

Soil & Water Conservation District

215 1st Avenue South, Long Prairie, MN 56347 Phone: 320-732-2644 Fax: 320-732-4803

MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 12, 2014 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Chairman Krause called the Thursday, June 12, 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: Norm Krause, Tom Williamson, Kenny Pesta, Lee Buchholz and Dale Katterhagen. Others present were: Tim Stieber, Division Director, Greg Ostrowski, Conservation Technician, Sarah Katterhagen, Office Coordinator, Russell Kleinschmidt, NRCS, Randy Neumann, County Commissioner, Sabin Adams, Pheasants Forever.

Members Absent: None.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve the minutes as distributed from the April 10, 2014 regular board meeting. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.

Sarah Katterhagen presented the program summary to board. **Williamson made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to accept the District fund balance totaling \$484,550.64 dated May 31, 2014. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Neumann handout copies of a letter from Duane Zierden (see attached). The letter address' how he has been in contact with different agencies about getting a water issue resolved on his property and it seems like people keep passing the buck. Ostrowski, added he has been out to site and that he also will be going out this afternoon to visit with the landowners to see how the parties involved can get the situation resolved. Ostrowski also addressed the complaints the office has been receiving about a site located in Birchdale Township.

Stieber added there is a section in the County Ordinance that address' keeping steep slopes vegetated.

Board and staff discussed not using cost share funding to fund poor management practices.

The board's recommendation is to have Greg call the landowner in Birchdale Township, to set up a time to meet onsite with the landowner, SWCD Supervisor (Buchholz), and the NRCS office.

STAFF REPORTS: (See attachment). Board asked Stieber location of Trout Creek. Stieber noted that it's in Round Prairie Township, and Ostrowski added there is still Trout located in the stream. Ostrowski added that he is still working with Traulich with his erosion concern. He showed the board the project signs that were made. Ostrowski also noted that recently he has had 10 new irrigation conservation plans to write and to date he estimates that he wrote about 17 plans. S. Katterhagen added Williamson, Buchholz and Stieber are attending the next Area II Meeting on June 18, 2014; she also added that the remaining funds in the tree account will be used to cover staff wages.

NRCS REPORT: Kleinschmidt added NRCS office is working on program deadlines and he discussed current programs.

PHEASANTS FOREVER: Adams added USDA re-authorized CRP.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve encumbering \$147.50 of FY14 State Cost Share funds for Brian DeGrood (Contract #4-14) for the well sealing practice.

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

Williamson made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve an extension to July 1, 2014 of FY13 State Cost Share funds for Brenda Miller (Contract #13-13) for the Shelterbelt practice.

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

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to approve amendment for additional funds of \$521.50 of FY14-17 MPCA 319 Cost Share funds for Melissa Wenker (Contract #2-14/319) for Shoreline practice.

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

Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Pesta to approve payment of \$142.50 of FY13 State Cost Share funds for Sheryl Zagaros (Contract #9-13) for the well sealing practice.

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

Pesta made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve payment of \$183.00 of FY13 State Cost Share funds for Marlyn Hagedorn (Contract #11-13) for tree replacements.

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

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to approve payment of \$5,306.00 of FY14-17 MPCA 319 Cost Share funds for Melissa Wenker (Contract #2-14/319) for Shoreline practice.

Pesta made a motion, seconded by Buchholz to approve FY2015 Ground Water Level Monitoring Well Agreement.

Discussion: S. Katterhagen noted that the reimbursement rate per well is \$15.00 according to the agreement. Ostrowski added that he sent e-mail to LeAnn Buck and Jason Carlson questioning the rate, as he received an e-mail stating the rate would go up to \$30.00 per well effective July 1, 2014. Board recommendation is to have Stieber ask at the Area II Meeting if other District's saw the change in their agreements and to sign the agreement, so we can continue to read the wells.

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

Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Williamson to authorize Stieber to sign the FY15 Farm Bill Assistance Grant for \$45,000.00.

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

DISCUSS OPEN POSITIONS WITH SWCD AND PARTNERING AGENCIES:

Stieber noted for the Feedlot Position there was nine applicants, and three of the nine will be interviewed on Monday, June 16, and a start date of July 1, 2014. The interview team consists of: Stieber, Buchholz, Krause, Commissioner Kneisl, Commissioner Neumann, and Karla Nalezny, Human Resources.

Stieber noted the deadline for the Wetlands Position is June 26, 2014, and hopes to have start of August 1, 2014.

Stieber added Amy Warnberg, Water Planner has resigned and her last day of employment will be July 7, 2014.

S. Katterhagen, added Samantha Adams from MPCA has accepted a different position, and our new Feedlot Contact is Molly Costin.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Williamson to accept Ed Uhlenkamp and Amy Warnberg's resignations.

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

Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Williamson to have Stieber prepare a resolution thanking Ed Uhlenkamp and Amy Warnberg for their years of service, and to bring to next Soil and Water board meeting for the board to sign.

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

Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Williamson to support Stieber asking the Todd County Board of Commissioners to hire Warnberg's position and to expedite the process.

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

DISCUSS MANURE STOCKPILES:

Ostrowski said that he completed 16 stock piles inspections. Out of those inspections only two were found to be in compliance. The big issue is stockpiles not meeting soil types and setbacks. Board recommendation to continue this discussion at next board meeting and Ostrowski added he will bring the standards to the next meeting.

The board's recommendation is to have an article in the bi-annual newsletter about manure stockpiles meeting soil types and setbacks.

DISCUSS SAUK RIVER WATERSHED (SRWD) NEW MANAGER AND ADMINISTRATOR:

Commissioner Neumann said Glen Sanders has been appointed to serve on the Sauk River Watershed District Board, and in the next few weeks County board will be voting another person to the board. Scott Henderson is the new SRWD Administrator that has been hired.

DISCUSS WETLAND ISSUES: (See attached)

Kleinschmidt, NRCS presented a combined request form. This form is a form they could have their applicants sign, so NRCS could release information to SWCD. The board's recommendation is to have Kleinschmidt get approval of the combined request form as this could potentially help address wetland violations.

DISCUSSED STEARNS SWCD RESOLUTION:

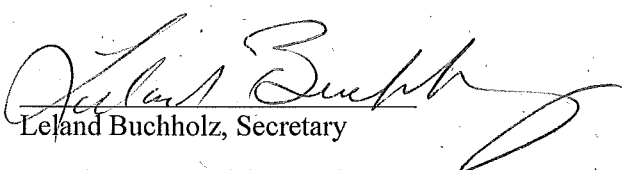
Stearns SWCD will be presenting their resolution "Promote Diversity on the Landscape" at the next Area II Meeting on June 18, 2014.

OTHER:

Ostrowski added that board members should start thinking of recipients for the conservationist award and land stewardship award as this will be an action item at July's board meeting.

Chairman Krause adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

The next meeting of the Todd SWCD Board of Supervisors will be held on July 10, 2014 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Todd County Historic Courthouse (Prairie Conference room), Long Prairie, MN 56347.


Leland Buchholz, Secretary

7/10/14
Date