

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Chairman Trebelhorn called the meeting to order at 4:01 P.M.

Members present:

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

Others present:

Loren Evenson, District Manager
Kevin Pioske, District Technician
Ron Otto, Water Management Coordinator
Joel Wurscher, High Island Creek Project
Kasey Taylor, NRCS Area Conservationist
John Dotolo, NRCS District Conservationist

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

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

NRCS Report

New farm bill programs will not be announced until printed in the Federal Register. This will occur after the comment and review period.

Design plans have been received for the Kruggel and Mueller RIM/WRP projects.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Schafer, to approve the review of the Memorandum of Understanding and Civil Rights Addendum. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

The next EQIP sign-up will probably begin on April 1st. The program will offer up to 75% cost share on construction projects. Incentives will receive 50% cost assistance.

(over)

NRCS Report (continued)

The District Conservationist position has been filled for the Saint Peter Field Office. Vacancies in the engineering department are expected to be filled by late summer.

Water Management Report

Otto gave a recap of water management activities. Rush River Watershed has just about used up the entire septic system loan fund. Additional funding is expected.

The wells in two townships remain to be have their wells inventoried for the Geological Atlas of Sibley County.

A new poster and flyer have been developed to advertise the Watershed Implementation Project. The posters are being displayed at grain elevators, cooperatives, and at local seed dealerships. The flyers will be available for distribution at various local events.

Wurscher reported that two intake projects were finalized last month.

The Department of Natural Resources continues the drawdown of High Island Lake. An earthen crossing, upstream of the dam, has been breached. The culvert passing through the crossing is three inches higher than the weir of the dam, and will be replaced at the correct elevation. There are concerns that there may not be an adequate winter kill this winter due to supersaturated oxygen conditions.

Wurscher and Patterson released the winter newsletter for the watershed projects.

District Report

The District's annual newsletter was printed and mailed (2332 of them). Tree Day advertisements were placed in the Golden Galaxy, Sibley Shopper, Valley Shopper, and Golden Nugget newspaper flyers. Tree Day will be held on February 11th.

E-Link reports were completed by the January 31st deadline. The Annual Plan and 2008 Financial Report are in progress.

Old Business

The supervisors discussed the findings of the audit performed by the Office of the State Auditor. Trebelhorn will discuss some of these issues with the County Attorney to get correct interpretation of the statutes.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Nielsen, to approve hiring an accountant to complete the 2008 year-end financial reports. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

(over)

New Business

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Schafer, to approve a State Cost-Share practice completion of Paul Wiemann, Dryden Township, for the sealing of an unused well on his property. Yeas: all; Nays: none, Wiemann abstained. Motion carried. Payment of \$400.00 will be issued for the completion of Contract #FY06-21. Technical and administrative funds in the amount of \$100.00 will be retained by the District.

Motion by Pfarr, seconded by Wiemann, to approve the cancellation of State Cost-Share Program contract #FY08-2, initiated by Kevin Koepp, Belle Plaine. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. The property on which the conservation practice was to be installed has been sold.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Nielsen, to approve a State Cost-Share application of Don and Dale Meierbachtol, Belle Plaine, for the construction of a water and sediment control basin on their property in Jessenland Township. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. Cost-share funding in the amount to \$2,000.00 will be encumbered from 2008 funds (Contract #FY08-18). Technical assistance funding, in the amount of \$500.00 will also be encumbered for the project.

New supervisor training will be held on February 26th at the New Ulm Library.

Three Rivers RC&D is re-grouping. An alternate to the RC&D Board is needed from Sibley County to attend meetings in the absence of Trebelhorn. Wiemann volunteered to fill this post.

The RC&D is planning a summer tour. Sibley County will be the highlighted county. District staff will work with the watershed coordinators to develop the itinerary.

Four supervisors and one staff will attend the Legislative Briefing-Day at the Capitol event, February 23rd and 24th.

The next Area VI MASWCD meeting will be held at Lafayette on April 7th. Faribault SWCD will be the host.

Other Business

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Nielsen, to adjourn the meeting. Yeas: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 P.M. The next meeting will be held on March 10, 2009, at 4:00 P.M., at the Agricultural Service Center.

Secretary's Signature _____