

Soil & Water Conservation District

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MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 9, 2014 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Vice Chairman Tom Williamson called the Thursday, January 9, 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: Tom Williamson, Leland Buchholz, Kenny Pesta and Dale Katterhagen. Tim Stieber, Division Director, Ed Uhlenkamp, WCA/Feedlot Administrator, Greg Ostrowski, Conservation Technician, Amy Warnberg, Water Planner, Sarah Katterhagen, Office Coordinator, Kelsey Kircher, NRCS, Randy Neumann, County Commissioner, and Jason Weinerman and Dan Steward, Board Conservationists were also present.

Member Absent: Norman Krause

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Pesta to approve the minutes as distributed from the December 12, 2013 regular board meeting. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

Sarah Katterhagen presented the program summary to board. Stieber added that there may be a few adjustments after the audit, which will be January. **Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to accept the District fund balance totaling \$572,513.16 dated December 31, 2013. Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER REPORT: Randy Neumann added that the county will be looking at simplifying the account summary reports to make them easier to read; eleven employees have recently retired, and also after the District's audit is completed the County Board of Commissioners would like a copy of the report.

STAFF REPORTS: (See attachment) Stieber added that he has been working with the Planning and Zoning staff to do the Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission meetings. Ostrowski added that he will be gone the last week in January and will be talking with the Amish about having a meeting in April. Sarah Katterhagen added that she is working with Stieber on the 2013 Audit and year end reporting. Warnberg added that in April, the District will be receiving the grant agreement for a MPCA grant in the Long Prairie River Watershed; also she had discussion with Douglas and Morrison about the one watershed approach, and currently they are not interested. Jason, Board of Conservationist, discussed the pilot plan, and suggested that the District waits especially if they don't have the time. Uhlenkamp added the Customer Applicators meeting will be held on January 29, 2014 and he received the MPCA Feedlot Workplan back with some minor changes. Kelsey Kircher added the CSP deadline is February 7, 2014 and EQIP deadline is February 21, 2014.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to encumber FY13 State Cost Share funds in the amount of \$3,702.75 for Bill Kellogg (Contract #12-13) for Riparian Herbaceous Cover.

Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

Pesta made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to pay Lance Quam (Contract #1-13LM) in the amount of \$30,000 for Ag Waste practice.

Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to accept the Strategic Plan.

Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to accept the 2013 Annual Report.

Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

Pesta made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to accept the 2014 Annual Plan of Work.

Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to follow the IRS rate for mileage.

Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve Krause, Williamson and Pesta to attend the Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol.

Discussion: Buchholz suggested staff to find a citizen to attend the Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol.

Affirmative: Williamson, Buchholz, Pesta and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

SAVINGS ACCOUNT DISCUSSION: Stieber discussed that he will discuss with the County Auditor's office about the savings account being over \$250,000.00 and if the account should be split into two different accounts.

LARRY HOLT (CONTRACT #5-07CWL) DISCUSSION: Stieber discussed the landowner stopped in the office on December 12, 2013 with the letter that was sent on November 18, 2013; landowner requested that he would have at least one year to pay back the funds. Board consensus to have Stieber prepare a letter to landowner thanking them for accepting our offer.

FUNDING POLICY DISCUSSION: (See attachment) Stieber discussed the proposed funding policy. Board consensus to tighten up the policy; also encouraged staff to review contracts thoroughly with landowners, and have them initial the dates, contract length, review operation and maintenance plans, and somehow to include the services that landowner is receiving for free, for example, technical service.

PROJECT SIGNS DISCUSSION: (See attachment) Board consensus to have Ostrowski obtain more bids, and the sign should be full of color. Weinerman added funding can come of project development from the grants.

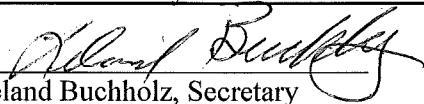
Vice Chairman Williamson recessed the meeting at 10:05.

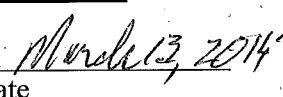
Vice Chairman Williamson reconvened the meeting at 10:10.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES: Jason Weinerman introduced Dan Steward to the board; Dan is the new Board Conservationist for Todd as the areas were reorganized. Dan noted BWSR hired an accountant for grants and that grant funding requirements are getting stricter. In the past, he was the Board of Conservationist for Todd and is looking forward to being back with Todd.

Vice Chairman Williamson adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

The next meeting of the Todd SWCD Board of Supervisors will be a held on March 13, 2014 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Todd County Historic Courthouse (Prairie Conference room), Long Prairie, MN 56347.


Leland Buchholz, Secretary


Date