

MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 21, 2011 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes from the Todd Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting, held at Todd County Main Street Government Center at 347 Central Ave, Long Prairie, MN 56347

Chairman Lee Buchholz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

Others Present: County Commissioner, Gerry Ruda
 District Manager, Sandy Rohr
 Technical Manager, Greg Ostrowski
 Technician/WCA Coordinator, Ed Uhlenkamp
 Resource Conservationist, Amy Piekarski
 Administrative Assistant, Sarah Primus
 District Conservationist, Russell Kleinschmidt
 Crow Wing SWCD Supervisor, Dianne Jacobson
 Cass SWCD Supervisor, Ken LaPorte

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Pesta seconded by Williamson to approve the agenda.

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

Motion Carried.

Motion by Williamson seconded by Pesta to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2011 regular board meeting.

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

Motion Carried.

The District Board reviewed the financial statement dated March 31, 2011. Motion by Katterhagen seconded by Krause to accept the March 2011 financial statement and approve payment of all disbursements totaling \$30,500.06 and approve April 2011 disbursements to date totaling \$31,285.56.

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

Opposed: None.

Motion Carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Gerry reported bond bids for the Historic Courthouse renovation were approved, which will cost tax payer less money than anticipated. Public Health and Social Services will be combining into one department and later in the year plans are to hire a director or an administrator, and they will begin cross training their employees. The goal of restructuring the departments is to improve the delivery of services to their clients. The zoning ordinance rewrite is making progress and P&Z received \$107,000.00 BWSR grant for Septic Compliance.

WES MIN RC&D REPORT: Tom reported RC&D has a zero funding balance; their employees will be detailed to help in various NRCS field offices. Rain barrel grant is on hold and Camp Ripley's project is on hold. Tom said they will only meet to close out any existing grants and programs and will work with other agencies to take over anything unfinished.

STAFF REPORTS: (Attached) In addition, Sandy handed out the handouts that she presented at the Annual Township Meeting. Amy added that today she would be out in the field surveying with West Central Area Engineers. Ed noted that he has been extremely busy with WCA and shoreland feedlot spot inspections. MPCA will be doing a mid-review. MPCA has been doing fly over spot checks to count the actual number animal units on feedlots. Greg mentioned that the Amish meeting went over well; Ed, Greg, GIS and P & Z were present. Topics included: permits, WCA, septic compliance, abandoning Ag waste pits, 911 sign, allowing their horses to defecate on the lake while ice fishing, and testing well water for nitrates. Tree fabric installation will be done through Heartland. See attachment for Russ's report.

MPCA 319 CWL COST FUNDS, BWSR CWL COST SHARE FUNDS AND BWSR STATE COST SHARE. Please see attached spreadsheet for official action.

AG BMP LOW INTEREST LOAN APPLICATION: Motion by Krause, seconded by Williamson to approve eligibility for Conservation Tillage Equipment loan application for Kevin Ehnes in the amount of \$46,350.00 through the AgBMP Loan Program.

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

Opposed: None.

Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION FROM CROW WING & CASS SWCD: Diane Jacobson, Supervisor from Crow Wing SWCD and Ken LaPorte from Cass SWCD were invited to attend the board meeting to discuss the Pro's and Con's of their experience in being Co-located with their County's.

Crow Wing SWCD

Pros

- More arranged meetings with the County
- Computer use—GIS—MIS service
- Free Rent
- Tree sales increased because of increased traffic flow, and also introduced Compost Bins
- Extension, P&Z, Master Gardeners all same building and worked well with SWCD Programs

Cons

- Not good for farmers, but not as many farmers in County
- NRCS would answer phone calls while in the field
- Not good storage or parking

Crow Wing's finances are separate, increased walk-in clients, and they are grant funded.

Cass SWCD: Ken LaPorte, Supervisor from Cass SWCD discussed their co-location with County. Planning and Zoning department is huge and the permits are busy. Planning and Zoning and SWCD are good fit. Employees are County employees. One Manager is for entire department, and part time technician, and secretary. Advises keep SWCD identity. He also provided a copy of their agreement.

DIRECTION OF SWCD: Relative to the proposed co-location, much discussion took place. WCA program responsibilities and if Todd SWCD should continue to administer the program or give it back to the County. Ed noted that he could provide training to Planning and Zoning on the WCA rules. Sandy stated that the SWCD will be down two employees with planned retirements, but workload will still be intact, the SWCD will either have to hire another technician or let go of some of the programs. Discussed in the future SWCD may have to charge fees for services. The Legislature is proposing closing the DNR's tree nursery; this will cut into the SWCD's revenues, also the available cost share dollars for tree plantings is less. As SWCD employee retirements occur, it was discussed that Ed and Sarah will be taking on much more responsibility and that it will be recommended that Ed become the Technical Manager and Sarah the Office Manager. The handouts relating to the proposed Todd County Organizational Divisional Structure and the options for the SWCD's co-location were discussed. Board consensus is that the SWCD will co-locate with the County, but will proceed in phases. The SWCD will also consider its options for exiting if the co-location doesn't work out. Sandy will proceed with 2012 budget and prepare an overview of SWCD funding for the Board.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2011 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the SWCD Office at 607 9th Streets Northeast, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Buchholz adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

APRIL 2011 COST SHARE ACTION

MPCA 319 CWL Cost Share Funds to Encumber

13-09/319	Jacob May	Prescribed Grazing	\$ 21,135.00
14-09/319	Gene Siegle	Reforestation	\$ 753.75

Motion by	Seconded	Abstained	Yes	No	Passed
Katterhagen	Williamson		5		Yes
Krause	Katterhagen		5		Yes

Total \$21,888.75

BWSR CWL Cost Share Funds to Encumber

22-09CWL	Norm Krause	Field Windbreak	\$ 1,997.40
----------	-------------	-----------------	-------------

Motion by	Seconded	Abstained	Yes	No	Passed
Pesta	Katterhagen	Krause	4		Yes

Total \$1,997.40

BWSR State Cost Share Funds to Encumber

2-11	Cory Kimber	Shelterbelt	\$ 738.15
9-10	G.M. Krebs Trust	Field Windbreak Fabric	\$ 726.98

Motion by	Seconded	Abstained	Yes	No	Passed
Williamson	Krause		5		Yes
Katterhagen	Williamson		5		Yes

Total \$1,465.13