

MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 15, 2010 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes from the Todd Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting, held at Todd Soil & Water Conservation District Office, 607 9th Street Northeast, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

Chairman Tom Williamson called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Members Present: Chairman Tom Williamson
Vice Chairman Lee Buchholz
Secretary Kenny Pesta
Treasurer Dale Katterhagen
Member Norm Krause

Others Present: Gerry Ruda, County Commissioner
Sandy Rohr, District Manager
Greg Ostrowski, Technical Manager
Ed Uhlenkamp, WCA Coordinator/Feedlot Technician
Jim Fritz, District Conservationist
Dean Schmidt, WesMin RC&D Coordinator

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Krause, seconded by Katterhagen to approve the agenda.

Affirmative: Pesta, Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson.
Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

Motion by Pesta, seconded by Katterhagen to approve the minutes from the March 18th, 2010 executive and regular board meeting.

Affirmative: Pesta, Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson.
Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

Lee Buchholz entered the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

The District Board reviewed the financial statement dated March 31, 2010. Motion by Pesta, seconded by Krause to accept the March 2010 financial statement and approve payment of all disbursements totaling \$26,011.66 and approve April 2010 disbursements to date totaling \$19,129.18.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson.
Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Gerry reported that the commissioner's held a 2011 budget work session; County's objective is to reduce dependency on state aid funds. Todd County septic installers were informed to continue using the existing county ordinance for the next two years, until MPCA can review and revise. No action yet on the County taking possession of the old National Guard Amory. On April 27th cost estimate for renovating the old courthouse will be made public.

WES MIN RC&D REPORT: Dean Schmidt discussed handed our annual report, reports on activities and brochures relating to projects. Tom reported that a gift of \$45,000 has been pledged to Smokey Timbers be used for paying down mortgage.

STAFF REPORTS: (Attached) in addition, Sandy circulated Kitty's thank you note and read an e-mail from John Pokorney commending Ed for an excellent feedlot meeting. She also reviewed the SWCD's involvement in Todd County's Strategic Aligned Management (SAM), along with anticipated outcomes and benefits that are expected from utilizing this model. Greg reported that he's completed cost share spot checks; Todd County will be hosting an Employee Appreciation picnic May 26 at the Todd County Fair Grounds. A map of tree planting sites was circulated; planting will begin on May 1st. Jim reported he'd been working on drainage and tiling requests, gave an update on the EQIP signup status. Jim also stated that he'd accepted a DC position in Wabasha and that his last day in Todd County will be May 12th. An acting DC has been appointed; position is not expected to be permanently filled for 2-3 months.

The board expressed and discussed their concerns over who might be filling the DC position in Todd County. Motion by Krause, seconded by Pesta to have Sandy call Coleen Oestreich, NRCS Asst. State Conservationist (FO) and encourage that the person filling the DC position in Todd County meets its needs.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson.
Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

Motion by Buchholz, seconded by Pesta to make it publicly known that the Todd SWCD Board and Staff greatly appreciate Jim Fritz's hard work for and in Todd County over the past 13 years. Jim has gone above and beyond to assist program participants in their conservation effort and bringing many dollars into the County. Jim will be greatly missed as a co-worker and friend, thank you Jim and best wishes to you and your family on your new endeavor.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson.
Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

BWSR CLEAN WATER LEGACY COST SHARE FUNDS: Motion by Krause, seconded by Katterhagen to approve encumbering CWL cost share funds for Richard Wood #10-09CWL, \$2,138, Farmstead Shelterbelt.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson.
Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

BWSR CLEAN WATER LEGACY COST SHARE FUNDS (Cont.): Motion by Buchholz, seconded by Katterhagen to approve encumbering CWL cost share funds for Jeff Hohn #11-09CWL, \$2,305.75, Shoreland Protection.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson.
Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

Motion by Katterhagen, seconded by Krause to approve encumbering CWL cost share funds for Russ Veroven #12-09CWL, \$6,067.50, Shoreland Protection.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson.
Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

STATE COST SHARE FUNDS: Motion by Buchholz, seconded by Katterhagen to encumber state cost share funds for William Seykora #5-10. \$1,207.50, Field Windbreak.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson.
Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

UNUSED WELL SEALING COST SHARE: Motion by Krause, seconded by Buchholz to approve encumbering \$250 in cost share funds for Richard Hafften to seal an unused well.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson.
Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

REQUEST TECHNICAL APPROVAL AUTHORITY: Motion by Pesta, seconded by Katterhagen to make a request of Scott Smith, NRCS Area 2 engineer to review Todd SWCD Resource Conservationist, Kris Peterson's work experience and provide "Conservation Practice Technical Approval Authority for Engineered Practices" where applicable.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson.
Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

UNPERMITTED BASIN INVESTIGATIONS (UBI): Motion by Katterhagen, seconded Buchholz to adopt the attached process for landowners to follow when receiving cost share payment from Todd SWCD specifically for UBI's.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson.
Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

MASWCD RESOLUTION: Board consensus is to have Sandy work with Gerry in the development of a resolution relating to the review of Minnesota's ditch law and the use of updated methods of determining benefitted acres, etc. SWCD Board will be kept in the loop through e-mail. SWCD Board will be presented for approval at the MAWSCD Area 2 meeting on June 3rd; if approved at the Area 2 level it will be taken to the state convention in December.

HIRING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF: SWCD staff discussed the program workload and the shortage of staff, the SWCD took on a program that requires 1 ½ positions, yet didn't take on additional staff to handle the workload. Motion by Krause, seconded by Pesta to request that Todd County hire an administrative support person and detail to the SWCD office on a full time basis, with SWCD staff approval of the hiring.

Affirmative: Buchholz, Pesta, Katterhagen, Krause, Williamson.

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

SWCD CONSOLIDATION WITH TODD COUNTY: Discussion revolved around the proposed intent to consolidate Todd SWCD and Todd County ELRM. The obstacles were discussed as well as the positive outcomes. Consensus was that we can no longer do business as usual; the state of the economy is driving government to work smarter with less money. An agreement will be forthcoming.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 17, 2010 beginning at 9 a.m. at the SWCD Office at 607 9th Street Northeast, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Williamson adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Kenny Pesta, Secretary

Dated