

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, JULY 8, 2008

Chairman Trebelhorn called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M.

Members present:

Dave Trebelhorn, Chairman
Glen Uecker, Vice-Chairman
Gerald Smith, Secretary
Gary Schafer, Reporter

Others present:

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

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Uecker, to approve the June secretary's report.
Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Smith; seconded by Schafer, to approve the June treasurer's report.
Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

Water Management Report

Patterson informed the supervisors that a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) open house will be held on July 28th at the Sibley County Service Center. The TMDL focus is on fecal coliform bacteria.

Wurscher reported that there were no BMP incentive payments of septic system loans finalized for the High Island Creek watershed this month. Joel also gave a good presentation on nitrate levels discovered during monitoring this season.

A rock tile inlet demonstration was held at the Darrel Mosel farm. Eighteen were in attendance.

An appreciation picnic was held for the Sibley County precipitation readers. Peter Boulay, from the State Climatology Department was present to give awards and answer questions.

(over)

NRCS Report

NRCS is trying to spend down remaining monies of the old farm bill. A joint federal/state program has been established; RIM-WRP. Landowners will be paid 140% of the average township market value for eligible lands, which will be enrolled in a permanent easement with the State of Minnesota. Wetland restorations are being emphasized.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Smith, to approve a contribution agreement between the District and NRCS, for technical services that District staff will perform for EQIP participants. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. The agreement amount is \$1,260.

District Report

The staff participated in a teleconference which announced the details of a WRP/RIM sign-up. This is similar to the CREP program that was offered several years ago in that State RIM funds will be matched with federal WRP funds to put eligible lands into a permanent easement. This will supposedly be an ongoing program, but for this round of applications the deadline for submitting applications will be July 18th. The District has two expired or expiring RIM easements that may qualify. The landowners have been contacted and one of the two has filed an application. A payment rate formula has been established using average township market values with a percentage added.

RIM program and State Cost-Share Program site inspections have been completed.

Staff visited the Tim Thomas CREP easement site on several occasions during the month of June, noticing no activity. Mr. Thomas called the office, indicating that the site was in the process of being seeded. The site was checked on July 1st to investigate whether the June 30th seeding deadline had been met. Curiously, staff noticed that only a third of the land had been seeded. A follow-up call was made to Thomas to inquire why the job was incomplete. Apparently Prairie Land Management, who was hired to perform the seeding, had ran out of seed. The owner of the company assured us that it would be completed by July 2nd. Another site inspection will be performed to verify that everything was completed.

Old Business

There was no business to report.

New Business

Motion by Smith; seconded by Schafer, to approve payment of the second quarter supervisor per diems. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

Evenson will meet with the County budget committee on July 21st to discuss the proposed budget for 2009. The County will allow no more than a 3.9% increase to department budgets.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Smith, to approve the proposed 2009 budget. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

(over)

New Business (continued)

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Smith, to name Mike and Mary Mueller of rural Winthrop as Sibley County's 2008 Outstanding Cooperators. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

Two of the four supervisor openings have filed for the fall election thus far.

Evenson, Pioske and Dotolo have volunteered to man the Farmfest Booth at Redwood Falls on August 7th.

Invitations to the District's annual picnic will be sent to seated and prospective County Commissioners, representatives, and senators. Former supervisors, their spouses, and the outstanding conservationist will also be invited.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Smith to approve mileage rate increases whenever they are announced. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

Other Business

Motion by Uecker; seconded by Smith, to adjourn the meeting. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 P.M. The next meeting will be held on August 12, 2008, at 4:00 P.M., at the Harold Melsha pondsites..

Secretary's Signature _____