

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am November 15, 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

**Guests:** Colleen Oestreich, NRCS

**Meeting Agenda:**

1. Meeting called to order by Chair, D. Gary Reents at 7:10 a.m.
2. Motion by Tom Talle, second by Ralph Peterson to approve the agenda with additions. Carried
3. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Tom Talle to approve October 18, 2011 meeting minutes. Carried.
4. Motion by Ralph Peterson, second by Keith Nygaard to accept the Financial Report as presented subject to audit. Carried
5. Motion by Keith Nygaard, second by Ralph Peterson to table review of the updates to Pope SWCD personnel policy until December 2011 meeting. Carried

6. Reports-

Paul Gerde, County Commissioner, by phone

The Commissioners plan to ask Todd SWCD Director to a Commissioner's meeting to discuss the combination of the SWCD, Planning & Zoning and GIS services offices. Paul has told the Commissioners that it will cost more to combine the offices than what Pope SWCD receives in annual allocation.

Kelly Erickson, Technician

Attended BWSR Academy in October. Completed several WCA contacts, mainly for maintenance issues. Seeded fall dormant grasses at four (4) locations. Rented a tractor from Grant Herfindahl to do the fall tillage on four (4) sites; our tractors are too small. Checked on tractor rentals through government program(s); requested additional information. Checked on the prices of drills; we could apply for partial funding through the Turkey Federation for equipment; however a 50% match is required for funding.

Matt Fischer, SWCD Farm Bill Technician

Attended BWSR Academy. The MASWCD/NRCS Contribution Agreement funds have been received. Pope SWCD received notice that we are eligible to develop 20 additional Conservation Plans before the end of the year. Completed 2 Continuous Conservation plans-both are re-enrollments. Working on establishment plans for one RIM/WRP project; checked on construction progress on another RIM/WRP project. Completed the layout and pre-construction meetings for 2 cost share projects with JP2 engineer. Requested and received Farmbill local donations from PCPR and COLA. Passed Wetland Delineator In-Training exam. Motion by Keith Nygaard, second by Tom Talle to pay \$40.00 certification fee. Carried. Completed Notice to Prospective Purchasers forms for Tax Forfeited Lands for the Pope County Treasurer. Completed one Irrigation Checkbook report; consider hosting hands on training in 2012 so that landowners/operators can do these themselves. Discussions with BWSR indicated that for 2012, Pope SWCD will be able to take the T&A off the top of the award and not wait until cost share projects are completed.

Luan Johnsrud, District Manager

Planned and coordinated the annual Tree Sale and Volunteer Appreciation Day, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Worked with Minnewaska Area Community Education to schedule a shoreline restoration class. Interviewed three students through U of M Center for Small Towns to assist with the TMDL project. Submitted grant applications for one Conservation Corps Apprentice for 2012; DNR for Native Shoreland Restoration, Tastefully Simple (WesMin RC&D) to fund a class for shoreline restoration, rain gardens & rain barrels. Continue to revise the Personnel Policy; conducting research for a Supervisor's Policy handbook. Sent out bids to print and send the quarterly newsletter. Motion by Keith Nygaard, second by Tom Talle to extend Daniel Jenniges PSCWMA10-01 cost share contract until December 12, 2012. Carried.

Craig Bower, NRCS

Reported on training & meetings he had attended, wetland determinations, CRP program, CWP, EQIP and WRP projects in progress.

Ralph Peterson, WesMin RC&D/Glacial Trail

Provided updates from MASWCD. Hennepin County SWCD experienced structure changes. There is concern that these changes may be duplicated in other counties. BWSR had openings on its Board of Directors, so the organization is seeking to fill these open positions. BWSR is conducting reviews and assessment testing to determine what can be done to improve operations and performance. Presented information on St. Anthony Falls Laboratory and some of the projects that the laboratory is working on.

Colleen Oestreich, NRCS

State Conservationist, Don Baloun supports the NRCS/SWCD partnership through Contribution Agreements. The CRP planning Contribution Agreement has been very successful & could be offered again in FY12 if the budget allows. The National Resource Inventory will be completed in January 2012. The Federal travel budget has been cut from the FY11 level, so NRCS will not be able to host a DC meeting in conjunction with the MASWCD Convention.. Swampbuster/WCA training will be held this week. Bob Honeman, A2 ARC will retire in December, 2011. Bob was the contact for GIS and eco science issues. The Red River Initiative is still seeking stable funding in the new Farm Bill similar to the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Initiative.

## 7. New Business

- Motion by Keith Nygaard, second by Tom Talle to sign the BWSR 2012 Grant Agreement for Conservation Delivery (AKA General Services \$18,592), Easement Delivery (\$9,527) and State Cost Share Base Grant (\$25,905). Carried.
- Motion by Tom Talle, second by Ralph Peterson to sign the Extension Agreements for the City of Glenwood and Pope Swift CWMA grants. Carried.
- Meeting closed to discuss upcoming staff reviews.

## 8. Motion by Tom Talle, second by Keith Nygaard to adjourn at 9:45.a.m. Carried