

# Soil & Water Conservation District

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## MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 11, 2014 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Chairman Krause called the Thursday, December 11, 2014 meeting to order at 8:33 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: Norman Krause, Tom Williamson, Kenny Pesta, Lee Buchholz and Dale Katterhagen. Others present were: Deja Anton, Feedlot Officer, Mitch Ness, WCA/Conservation Technician, Shannon Haasser, Water Planner, Sarah Katterhagen, Program Coordinator, Russell Kleinschmidt, NRCS, and Sabin Adams, Pheasants Forever.

**Missing:** Tim Stieber, Division Director, Greg Ostrowski, Conservation Technician and Randy Neumann, County Commissioner.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Krause asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Krause requested an executive closed session after regular board meeting regarding a personal issue. **Pesta made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to accept the agenda with the addition of the executive closed session. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz, and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

Krause asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the October 9, 2014 regular board meeting. **Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve the minutes as distributed from the October 9, 2014 regular board meeting. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz, and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

Sarah Katterhagen presented the October and November program summary to board. She added the FY15 NRBG funds will be coming from the County before the end of the year. **Williamson made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to accept the District fund balance totaling \$492,735.10 for October 31, 2014 and \$491,453.06 for November 30, 2014. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

**COMMISSIONER REPORT:** No report.

**STAFF REPORTS:** (See attachment). Anton reported she currently is working with Schmitz' and Tri County, (John Eicheid) feedlot issues and concerns, recently she reviewed industrial bi product application for Big Boyz out of Browerville. She also is reviewing the feedlot registrations; any feedlot with 10% increase requires a feedlot inspection. S. Katterhagen added the goal is to get feedlots on rotational inspection schedule, so they are inspected every so many years. Anton recently dealt with an emergency spill response, and everything was cleaned up time she got out there. Anton added she also provided information on Gourley's file to their attorneys as they were requesting all information including e-mails from Planning & Zoning, Soil and Water, and County Commissioners. Anton brought up the concern of straight voltage issues farmers are dealing with.

Krause added he will take this information and concern back to the Todd Wadena Electric Board. Anton noted it was discussed at the last Livestock Advisory board meeting.

Haasser added she completed shoreline cost share spot checks with Greg, attended BWSR academy, AIS planning committee meetings, Water Plan Update meetings, the Long Prairie River Watershed meeting, and she attended the final Crow Wing TMDL meeting. She also added, in the future surrounding SWCD's would like to host a Leadership training for elected officials, Board of Commissioners, Soil and Water Board Members, Planning Commission members and Board Adjustment members on land use making decisions.

Ness reported he is still busy with getting wetland calls and landowners wanting to clean out their ditches and still is working on the Larry Hanson wetland violation.

S. Katterhagen shared a letter received from St. Agnes School out of Osakis requesting a donation for their students to attend Long Lake Environmental trip. The board's consensus is to not donate, as they provide a donation for Area Enviro-thon and for Douglas SWCD's Enviro Fest. She added, Stieber will be attending Treasurer Training in February hosted by Jason Weinerman and handout an article called "Farming on the edge...of urban." She also noted the staff have begun meeting with NRCS monthly to continue that partnership. S. Katterhagen added staff will be organizing a summer tour in July or August.

**PHEASANTS FOREVER REPORT:** Adams reported he has 10 applications for pollinators through the EQIP program; recently he received a grant for the Jim Bense site, attended BWSR academy end of October, and is working with landowners who have center pivot points to put their corners in the CRP program.

**NRCS REPORT:** Kleinschmidt reported they are working on CSP renewals; December 19, 2014 is EQIP deadline. Don Balon is retiring January 2, 2015. A new process for NRCS is to provide landowners a receipt for service.

**LIAISON MEETING REPORT:** Buchholz reported at the meeting they discussed the new staff positions, annual report, and annual work plan. S. Katterhagen noted Stieber said they discussed time tracking, and the amount of time people spend tracking their time. S. Katterhagen added, it is part of the grant requirements and is figure in the grant, and that the documentation is needed to meet grant requirements.

**MASWCD REPORT:** Krause encourages new staff to attend the convention next year. Krause also noted that Roger and Bonnie Dukowitz were very appreciative that the District nominated them for the Conservationist Farmer Award.

Board suggested having Stieber create a rotating schedule for staff to attend Convention, AREA II Meetings and other events.

Board suggested having Stieber come up with a fact sheet on the pros and cons of co locating with County, so staff and board members have a handout if people ask about the co location.

**Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Pesta to approve cost share contract amendment for additional funds Jim Hobbs, contract #5-14 & 2-15 in the amount of \$961.50 for the cattle crossing practice. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

**Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve cost share contract for Rick Atkinson, contract #7-14 and 1-15, in the amount of \$775.00 for the well sealing practice. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

**Williamson made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve extension request for cost share contract for Smokey Timbers, contract #4-14/319 to July 31, 2015. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

**Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve payment to Todd County Parks Board, cost share contract #6-14, in the amount of \$282.50 for the well sealing practice. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

**Williamson made a motion, seconded by Pesta to continue to have the Soil and Water board meetings, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m., except for February, May and November. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

**Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve the realignment of board positions as follows:**

**Chairman: Tom Williamson, Vice Chairman: Leland Buchholz, Secretary: Kenny Pesta, Treasurer: Dale Katterhagen, and Member: Norman Krause. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

**Williamson made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to approve Buchholz to attend Day at the Capitol on January 26-27, 2015.**

**Discussion:** Buchholz added that he would like to see at least one staff from the Soil and Water office attend. **Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

**Buchholz made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve 2015 Budget addition of the FY12-2014 CWL Feedlot funds, due to the extension that was received from BWSR. Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

**DISCUSSED 2014 ANNUAL REPORT:** The Annual report was reviewed.

**DISCUSSED 2015 ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK:** The Annual plan of work was reviewed.

**DISCUSSED AUDIT AGREEMENT:** Pesta made a motion, seconded by Katterhagen to accept the Audit bid in the amount of \$4,000.00.

**Discussion:** Discussed talking to the Commissioners about the cost of the Audit during the work session on January 20, 2015.

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

**DISCUSSED WATER PLAN UPDATE:** Haasser reported she held a public hearing for the Water Plan. Katterhagen reported that over the years being on the committee, it is the most people he has ever seen attend the public hearing. The water plan survey is due February 4, 2014, and highly encourages the board members to motivate others in Todd County to take the survey. Haasser provided the board copies of the Geologic Atlas Maps of Todd County and the next Water Plan meeting will be December 17, 2014 at 8:30 a.m.

**DISCUSSED JANUARY COMMISSIONER WORK SESSION—JANUARY 20, 2015:** Board agreed to attend the work session on January 20, 2015. S. Katterhagen noted Stieber would forward more information to the board when the time gets closer.

**DISCUSS LARY HOLT COST SHARE CONTRACT #5-07CWL FOR GRAZING PRACTICE:** Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Pesta to send Holt a final reminder letter that payment is due. **Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

**DISCUSS SCOTT KERN, NEW OWNER KEITH AND KATHLEEN KOLDSTAD COST SHARE CONTRACT #4-09 FOR FIELD WINDBREAK PRACTICE.** See motion below.

**DISCUSS CHARLES MOBERG, NEW OWNER THOMAS AND THERESA DIRKES, COST SHARE CONTRACT #8-10 FOR FIELD WINDBREAK PRACTICE.** See motion below.

Katterhagen made a motion, seconded by Pesta to send the new landowners for each cost share contract a non-compliance letter, providing them three options to fulfill obligations of their 10 year cost share contract.

**Option #1: Re-establish the field windbreak.**

**Option #2: Pay Todd SWCD back the cost share funds.**

**Option #3: Further action to collect through conciliation court.**

**Discussion:** Board discussed sending the previous owner's a letter about the non-compliance cost share contract. S. Katterhagen noted in the cost share contract agreement it states: "*If title to this land is transferred to another party before expiration of the aforementioned life, it shall be the responsibility of the land occupier or landowner who signed this contract to advise the new owner that this contract is in force*". Board agreed that it should have been to disclosed at the time of sale, and to send letter to current property owners.

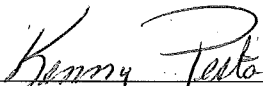
**Affirmative: Krause, Williamson, Pesta, Buchholz and Katterhagen. Motion carried.**

**OTHER:** Krause noted he will be out of town for the January 8, 2015 board meeting.

**Chairman Krause closed the regular meeting at 10:55 a.m. to discuss private issue.**

**Chairman Krause reconvened the meeting at 11:10 a.m. and adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.**

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

  
Kenny Pesta, Secretary

1-8-15  
Date