



**SIBLEY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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**MINNESOTA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 13, 2009

Members present:

Dave Trebelhorn, Chairman
Paul Wiemann, Vice Chairman
Bob Nielsen, Secretary
Tom Pfarr, Treasurer
Gary Schafer, Reporter

Others present:

Loren Evenson, District Manager
Kevin Pioske, District Technician
Ron Otto, Water Management Coordinator
Roderick Dukes, Acting District Conservationist
Joel Wurscher, High Island Coordinator

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

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

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

NRCS Report

Roderick Dukes was introduced as the acting District Conservationist. He will be detailed at the Gaylord Field Office until the position is filled. He has been keeping busy with Conservation Stewardship Program appointments.

Water Management Report

Otto met with the LCCMR committee in St. Paul to review the application he submitted for grant funding for best management practices in areas of the County not currently in an implementation program.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to approve drafting a letter of support for the Buffalo Creek Watershed (CROW). Yeas: all, nays: none. Motion carried. Buffalo Creek is seeking continuation funding.

(over)

Water Management Report (continued)

Wurscher reported on the monthly progress of the implementation projects for Rush River and High Island Creek.

Water sampling of the barley straw experiment at High Island Lake appears to show some water quality improvements. A reduction in phosphorous was noted.

A photo contest is being conducted for both watersheds. The deadline for submitting entries is October 15th.

District Report

The staff assisted BWSR performing construction checks on a RIM/WRP easement of Gary Kruggel, Alfsborg Township. The project has been completed, except for some minor excavation and seeding, that will be done when the crops come off.

All of the design work has been completed for seven pending erosion control projects, with the exception of two projects, which will require the assistance of the NRCS engineers, or Zone 10 technicians.

A field day was held at the farm of Martin and Loreeta Jaus, Moltke Township. Highlighted were the practices implemented by the Jaus's to make their farm more sustainable. Staff persons from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and NRCS were in attendance. A reporter from the Minneapolis Tribune was also present.

A retirement party was held for John Dotolo on September 30th. The office welcomed visitors from Brown, Nicollet, Martin, McLeod, Renville counties; Area Office staff; and of course some of our producers. Dotolo served in Sibley County from 1990 until the present. He had a total of 34 years employed by USDA. John spent his last two days clearing his desk and office of many years of accumulated "gobblety-gook", as John would call it.

A vacancy announcement has been noticed for the District Conservationist position, and staff have been told that this position will be filled as soon as possible. It took the better part of a year to fill this job when Bob Korth left the County in 1989.

Old Business

There was no old business to report.

New Business

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Wiemann, to approve payment of the third quarter supervisor per diems and expenses. Yeas: all, nays: none. Motion carried.

2009 Resolution Packages were completed and tallied.

Convention registration and lodging information was distributed to the supervisors.

(over)

New Business (continued)

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Nielsen, to approve an AgBMP loan request of Richard Platz, Henderson Township, for the upgrade of a septic system. Yeas: all, nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Nielsen, to approve a State Cost-Share application of Ron Mellies, Grafton Township, for the sealing of an unused well. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Funding in the amount of \$302.26 will be encumbered for contract #FY09-16. Technical and administrative funds of \$75.56 will also be encumbered.

Brown SWCD will host the next Area VI MASWCD on November 24th, at the Turner Hall, New Ulm.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Nielsen, to approve sending Schafer to the NACD National Convention in Orlando, Florida. The District will reimburse expenses; with a limit of \$1,200. Yeas: all, nays: none. Motion carried.

Other Business

There being no further business, a motion was made by Wiemann; seconded by Nielsen, to adjourn the meeting. All, nays: none. Motion carried. The meeting was concluded at 5:02 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10th, at 4:00 P.M., at the Agricultural Service Center.

Secretary _____