



**MINNESOTA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

**SIBLEY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

P O Box 161
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Gaylord, Minnesota 55334
Phone (507) 237 5435

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

Members present:

Dave Trebelhorn, Chairman
Paul Wiemann, Vice Chairman
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 Coordinator
Tom Fischer, MN BWSR Board Conservationist

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trebelhorn at 4:19 P.M.

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

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

NRCS Report

The sign-up for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is underway. The application period ends on September 30th.

EQIP payments are still being issued for residue and nutrient management practices.

Surveys and easement paperwork are being developed for RIM/WRP applications that were funded last year.

Dotolo announced that his effective retirement date will be October 2nd.

Water Management Report

Applications for all septic system upgrade loans will now be processed by the Water Management division of the District.

(over)

Water Management Report (continued)

Wurscher announced that Brooke Patterson has resigned her position as Rush River Watershed Coordinator. She has taken a position with the Brown County Environmental Services office. Wurscher will coordinate both High Island Creek and the Rush River Watershed until further notice.

The watershed projects are sponsoring a photo contest. Photos may show the good, bad, and ugly aspects of the watersheds. Deadline for submitting photos will be on October 15th.

District Report

The staff performed site inspections on forty-two State Conservation Easements. Overall, the easements are in very good to excellent condition. There were a few thistles found, but nothing that would prompt a violation. Evidence of clipping was noticed on quite a number of the locations. Big Bluestem grasses really stand out this year.

The Tim Thomas easement has been clipped. An operation and maintenance plan has been prepared, as suggested by the state office.

Evenson and Pioske manned the Farmfest booth on the second day of that event. Only three districts from Area VI volunteered this year.

Old Business

The supervisors requested that Tom Fischer attend the meeting to discuss the outlandish bill the District received from the office of the State Auditor. Although several items were noted for corrective action, the exorbitant fee appears to be more of a penalty. Fischer countered Schafer's comment that "this money could have been better spent for projects on the ground," by explaining that these dollars are not coming out of grant funding, but out of the District's general fund. This fee (penalty) will have an impact on the District's compensated assets and long-term debt.

Motion by Wiemann; seconded by Schafer, to approve payment of \$6,249.37 to the Office of the State Auditor, for the final audit report prepared by that office. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

The Tim Thomas CREP easement will be intensely monitored by the District. Fischer stated that the Attorney General's office feels that Thomas has a compelling case against the District (or State), and that he could potentially win his argument in court. Fischer would not elaborate on what Thomas's allegations are.

New Business

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Wiemann, to approve a State Cost-Share application of Earl Tesch, Henderson Township, for the construction of a water and sediment control basin. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Funding in the amount of \$3,375.00 will be encumbered for contract #FY10-1. Technical and administrative funds of \$843.75 will also be encumbered.

(over)

New Business (continued)

Motion by Wiemann; seconded by Schafer, to approve a State Cost-Share application of David Tesch, Henderson Township, for the construction of a grade control structure. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Funding in the amount of \$3,529.80 will be encumbered for contract #FY10-2. Technical and administrative funds of \$882.45 will also be encumbered.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Wiemann, to approve a State Cost-Share practice completion of Gerald Mueller, Jessenland Township. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Final payment of \$375.00 will be issued for contract #FY08-19, for the sealing of an unused well. The District will retain \$93.75 for technical and administrative services related to the project. Slippage in the amount of \$31.25 will be returned to the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Correspondence

Resolution packets were distributed to the supervisors. They should be reviewed by the next meeting.

The District received a certificate for meeting the standards of the Local Government Pay Equity Act.

Tom Fischer announced several meetings that will be held in the next month or two.

Other Business

There being no further business, a motion was made by Wiemann; seconded by Schafer, to adjourn the meeting. All, nays: none. Motion carried. The meeting was concluded at 6:00 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13th, at 4:00 P.M., at the Agricultural Service Center.

Secretary _____