

# Soil & Water Conservation District

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## MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 12, 2013 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Chairman Dale Katterhagen called the Thursday, December 12, 2013 meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

The meeting was held at the Historic Courthouse, 215 1<sup>st</sup> Ave South, Long Prairie, MN 56347. Board members present were: Dale Katterhagen, Norman Krause, Tom Williamson, Leland Buchholz and Kenny Pesta. Tim Stieber, Division Director, Ed Uhlenkamp, WCA/Feedlot Administrator, Greg Ostrowski, Conservation Technician, Amy Warnberg, Water Planner, Sarah Katterhagen, Office Coordinator, Darlene Drayna, NRCS, Randy Neumann, County Commissioner, Sabin Adams, Pheasant Forever Farm Bill Biologist, Wado Salo, Irrigation Scheduling Technician, Jay Backowski, CED Todd County, and Jason Weinerman, Board Conservationist were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introductions were made.

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

**Williamson made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to approve the minutes as distributed from the November 14, 2013 special board meeting. Affirmative: Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson, Buchholz and Pesta. Motion carried.**

The overall District fund balanced was presented by Stieber. Buchholz asked the Treasurer's report be e-mailed to him. **Williamson made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to accept the District fund balance totaling \$407,368.21 dated December 4, 2013. Affirmative: Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson, Buchholz and Pesta. Motion carried.**

**LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORT:** See Division Naming Discussion.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT:** Neumann reported they recently had a park board meeting. They may be seeking cost share funding for abandoning a sand pit well at the new canoe access on the Long Prairie River. He also noted the December 17, 2013 Board of Commissioner Meeting they will be appointing people to positions with the retirements of staff.

**STAFF REPORTS:** (See attachment)

Warnberg added that she has been working on the newsletter and passed the current draft around for the board to review. Buchholz questioned how she is getting so many projects. She explained some of the people were referred from Planning and Zoning, Sauk River Watershed; as the watershed currently doesn't have any funding

available for shoreline projects in the Osakis area; and from the intern's KAP study that was completed over the summer.

S. Katterhagen added she is back part time, until January, and working at getting things caught up.

Uhlenkamp added he submitted the 2014-15 Feedlot work plan to MPCA for review, discussed the Birchdale Pork permitting process and discussed County ditch 20.

Ostrowski added he attended the Annual MASWCD Convention, Twin Eagle Dairy was the Area Winner for the Conservationist Award, and he also added that cost share is no longer available for shelterbelts.

Weinerman suggested working with state legislators to include shelterbelts in the language for cost sharing.

Stieber and Krause discussed the convention resolutions, and District's sewage resolution did not pass.

Drayna discussed NRCS is working on CSP payments, Russ was at the Wetland Team meeting in Fergus Falls, and they are waiting for the signed Farm Bill.

Backowski said that he was the CED over in Douglas County, and now is the new CED for Todd County. He added people currently can't sign up for CRP as they are waiting on the Farm Bill. Todd County has about 500 contracts. He also is glad that Todd County has Farm Bill Biologist as they will be able to promote CRP on the ground. Discussed Todd County rental rates are between \$55-\$70 per acre on the average.

Sabin Adams added he is the Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist for Todd County and works out of the NRCS office. He will be promoting the CRP program, and other state and local programs.

Wado Salo, added that he works with the Irrigation Schedule program. Todd County had eleven fields in 2013 that were part of the program. Currently he is working on ideas to promote the program, and will be writing an article for the MN Irrigation Newsletter and for the Soil and Water newsletter. He will be getting more weather stations, and two of them will be located in Todd County. How his program works: He visits the fields once a week, the farmer tracks rain and irrigation amounts, and he enters the data into the graphs to show the results. He has had good feedback from the people involved in the program.

**Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Krause to extend Lance Quam's Livestock Management (Contract #1-13LM) for Ag Waste practice. Affirmative: Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson, Buchholz and Pesta. Motion carried.**

**Krause made a motion, seconded by Williamson to amend Tom Keppers Feedlot Assistance (Contract #2-12FA) for Ag Waste practice in the amount of \$10,525.50. Affirmative: Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson, Buchholz and Pesta. Motion carried.**

**Williamson made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to pay \$200.00 FY13 State Cost Share funds to Norman Krause (Contract #10-13) for well sealing. Affirmative: Katterhagen, Williamson, Buchholz and Pesta. Abstained: Krause. Motion carried.**

**Pesta made a motion, seconded by Krause to pay \$3,928.00 FY13 State Cost Share funds to Tom Williamson (Contract #2-13) for the Sediment Basin practice. Affirmative: Katterhagen, Krause, Buchholz and Pesta. Abstained: Williamson. Motion carried.**

Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Williamson to pay \$15,164.25 Feedlot Assistance funds to Tom Keppers (Contract #2-12FA) for Ag Waste practice. Affirmative: Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson, Buchholz and Pesta. Motion carried.

Pesta made a motion, seconded by Williamson to continue to hold Soil and Water Board meetings on the seconded Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m. except in February, May and November, unless necessary. Affirmative: Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson, Buchholz and Pesta. Motion carried.

Krause made a motion, seconded by Williamson to have Katterhagen, serve as the 2014 Planning Commission Liaison. Affirmative: Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson, Buchholz and Pesta. Motion carried.

Pesta made a motion, seconded by Williamson to have Krause and Buchholz, serve as the 2014 Liaison Committee Members. Affirmative: Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson, Buchholz and Pesta. Motion carried.

Pesta made a motion, seconded by Krause to have Katterhagen, serve as the 2014 Water Plan Committee Member. Affirmative: Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson, Buchholz and Pesta. Motion carried.

**DIVISION NAMING DISCUSSION:** See handout provided by Stieber. The Board's consensus is to use Soil, Water, Conservation, and Development Division (SWCDD) internally for budgeting purposes. Each "unit" under SWCDD will use their own letterhead, and put their own name (Planning & Zoning or Soil and Water) on their forms to provide less confusion to the public. The board would like to be updated on the process.

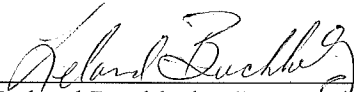
**PLANNING PROCESS DISCUSSION:** See handout provided by Stieber.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION:** Krause made a motion, seconded by Williamson to adopt: "To Meet the Public's Needs by Protecting the Land and Safeguarding the Water" as the new mission statement for Todd Soil and Water Conservation District effective January 1, 2014. Affirmative: Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson, Buchholz and Pesta. Motion carried.

**MASWCD CONVENTION REPORT:** Krause stated the keynote speaker was Don Balon, and he was good, he discussed the nitrates entering into the Gulf of Mexico. Goals will be to target specific areas.

Chairman Katterhagen adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

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

  
Leland Buchholz, Secretary

1-9-2014  
Date