



**SIBLEY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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**MINNESOTA**

**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

**MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, JANUARY 12, 2010**

Members present:

Dave Trebelhorn, Chairman  
Paul Wiemann, Vice-Chairman  
Tom Pfarr, Treasurer  
Gary Schafer, Reporter

Others present:

Loren Evenson, District Manager  
Kevin Pioske, District Technician  
Ron Otto, Water Management Coordinator  
April Sullivan, District Conservationist  
Joel Wurscher, High Island Coordinator  
Lisa Buchner, Three Rivers RC&D  
Tom Fischer, Minnesota BWSR  
Kasey Taylor, NRCS Area Conservationist

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trebelhorn at 4:01 P.M.

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

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

**NRCS Report**

Sign-up for the 2010 EQIP Program is currently underway. Ranking of the applications will end on  
February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Three eligibility determinations were received for the Continuous CRP.

Producers who enrolled in the CSP program will have until January 25<sup>th</sup> to oblige to the program.

**RC&D**

Lisa Buchner indicated that the dry hydrant project is moving forward, despite some concerns of a land  
owner neighboring the site.

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## **RC&D (continued)**

With the nations struggling economy, the future of RC&D councils across the country is uncertain.

## **Water Management Report**

In 2009, the Rush River Watershed program issued loans for 21 septic systems; incentive payments were made for 39 open inlet alternatives, and 106.7 acres of CRP filter strips. High Island Creek Watershed issued loans for 11 septic systems; incentive payments were made for 14 open inlet alternatives, and 13.6 acres of CRP filter strips. Buffalo Creek and the Middle Minnesota each had one septic system loan issued.

Wurscher commented on the recent developments of the drawdown of High Island Lake. A water control structure has been installed at the dam site to facilitate easier draw-downs for the future. The friends of High Island have been pushing the DNR to issue a permit that would allow the clean-out of a channel between the dam and the lake proper, for the purposes of lowering the lake further than what present conditions will allow.

A newsletter has gone to the printers. A nutrient management workshop will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 A.M to 3:00 P.M. All interested producers are invited.

## **District Report**

Pioske met with Gary Kruggel, landowner; Jeff Hedtke, BWSR; and Junior Reinhardt, Lafayette Excavating, to review and itemize construction and seeding amounts for Kruggel's RIM/WRP wetland restoration. The project will be eligible for a partial payment for the work performed.

The District is still awaiting the bills for two water and sediment basins that were completed prior to freeze-up.

## **Old Business**

Evenson investigated the possibility of obtaining a debit card to be used when making hotel reservations and for out-of-town travel. Because the District checking account requires two signatures for authorization, this same standard would be applied to the debit card. The supervisors decided to drop the topic. They will perhaps, have to use their own cards for booking reservations, etc.

An awards night was discussed. Steve and Joan Heinz, the 2009 Outstanding Cooperators, were unable to attend the annual convention, and the supervisors felt that an awards night was appropriate. Jerry and Jaclyn Smith also have plaques due them for their service as supervisors.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Wiemann to assign the staff to arrange for a dinner at a County location, sometime in late February. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

## **New Business**

Cost-Share audits are due for calendar years 2006, 2007, and a special ag-waste cost share program for 2007. Tom Fischer will meet with the staff sometime after Evenson's trip to Mississippi.

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## **New Business (continued)**

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Wiemann, to approve an AgBMP Loan request of Lowell and Rodney Briese, Severance Township for the purchase of rolling basket attachments for their field cultivator. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Schafer, to pay the 2010 National, State, and Area association dues. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. National dues will be \$775.00; State will be \$1,934.00; and Area will be \$300.00.

A proposed assessment of \$350.00 will be charged to each supporting District in the Technical Service Area (formerly Zone 10). These funds are needed to keep these services available in the Area.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Schafer, to authorize a Tree Program for 2010. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Wiemann, to hire Chad Lindstrand, CPA, to perform a close-out of the Districts 2009 accounts. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

## **Correspondence**

A new program called the Rural Land Reserve has been announced. This program will replace the Green Acres property tax provisions, whereby rural landowners would pay a reduced property tax in areas where development pressures are affecting cropland. The new program would require interested landowners to develop a conservation plan for their lands. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts would write these conservation plans, and charge a fee for these services. More information is forthcoming.

The South Central Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will be holding a Chairman's meeting to set the schedules and agendas for 2010. The meeting will be held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, at New Ulm.

## **Other Business**

Motion by Wiemann; seconded by Schafer, to authorize the signature of the Chairman on the Freedom of Information Act 1619 Acknowledgement. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to adjourn the meeting. All, nays: none. Motion carried. The meeting was concluded at 5:40 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at 4:00 P.M., at the Agricultural Service Center.

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_