



**MINNESOTA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

**SIBLEY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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Gaylord, Minnesota 55334
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MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 11, 2009

Members present:

Dave Trebelhorn, Chairman
Paul Wiemann, Vice Chairman
Tom Pfarr, Treasurer
Bob Nielsen, Secretary
Gary Schafer, Reporter

Others present:

Loren Evenson, District Manager
Kevin Pioske, District Technician
Ron Otto, Water Management Coordinator
John Dotolo, District Conservationist
Brooke Patterson, Rush River Coordinator
Joel Wurscher, High Island Coordinator

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trebelhorn at 4:06 P.M.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Nielsen, to approve the July meeting minutes. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Nielsen; to approve the July financial report, subject to audit. Yeas: all, nays: none. Motion carried.

NRCS Report

Three eligibility determinations were made for the CRP program. Contracts are pending the landowners' decision.

A public hearing was held at the courthouse for the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The program encourages producers to maintain existing conservation activities and to adopt additional practices on their land. Sign-up will run from August 10th through September 30th.

Payments are being issued for residue and nutrient management practices enrolled through the EQIP program.

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Water Management Report

The County Board of Commissioners, and the Environmental Services Office would like Water Management to do the paperwork (except inspections) for all septic systems installed in the County. This is due to the retirement of June Ohman. Otto will try to determine approximately how much time would be spent per system, and what amount to request from the County for performing these services.

An application for LCCMR grant funding to offer low interest loans and incentives in Bevens Creek watershed has made the first round in funding consideration. Otto will meet with a review committee to give a presentation on the proposal.

Wurscher reported that there were no BMP's or septic system upgrades completed during the month for the High Island Creek watershed.

The barley straw experiment on an inlet stream to High Island Lake has not been successful. Monitoring will continue through the remainder of the season.

Additional barrels have been obtained from Seneca Foods. This should fill current needs for the rain barrel program.

A press release has been issued for a photo contest that the implementation project is sponsoring.

Patterson reported that expenditures have been on track for the Rush River Watershed. July saw the implementation of one wetland restoration, one filter strip, and 24 rain barrels.

Post cards are being sent to property owners in the Rush River Watershed to promote cover crops and structural conservation measures.

District Report

Staff will be performing spot checks of the RIM, PWP, and CREP easements in August.

Design plans have been completed for four water and sediment control basins.

Evenson and Pioske attended a WCA rules/administration meeting on July 20th. The new rules were discussed. It will be more difficult for landowners to replace drained or filled wetlands using replacement plans. Replacement ratios will be higher for onsite replacements. There is no longer a provision for using "public value credits." The new rule strongly encourages the purchase of wetland banking credits, as these credits have already been established and certified. There is little changed in the way of exemptions, especially on ag-land related projects.

Supervisors, staff, and watershed coordinators manned the booth at the County Fair. Several new rain gauge readers were obtained, and a rain barrel given away.

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Old Business

Tom Fischer will be invited to the next meeting to explain the reasoning behind the excessive auditing fees.

The BWSR State Office is working with the office of the Attorney General to get the Tim Thomas easement into compliance. Apparently, Mr. Thomas wishes to cooperate, as has been the case in the past. BWSR is giving him the benefit of a doubt. The easement has been in a state of neglect since its enrollment.

New Business

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Nielsen, to approve a State Cost-Share practice completion of Jon Forst, Moltke Township. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Final payment of \$400.00 will be issued for contract #FY09-9, for the sealing of an unused well. The District will retain \$100.00 for technical and administrative services related to the project.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Wiemann, to approve a State Cost-Share application of Elaine Ricke Wirtanen, City of Winthrop, for the sealing of an unused well. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Funding in the amount of \$400.00 will be encumbered for contract #FY09-15. Technical and administrative funds of \$100.00 will also be encumbered.

Motion by Wiemann; seconded by Nielsen, to approve an AgBMP loan request of Larry Bruender, Le Sueur, for the upgrade of an individual septic system. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen; seconded by Schafer, to approve the 2010 State Grant Agreement. The District will receive \$22,333 for General Services, \$8,631 for State Cost-Share, and \$6,337 for Easement Services. Total funding is \$9,187 less than last year's grant.

Supervisors endorsed the District Capacity score-sheet.

Other Business

Trebelhorn reported that Nicollet County has withdrawn its membership from Three Rivers RC&D. However, funds will not be denied to that county should a project be received.

Brown County will continue to be a member of the reorganized Zone 10. The new bylaws for the organization have been approved.

Design plans for a dry hydrant will be completed on the 12th of August. The site location has been moved from Silver Lake to the Cemstone pit, both in Jessenland Township.

Motion by Nielsen; seconded by Schafer, to award an appreciation plaque to Gerald and Jaclyn Smith at a future banquet event. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

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Other Business (continued)

There being no further business, a motion was made by Pfarr; seconded by Wiemann, to adjourn the meeting. All, nays: none. Motion carried. The meeting was concluded at 5:19 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8th, at 4:00 P.M., at the Agricultural Service Center. After adjournment, a picnic was enjoyed by staff, present and former supervisors, spouses and children.

Secretary _____