

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 18, 2010 EXECUTIVE AND 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 8:37 a.m.

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

Others Present: Dave Kircher, County Commissioner
 Gerry Ruda, County Commissioner
 Nate Burkett, County Administrator
 Sandy Rohr, District Manager
 Greg Ostrowski, Technical Manager

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The executive board meeting was held to discuss the possibility of Todd SWCD relocating to county owned property and managing the Todd County Planning and Zoning department. Sandy and Nate have met several times and discussed the possibility of having the county find office space for the SWCD because of the cost saving on rent and IT services which will be cost savings of nearly \$20,000 annually. With the upcoming budget cuts it's becoming more obvious we must find ways to save money if we are going to continue our services and programs. The county is looking for ways to give planning and zoning a new face and has suggested a co-location, with Todd SWCD staff heading up the department. Consensus was reached to develop a management agreement which would allow SWCD staff to work within planning and zoning to assist with workload needs and gain knowledge of the department. The ultimate goal is to integrate the two departments through a joint powers board agreement between Todd SWCD Board and the Todd County Board of Commissioners. The merger is being considered to save money, provide a higher level of service and continuity in providing the services that now exist.

The meeting ended at 8:28 a.m. Dave Kircher and Nate Burkett left the meeting.

Kris Petersen, Resource Conservationist, Kitty Tepley, CLWMP/CWP Coordinator and Jim Fritz, District Conservationist joined the regular meeting.

Motion by Katterhagen, seconded by Buchholz to approve the agenda with change of Tom Williamson calling meeting to order rather than Norm Krause.

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Pesta, seconded by Katterhagen to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2010 regular board meeting.

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

Motion carried.

The District Board reviewed the financial statement dated January 31 and February 28, 2010. Motion by Pesta, seconded by Katterhagen to accept the January and February 2010 financial statements and approve payment of all disbursements totaling \$30,598.78 and \$23,261.60 respectively and approve March 2010 disbursements to date totaling \$12,532.76.

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

Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Gerry reported that the commissioner's approved the extension of Veteran's Memorial Drive in Todd County. The new MPCA ISTS rules were supposed to take effect February 4, 2010, but because Todd County and others opposed the new rules they were put on hold for two years during a review process, existing Todd County rules will remain in effect. A bonding bill was approved for the Perham Resource Recovery program that will update and expand the plant. Todd County will utilize the Otter Tail County's Solid Waste manager for policy and reporting, Lenny Doroff will be the onsite manager. Gerry reported that change is coming to the county, it has adopted Strategic Alignment Management (SAM), an outcome based management as a new way of doing business. The county board is very enthusiastic about SAM and the anticipated change; it was introduced to the county team leaders last week. AMC legislative conference is next week.

WES MIN RC&D REPORT: Tom reported that Ralph Peterson was elected as chairman. Tom reviewed the activities of WesMin relating to grazing grants, dry hydrant funding and the bio-mass workshop. RC&D's nationwide have received zero funding, Tom asked everyone to call their legislators to encourage funding of RC&D's.

STAFF REPORTS: (Attached) in addition, Sandy read a letter from Ralph Peterson, Area 2 Director asking if he could attend our board meeting to inform us of what happened at the Area 2 meeting we missed because it was scheduled the same day as our board meeting. Board consensus is to save the time and money; we will get the information from the meeting minutes. Sandy circulated information to the board regarding the election date changes because the state primary dates were changed. Dale complimented Ed and Greg on the Feedlot Meeting the SWCD sponsored. Greg reported he'd asked for and received donations from Ag Star and CMFCU used to help sponsor the Feedlot Meeting. State revolving fund loans are getting harder for borrowers to obtain as credit tightens up. Two new irrigation system plans are being done for Hollerman Dairy. Long Lake Assn. has hired a private consultant to investigate water pollution problems with the lake. Birchdale Pork is continuing to create issues over the disposal of dead animals; their future plans include the construction of a composting barn. Lee informed every one of the resources available through the MN Department of Ag. Kitty stated the county commissioners had presented her with a plaque and thanked her for the good job. Kris circulated his report. Jim reported the EQIP signup ended February 26th with \$1.4 million in applications. CSP has 20 new applicants, CRP has many contracts that will be expiring but another general signup is planned prior to October 2010.

NRCS ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SECTION 1619 COMPLIANCE: Motion by Pesta, seconded by Katterhagen to approve the acknowledgment that restricts the release of client information in relation to USDA programs.

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

Motion carried.

NRCS CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT: Motion by Katterhagen, seconded by Buchholz to approve the contribution agreement between NRCS and Todd SWCD that will provide \$7,123.50 in reimbursement for the design, installation and checkout of the Dave Hinnenkamp Ag waste system. \$3,500 will be forwarded to the West Central TSA for technical services provided by them.

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

Motion carried.

CWL 319, BWSR CWL AND BWSR STATE COST SHARE FUNDS ENCUMBERED (See Attachment).

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion by Buchholz, seconded by Pesta to accept the final financial report of 2008 state cost share funds. An official closeout will be performed by Jason Weinermann of BWSR.

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

Motion carried.

TODD COUNTY PLAT BOOK DEVELOPMENT: Sandy reported that she'd met with GIS Manager Gloria Stevenson to discuss the possibility of having a new plat book of Todd County developed by Rockford Map Publishers. Gloria indicated that she's planning on making a book in-house this fall, which will result in saving a lot of money and the county will be retaining the profits. Gloria will also pursue selling the information online.

REQUEST OF FUNDS FOR BIORETENTION WORKSHOP IN DOUGLAS COUNTY: Motion by Krause, seconded by Buchholz to contribute \$200 from the 319 grant education fund providing they waive the registration for two Todd SWCD employees to attend. The workshop is being held in April for all landscapers, contractors, planners and water resource professionals.

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

Motion carried.

GIFT BASKET FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION: Motion by Katterhagen, seconded Buchholz to approve the purchase of a gift basket not to exceed \$35 for the Area 2 sponsored administrative training session.

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

Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING KITTY TEPLEY: Kitty was recognized with a plaque commemorating her 14 years of service to Todd SWCD. The board thanked Kitty for all she's done for Todd County and wished her a wonderful retirement. Kitty stated that the last 14 years have been the highlight of her career.

SRF AG BMP LOAN: In October 2009 the SWCD Board approved Dave Hinnenkamp's eligibility to apply for a \$65,000 SRF loan for feedlot improvements. Mr. Hinnenkamp is seeking approval to use a portion of the loan funds for equipment. Board consensus is to approve \$40,290 for equipment that will be used to clean the proposed new lot, providing the project is installed and completed prior to the equipment purchase. The \$40,290 for equipment will be subtracted from the original loan amount of \$65,000.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 15, 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 11:55 a.m.

Kenny Pesta, Secretary

Dated