

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am October 18, 2011**

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

**Supervisors:** Keith Nygaard, D. Gary Reents, Randy Anderson, Ralph Peterson, Tom Talle  
**SWCD Staff:** Kelly Erickson, Matt Fischer, Luan Johnsrud, Anthony Wolf  
**Guests:** Paul Gerde, Pope County Commissioner, Holly Kovarik, Sauk River Watershed District

**Meeting Agenda:**

1. Chair D. Gary Reents called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.
2. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Tom Talle, to approve the agenda presented. Carried.

Keith Nygaard entered at 7:05 a.m.

3. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Keith Nygaard to approve the September 20, 2011 meeting minutes as printed. Carried.

Randy Anderson entered at 7:15 a.m.

Holly Kovarik, Administrator, Sauk River Watershed District distributed copies of the SRWD Annual Report. SRWD Board includes nine managers that represent the counties that are in the SWRD. SWRD provides loans and grants for septic systems and feed lot updates. They also administer the Mississippi River Basin Initiative, Clean Water Funds and education programs throughout the watershed. SRWD is currently working on a 10-year plan of operations. Public meetings and an online survey is available. Holly encouraged Pope SWCD Supervisors and Staff to complete the survey on line or attend a public meeting to assist them with this process.

4. Motion by Randy Anderson, second by Tom Talle to accept the Financial Report as presented. Carried.

5. Old business:

Motion by Randy Anderson, second by Ralph Peterson to table approval of the Personnel Policy; additional information/clarification is needed for maternity leave, paternity leave, and compensatory time. Carried. Ralph Peterson suggested doing research and implementing a Supervisors' Policy and Guidelines as well.

6. Reports-

Paul Gerde, County Commissioner

The Pope County Cattlemen sponsored a grazing public lands meeting at the Minnewaska House September 20th. It was well attended.

Participated in the Bay Lake tour to view Armor Flex, a practice used to stabilize shorelines.

Changes in the homestead credit will affect real estate taxes and county budgets in 2012 and beyond.

Not one is quite certain how much higher real estate taxes will be or how this will affect the County budget.

The Open House for the Law Enforcement Center will be October 20, 2011.

Kelly Erickson, Technician

Working on tree plans and tree orders for 2012. Mowed 30 acres of CRP for mid contract maintenance. Working on a fall dormant seeding and site prep in Gilcrest Township. Helped with

Conservation Day at SWELL. Attended Delineators refresher course. Participated in the Personnel committee meeting. Will be attending BWSR Academy next week.

Matt Fischer, SWCD Farm Bill Technician

Attended Wetland Delineation training and a Walk-In Access meeting. Completed 1 Continuous CP21 contract for 34.5 acres. Working with 6 additional landowners to enroll or re-enroll in CRP. Surveyed and will design wetland restorations for 2 landowners with continuous CRP practices. Met with landowners to discuss cost share projects. Three projects may wait until spring; one pre-construction meeting held. Sent out letters to local organization to raise the required local match for the Farm Bill Technician position. Continue to work on WCA issues with Kelly.

Luan Johnsrud, District Manager

Attended MCIT Risk Management training, Pope County Task Force meeting, bus tour to Bay Lake, assisted with Conservation Day at SWELL, coordinated the October TMDL Implementation Planning Committee meeting. Made presentations on pollinators at the Glacial Ridge Academy Field Day. Completed and submitted 3 BWSR grant applications totaling \$400,000, submitted CWMA grant application for a Pope Swift CWMA program. Working on a DNR native lakeshore restoration grant application that is due October 28<sup>th</sup>. Submitted the quarterly report for the MN Department of Ag Rosholt project.

The city of Benson is requesting assistance with Invasive Species treatments. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Keith Nygaard to approve 75% cost share up to \$2595.00. Carried.

Anthony Wolf, Water Quality Intern

Plan to quit pulling water samples the end of October. Assisted with installing trenches at Rosholt to update plot design for 2012.

Grant Herfindahl, FSA

County Emergency meeting was held to determine if there was enough crop loss to qualify for a Secretarial Disaster Declaration. Grant will present the information Pope County Commissioners today to complete the application process for the Secretarial Disaster Declaration.

Craig Bower, NRCS

Presented at Conservation Day at SWELL and participated in a DC teleconference. Working on 15 certified wetland determinations; completed responses on 5 AD-1026 drainage requests. Submitted response of 20 CPO developments for CRP to ASTC/FO for potential contribution Agreement. Two EQIP projects are completed; payments in process. Performance appraisal completed for the year; program appraisal will be completed in 2012.

Ralph Peterson, WesMin RC&D/Glacial Trail

John Beckwith attended the WesMin RC&D meeting in October. They discussed potential projects for RC&D's to participate in or coordinate. Tastefully Simple water quality money is still available; Pope SWCD should apply for funds for a program. WesMin will send out letters for annual dues of \$400.00; it is not clear as to how many Counties will continue to pay dues.

County Commissioners and Engineers met to finalize the grant for signage along the Glacial Ridge Trail. This project has been in the planning stages since 2007.

## 7. New Business

Accepted Randy Anderson's resignation from the Board of Supervisors effective January 2012 with regret. Motion by Ralph Peterson to pay NACD 2012 membership dues of \$750.00, second by Randy Anderson. Carried.

Supervisors Ralph Peterson, D. Gary Reents, Keith Nygaard will attend the annual MASWCD convention December 4-6<sup>th</sup>. Staff Kelly Erickson, Matt Fischer and Luan Johnsrud will also attend. Luan will send out letters to vendors for the Education Auction that will be held at the convention.

Motion by Randy Anderson, second by Keith Nygaard to sign the University of Minnesota Agreement for payment for their participation in the Rosholt Farm project. Carried.

Board of Supervisors voted on the MASWCD Resolutions for the 2011 Annual Convention.

## 8. Motion by Tom Talle, second by Keith Nygaard to adjourn at 10:30 a.m. Carried.

