. The sign project continues to move forward; however there is a 10% local match required for the project. Randy Nelson, treasurer, will be retiring, so a new secretary is needed. A bus tour is scheduled for September 29th.

7. New Business

Motion by Randy Anderson, second by Ralph Peterson to sign the Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Impaired Waters of Pope County. Carried

Open House-Volunteer Appreciation Day is scheduled for November 10, 2011.

MASWCD Resolution packets were distributed for review by Supervisors. Voting will take place at the October 18, 2011 meeting. The ballots are due at the MASWCD office by October 31, 2009.

Land Stewardship Project has approached Pope SWCD to house one grant funded staff member until December 31, 2012. Luan was given the go ahead and work out the details for this partnership.

8. Motion by Keith Nygaard, second by Tom Talle to adjourn at 10:00 a.m. Carried.