



**MINNESOTA  
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

**SIBLEY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

P O Box 161  
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Gaylord, Minnesota 55334  
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**MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, MAY 12, 2009**

Members present:

Dave Trebelhorn, 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  
Joel Wurscher, High Island Creek Watershed Coordinator  
Brooke Patterson, Rush River Coordinator  
Lisa Buckner, RC&D Coordinator

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trebelhorn at 4:02 P.M.

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

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Nielsen, to approve the April financial report. Yeas: all;  
nays: none. Motion carried.

**NRCS Report**

Blowing soil and crop residues have created concerns from many of the County residents. Part of the problem can be attributed to the use of roller-packers used after the crop is planted. These rollers are being used to push corn root balls back into the soil profile to make fall harvest of soybeans easier. A yield gain of up to four bushels per acre can also be realized, as the combine head can shave closer to the ground, thereby capturing pods that would otherwise be left un-harvested. Some fields, especially those that were previously cropped to peas, and now planted to corn, are especially troublesome as there are virtually no residues to break the force of the wind. The University of Minnesota has begun research efforts to analyze the use of these machines.

Applications are now being taken for the RIM-WRP partnership. Sign-up will continue until June 5<sup>th</sup>.

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## **NRCS Report (continued)**

Applications for the EQIP program will be accepted until May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Water Management**

Otto has been updating the website with information that our Board Conservationist deems necessary.

The USGS well location project is now complete. 1109 miles were travelled, with a total cost to the County of \$633.78. The compilation of the geologic atlas can now be completed.

An application will be submitted to the LCCMR for funding to offer incentives and low interest loans to apply conservation measures in those portions of the County that fall outside of the watershed implementation project areas.

The City of Arlington is proposing to upgrade a storm sewer in the south part of the city. Otto attended a public meeting describing the project and noted that there were no provisions for water detention. The engineering firm had apparently overlooked this component. Otto will keep the District informed as to future developments.

Otto attended numerous meetings in April.

Patterson and Wurscher presented project and budget reports for their respective watershed projects. Rain barrels are the new buzzwords in the watersheds. These devices are being made from recycled plastic barrels and plumbing fittings, and are being given away at no cost to interested residents. Their purpose is to diffuse roof runoff before it reached storm sewers and drainage-ways. They have generated a lot of interest, and have brought numerous customers through the doors of the District office, generating interest in some of the other programs that we administrate.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business to report.

### **New Business**

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to approve a State Cost-Share practice completion of Gerald Morrison, Faxon Township. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Final payment of \$275.00 will be issued for contract #FY09-10, for the sealing of an unused well. The District will retain \$68.75 for technical and administrative services related to the project.

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## **New Business (continued)**

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Schafer, to approve a State Cost-Share application of Orlin Meyer, Green Isle Township, for the sealing of an unused well. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Cost-Share funding in the amount of \$400.00 will be encumbered for contract #FY09-12. Technical and administrative funds in the amount of \$100.00 will also be encumbered.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to approve a State Cost-Share application of Robin Prafke, New Auburn, for the sealing of an unused well. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Cost-Share funding in the amount of \$400.00 will be encumbered for contract #FY09-13. Technical and administrative funds in the amount of \$100.00 will also be encumbered.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to approve a State Cost-Share application of Derek Prafke, New Auburn, for the sealing of an unused well. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Cost-Share funding in the amount of \$400.00 will be encumbered for contract #FY09-14. Technical and administrative funds in the amount of \$100.00 will also be encumbered.

The supervisors discussed the possibility of offering Trebelhorn Farms State Cost-Share funds to seal an unused, but un-located well on their farm. The City of Winthrop will be excavating borrow material from their property as part of a city project. The well is supposedly located in the area in which the excavation will occur. Dave Trebelhorn was advised that funding could be approved when the well is located, pending fund availability.

Pioske presented a preliminary Tree Program report. All of the 156 orders have been picked up, with some surplus stock remaining. It appears that the District will make in the neighborhood of \$5,500 this year. There are several outstanding expenses that are yet to be determined before a final report is drafted.

Nielsen volunteered to be the alternate supervisor to represent Sibley SWCD on the Zone 10 Joint Powers Board.

Lisa Buckner, Three Rivers RC&D Coordinator, gave the District an update on RC&D activities. Some of the initiatives discussed were: On-site farm projects for economic development; and innovative crops. The July tour was discussed. The Dry Hydrant project at Silver Lake is pending review by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Sibley County Historical Society is looking for funding to add a work/storage room onto its museum.

## **Correspondence**

Information was received concerning legislation addressing the future of the Green Acres Program, which keeps agricultural property taxes down in developing areas. Soil and Water Conservation Districts would develop conservation plans for undeveloped areas (woodlands, wetlands, etc.) on these properties. Compensation for these services is unknown at this time.

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**Correspondence (continued)**

BWSR has been asked by the legislature to reduce its budget by 11%. It is proposing to make these reductions in State Cost-Share and General Services Grants to Districts.

**Other Business**

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Schafer to adjourn the meeting. Yeas: all; nays: none.  
Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at the Agricultural Service Center, at 4:00 P.M., on June 9, 2009.

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_