

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, NOVEMBER 18, 2008

Chairman Trebelhorn called the meeting to order at 4:04 P.M.

Members present:

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

Others present:

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

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

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

NRCS Report

Ten members of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program workgroup met to set priorities for the 2009 program year. Few changes will need to be made over the priorities established the last few years. Water quality and soil erosion issues were the priorities noted.

The Kruggel and Pagenkopf RIM-WRP proposals are ready for payment, but closing dates have not been scheduled.

Two new applications for the continuous CRP have been received

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Water Management Report

There has been some progress in getting the Silver Lake dry hydrant project on the ground. Hopefully this will be completed before freezing weather.

A Clean Water Legacy application has been submitted to request funding for incentive payments and low interest loans to be used in like manner as the watershed projects are currently doing.

Five septic systems and seven open inlet alternatives were completed last month.

Cover crop plantings have been inspected. One-third of the intended acreage has not been planted. Another one-third had been tilled.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr to allow Otto to carry his comprehensive time into 2009. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. Otto indicated that he needs the time off for medical purposes.

Patterson presented budget information for the Rush River Project. The budget may have to be shifted around from time to time as project participation changes.

Patterson indicated that those producers who tilled their cover crop plantings may not receive reimbursement.

The Rush River workplan should be submitted later in the week.

Wurscher reported that the drawdown of High Island Lake has commenced. The Department of Natural Resources estimates that it will probably take until next June before the stop logs will be placed back into the dam structure.

Wurscher indicated that payments to those producers who tilled their cover crop plantings will be scrutinized.

Patterson and Wurscher have placed radio advertisements on the local radio stations to promote the watershed projects.

District Report

A notice of denial was issued for a proposed improvement to a private ditch system. The ditch passes through wetland areas and there is no record of maintenance for the ditch in the last 25 years. Therefore, the ditch is essentially abandoned.

A WCA cease and desist order was issued to a resident of Washington Lake Township who was excavating in a Type 3 wetland. Upon review of historical information, it was determined that the wetland in question was man made, having been constructed about eight years ago. This activity is exempt from the WCA rule. The DNR conservation officer has rescinded the order.

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District Report (continued)

A water and sediment control basin has been completed and has been checked out, for Franz Schauer, for land in Henderson Township. The project is now ready for payment. Several other projects are pending construction this fall.

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 Roger Henke for the sealing of an unused well in Transit Township. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. Payment of \$337.50 will be issued for the completion of Contract #FY08-13. Technical and administrative funds in the amount of \$84.38 will be retained by the District.

Motion by Smith; seconded by Pfarr, to approve a State Cost-Share practice completion of Franz Schauer Henke for the construction of a water and sediment control basin. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. Payment of \$2859.75 will be issued for the completion of Contract #FY07-04. Technical and administrative funds in the amount of \$714.94 will be retained by the District. Pioske and Evenson have technical job authority for the project.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Smith, to approve a State Cost-Share application of Ken Briese, Severance Township, for the sealing of an unused well. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. Cost-share funding in the amount to \$292.25 will be encumbered from 2008 funds (Contract #FY08-17). Technical assistance funding, in the amount of \$73.06 will also be encumbered for the project.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to approve a State Cost-Share application of Larry Baumgardt, Sleepy Eye, for the sealing of an unused well in Grafton Township. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. Cost-share funding in the amount to \$400.00 will be encumbered from 2009 funds (Contract #FY09-07). Technical assistance funding, in the amount of \$100.00 will also be encumbered for the project.

Motion by Smith; seconded by Pfarr, to approve a RIM-WRP grant agreement for administration of the program. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. The District will receive \$6000.00 from BWSR for the three accepted applications received in 2008 (\$2000.00 for each application).

Motion by Smith; seconded by Schafer, to draft a letter of support for the Rush River Watershed Implementation Project. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. The letter will address in-kind contributions that the District will offer the Project.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to contribute \$150.00 to the Area VI Envirothon. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

(over)

Other Business

Schafer will arrange for silent auction items to be donated at the MASWCD convention.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Uecker, to approve upgrades to the District's computer systems, as needed. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Schafer, to adjourn the meeting. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 P.M. The next meeting will be held on December 11, 2008, at 4:00 P.M., at the Agricultural Service Center, to be followed by a holiday party at Lafayette.

Secretary's Signature _____