



**SIBLEY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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**MINNESOTA  
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

**MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, JULY 13, 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 2:30 P.M.

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

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

**NRCS Report**

Landowner's with expiring CRP contracts are inquiring as to whether these lands can be re-enrolled. Five re-enrollments have been reviewed thus far.

Seven EQIP applications, totaling \$79,000 in project dollars, have been accepted during the most recent sign-up. One application was taken for the organic farming practices component of the program.

Three applications were submitted for the RIM/WRP sign-up. None of these were accepted. They rated below "70" in the scoring.

Funding will be available, statewide, for the Conservation Stewardship Program. There will be several tiers of eligibility. Workshops will be scheduled in the County in the near future. News releases will be forthcoming.

Dotolo announced that he plans on retiring on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, although he has not filed any paperwork.

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## **Water Management Report**

Incentive payments for alternatives to open intakes will now be available to landowners in the middle Minnesota River Watershed, through the Brown-Nicollet-Cottonwood water management group. Cost-share of up to 50% will be allowed. Seeding of buffers, up to 100% of cost, and cost-share on traditional conservation practices, up to 75%, will also be offered.

Otto will be submitting another application to offer incentives to landowners in the Bevens/Silver Creek watershed.

Patterson and Wurscher reported that several septic system upgrades are reaching finalization in their project areas. The rain barrel program has been well received. Interest in other incentives has been somewhat slow, although intake alternatives in the Rush River watershed have seen some interest.

Wurscher commented on the drawdown of High Island Lake. Barley straw is being placed in the drainage channel that passes through New Auburn to try to diffuse phosphorous. Water sampling will be used to determine if any noticeable results are occurring.

## **District Report**

Staff reviewed historic photographs that may be used in a slideshow presentation at the RC&D tour.

All of the leftover trees have been sold; the tree shed has been cleaned out, and planters put away. All bills have been paid and payments received. The profit for the year is \$6,011.96.

Sibley SWCD will be receiving \$6,337.00 in Easement Services Grants for 2010, down \$268.00 from the 2009 allocation, and \$8,631.00 in State Cost-Share Program Grants for 2010, also down \$8,194.00 from the 2009 allocation. The General Services Grant remains unchanged, at \$23,058.00.

Staff attended the Rush River/High Island Creek Technical meeting and TMDL stakeholder's meeting.

## **Old Business**

Evenson and Tom Fischer visited the Tim Thomas easement, to observe the condition of his plantings. It was found to be unsatisfactory. There was little evidence of last year's seeding, and weed control measures were not being followed. Fischer has contacted Tim Fredbo, State Easement Coordinator to inform him of the findings. An easement inspection form was also completed to document the findings. It should be recalled that the supervisors issued both a correction action transmittal and a corrective action plan to Thomas several years ago. According to the flow chart in the RIM manual, the process should now proceed to higher authorities, perhaps to the Attorney General's office.

Pioske, Jeremy Maul (BWSR Wetland Specialist), and Dotolo met with SEH engineers, and project petitioners to discuss a private ditch proposal in Green Isle Township. A previous application had been denied in October 2008 and was not appealed. A revised proposal may be submitted. Dotolo was invited to explain USDA restrictions that may apply to a new application proposal. The wetlands protected by the Wetland Conservation Act will need to be avoided. There will be little if any change to the previous decision.

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## **New Business**

Motion by Wiemann; seconded by Nielsen, to approve payment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter supervisor per diems. Yeas: all, nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Schafer, to approve a State Cost-Share practice completion of Orlin Meyer, Washington Lake Township. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Final payment of \$400.00 will be issued for contract #FY09-12, for the sealing of an unused well. The District will retain \$100.00 for technical and administrative services related to the project.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Wiemann, to approve a State Cost-Share practice completion of Curtis Weckwerth, Kelso Township. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Final payment of \$350.00 will be issued for contract #FY09-5, for the sealing of an unused well. The District will retain \$87.50 for technical and administrative services related to the project.

Motion by Wiemann; seconded by Schafer, to approve a State Cost-Share practice completion of Derek Prafke, New Auburn. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Final payment of \$245.00 will be issued for contract #FY09-14, for the sealing of an unused well. The District will retain \$61.25 for technical and administrative services related to the project.

Motion by Wiemann; seconded by Schafer, to approve a State Cost-Share practice completion of Dale Gerholz, Sibley Township. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Final payment of \$197.50 will be issued for contract #FY08-20, for the sealing of an unused well. The District will retain \$49.37 for technical and administrative services related to the project.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to return \$1,252.84 in State Cost-Share slippage/unspent funds to BSWR from the 2008 fund. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to name Steve Heinz, Jessenland Township, as the Outstanding Cooperator for 2009. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

The District will have its annual picnic at 4:00 P.M. on August 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Harold Melsha pond-site. County Commissioners, State Legislators, and former District supervisors will be invited.

## **Other Business**

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to purchase a plaque to commemorate the combined service of Gerald and Jaclyn Smith as District supervisors. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. The plaque will be presented at the annual picnic.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Nielsen, to approve Sibley SWCD to act as the project sponsor for an RC&D application of the Sibley County Historical Society. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. The Society wishes to construct an addition to its museum.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Schafer; seconded by Wiemann, to adjourn the meeting. All, nays: none. Motion carried. The meeting was concluded at 3:08 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 P.M., at the Harold Melsha pond-site. The meeting will be followed by the annual picnic.

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_