

MINUTES FROM THE JULY 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
Russ Kleinschmidt, District Conservationist

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Pesta seconded by Katterhagen to approve the agenda.

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Katterhagen, seconded by Krause to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2010 regular board meeting.

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

Motion carried.

The District Board reviewed the financial statement dated June 20, 2010. Motion by Krause, seconded by Buchholz to accept the June 2010 financial statement and approve payment of all disbursements totaling \$73,586.71 and July 2010 disbursements to date totaling \$13,754.21.

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

Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Gerry reported on the consolidation of Social Services, Public Health and Veteran's Services along with the proposed consolidation of the land use offices, utilizing the Strategy Aligned Management model and staff cooperation is making this possible. Late August or early September the Commissioners will go public with costs and plans for the historic courthouse by holding public meetings throughout the county. Gerry felt that the Water Summit (AMC, MASWCD and MAWD) was the first step in the right direction to get everyone on the same playing field as far as determining the future of SWCD's and WD's.

WES MIN RC&D REPORT: Tom reported on the High Tunnel tour of Blue Bird Gardens and Prairie Wetlands Learning Center tour he'd been on. He also gave an update on the dry hydrant program, Smokey Timbers, Grazing Tour and Glacial Ridge Trail Model T Run. WesMin is working with Wadena County on a tax exempt tree replacement program to help in the recovery from a disastrous tornado.

STAFF REPORTS: (Attached) in addition, Sandy reported that Todd County's IT department is working on the SWCD's migration from USDA's server to the County's and that the new SWCD employees, Amy and Sarah will have priority since they can't get a logon with USDA. Rather than leasing a T1 line we'll be using Century Link DSL for our connection, saving money and not being tied to a lease, this connection will be made early next week. Sandy is still in discussion with Nate about getting the 15% or \$10,000 from the county for doing the feedlot compliance work since ELRM isn't utilizing it, the additional money will be used to cover. A letter from BWSR regarding the scoping document of Todd County's Water Plan development was circulated, the review was very positive, with two recommendations of items they like to have included. The website to review and comment on items relating to the Water Summit was circulated and the board was encouraged to view it and make comments. Greg discussed MRBI cost share funding in the Sauk River watershed area, its EQIP money for livestock producers that are unable to attain the funding they need through traditional EQIP cost share. Ed reported that a mailing to the livestock producers within shoreline of the Van Heel and Schwanke Creek in the Swan River watershed area has been completed. This is being done in an attempt to offer cost share funding for needed nutrient control with new cost share money that is available through BWSR. Greg and Ed will be making visits to the sites within the next two weeks because the cost share application must be submitted to BWSR by August 14th. Todd County's new District Conservationist, Russ Kleinschmidt was introduced to the board, he stated that it's been one of his career goals to work in Todd County, the workload is much heavier here than in Wadena County. CSP has generated 52 applications, 4 have cancelled and 3 didn't call back. CSP will be an annual program and CRP will be having a general signup. The new NRCS State Conservationist, Don Baloun is scheduled for an office visit August 12th, this is subject to change.

MPCA 319 CWL COST SHARE: Motion by Katterhagen, seconded by Krause to approve payment of \$2,775 to Rob Posch #8-09/319 for a Reforestation practice.

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Krause, seconded by Buchholz to approve encumbering \$1,687.50 cost share funds for Bruce Botzet #16-07/319 for an Unpermitted Basin Investigation practice.

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Krause, seconded by Pesta to cancel Dan Tembruell #7-09/319 cost share contract at landowner's request.

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

Motion carried.

BWSR CWL COST SHARE: Motion by Krause, seconded by Pesta to approve encumbering \$1,353.34 in CWL cost share funds for Jason Ruck #16-09CWL to install Bioretension Basins.

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Katterhagen, seconded by Buchholz to approve encumbering \$559.24 in CWL cost share funds for Darwin Gamm #17-09CWL to install a Bioretension Basin.

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Krause, seconded by Buchholz to approve final payment of \$585.41 for completed cost share contract for Duane Bonde #1-09CWL a Shoreland Protection practice.

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Pesta, seconded by Buchholz to approve final payment of \$302.74 for completed cost share contract for Jim Peterson #3-09CWL a Shoreland Protection practice.

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Buchholz, seconded by Krause to approve final payment of \$592.08 for completed cost share contract for Tom Searcy #4-09CWL a Shoreland Protection practice.

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

Motion carried.

UNUSED WELL SEALING COST SHARE: Motion by Katterhagen, seconded by Pesta to pay completed well sealing contract in the amount of \$250 in cost share funds for Donald Ahrens #2-10W.

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

Motion carried.

UNUSED WELL SEALING COST SHARE: Motion by Buchholz, seconded by Katterhagen to encumber \$250 in cost share funds to seal an unused well for Mike Becker #3-10W.

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

Motion carried.

PERSONNEL: At the recommendation of the Personnel Committee there was a motion by Pesta, seconded by Krause to hire Amy Piekarski as the SWCD's Resource Conservationist effective July 16, 2010 at Step 18 of the SWCD's Wage Scale.

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Buchholz, seconded by Pesta to hire Sarah Primus as the SWCD's Administrative Assistant effective July 19, 2010 at Step 5 of the SWCD's Wage Scale.

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

Motion carried.

2010 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST: Motion by Katterhagen, seconded by Pesta to select the Tony and Mark Clasemann families as Todd County's Outstanding Conservationists for 2010, the selection was made based on their applied conservation methods that will sustain the continuity of farming for the next generation. This year the Clasemann family is also celebrating their "Century Farm" status. The family will be honored at a special luncheon following the September board meeting; they are also invited to be our guests at the MASWCD Convention, during the Outstanding Farmer Luncheon they will also be honored along with conservationists from throughout the state. The convention is being held in St. Paul on December 6-7, 2010.

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

Motion carried.

STAFF TRAINING: SWCD staff is planning on attending the BWSR Academy, an employee training session that will be held October 26-28 at Breezy Point.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 19, 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 10:30 a.m.