



Soil & Water Conservation District

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MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2014 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Chairman Krause called the Thursday, September 11, 2014 meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was held at the Historic Courthouse, 215 1st Ave South, Long Prairie, MN 56347. Board members present were: Norman Krause, Tom Williamson, Kenny Pesta, Lee Buchholz and Dale Katterhagen. Others present were: Tim Stieber, Division Director, Greg Ostrowski, Conservation Technician, Deja Anton, Feedlot Officer, Mitch Ness, WCA/Conservation Technician, Shannon Haasser, Water Planner, Sarah Katterhagen, Program Coordinator, Russell Kleinschmidt, NRCS, Sabin Adams, Pheasants Forever, and Dotty Jacobs with MN Corn Growers Association.

Missing: Randy Neumann, Todd County Commissioner.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Krause asked if there were any additions to the agenda. **Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Williamson to accept the agenda. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz, and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

Krause asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the August 14, 2014 regular board meeting. **Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve the minutes as distributed from the August 14, 2014 regular board meeting. Motion carried.**

Sarah Katterhagen presented the program summary to board. **Williamson made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to accept the District fund balance totaling \$468,110.16 dated August 31, 2014. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER REPORT: Stieber on behalf of Commission Neumann reported the County is working on their budgets for 2015.

INTRODUCTION OF MITCH NESS & SHANNON HAASSER: Stieber introduced Deja Anton to the board again, and noted that she has hit the floor running. Stieber introduced Mitch Ness to the board and he is working on the Wetland requests back log. Stieber introduced Shannon Haasser to the board and she will be working on the Water plan update and will be writing a shoreline grant.

STAFF REPORTS: (See attachment). Stieber added that he will be going on the radio with Shannon next week. Ostrowski added that he has completed 38% of the cost share inspections for 2014. The Mark Berscheid project has not started due to high water in the water table. He continues to work with Dale Ahrens, SRWD and other landowners on a buffer and Sediment Basins. SRWD will have funding available to re do the project on the Linser site.

Jacobs suggested when having field days get the farmers involved by having them present, so peers can hear from each other, other than from the Local Government Unit. She suggested having a field day on contour strips and tillage.

Ostrowski also added we have been receiving good comments on the weather station and about the program.

S. Katterhagen added she is continuing planning the Enviro Fest.

Anton added she presented at the Planning and Commission Meeting. Katterhagen commented that she did a good job.

Ness added that he is working on the Berscheid wetland violation and will be having a meeting with Centra Care on their proposed expansion.

Haasser added she is reviewing the Water Plan update process and has been on a couple of site visits with Ostrowski.

Staff and Board had a discussion on having the new employees obtaining Technical Authority. Consensus to have Stieber review the list and determine which practices each staff would need to have.

PHEASANTS FOREVER: (See attachment). Adams noted that September 19, 2014 is the last day to sign up for CRP and he is working on status reviews.

NRCS REPORT: (See attachment). Kleinschmidt added there office would be able to help our staff obtain Technical Authority. He would need to have Stieber determine at which level each staff would be at, and training is held yearly. Stieber would also need to make a recommendation to Kleinschmidt, and then Kleinschmidt would make recommendation to State office. He also added that there is no contribution agreement for FY2015.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve closeout of FY13 State cost share funds. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve payment of FY14 State cost share funds for Brian DeGroot in the amount of \$147.50 for the well sealing practice.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve encumbering FY14-17 MPCA 319 cost share funds for Cheri and Lonnie Tomford in the amount of \$8,450.00 for the Ag Waste practice. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

Pesta made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve encumbering FY14-17 MPCA 319 cost share funds for Smokey Timbers in the amount of \$10,551.60 for the Water and Sediment practice. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve Soil and Water 2015 Budget. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

Pesta made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to accept the resolution establishing cost share rate utilizing FY15 and future erosion control and water management program funds (formerly known as

State Cost Share funds). Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

DISCUSS FY15 CLEAN WATER COMPETITIVE GRANT PERIOD: Stieber noted the District is currently looking at applying for two shoreline grants and a grant for Ag Waste fixes.

DISCUSS AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) FUNDS/PROGRAM: Stieber addressed this program will be in the Division (Soil, Water, Conservation and Development Division Budget) and Haasser is working the Resolution to take the County Board of Commissioners. Staff will be working on plan on how to utilize the grant dollars.

DISCUSS WCTSA: Discussed charging for fees. Board consensus to have Stieber discuss with Dennis Fuchs from Stearns and other Districts in the Area II to get their opinion about charging the landowner a fee.

DISCUSS AREA II MEETING: Stieber added Legislators and candidates attended the meeting. At the meeting they also discussed Water management fees.

DISCUSS FY15 SWCD PROGRAM AND OPERATION NOTICE OF PAYMENT: S. Katterhagen noted FY15 Program and Operations monies have been received and that we have to December 31, 2016 to spend all the funds.

MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION DECEMBER 7-9, 2014: S. Katterhagen reminded the board of the convention dates.

Chairman Krause adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

The next meeting of the Todd SWCD Board of Supervisors will be **held on October 9, 2014 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Todd County Historic Courthouse (Prairie Conference room), Long Prairie, MN 56347.**

Following the regular SWCD Board Meeting on October 9, 2014, there will be an Awards Luncheon at the Hub Supper Club at 11:30 a.m.


Leland Buchholz, Secretary


Date