

## MINUTES FROM THE April 16th, 2009 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting of the Lake of the Woods Soil and Water Conservation District was held in the Conference Room of the Federal Building in Baudette, MN on April 16th, 2009.

**Meeting was called to order by Roger Krause, acting Chair at 6:05 pm.**

**Members Present:** Roger Krause, Russell Hansen, John Sonstegard

**Members Absent:** Marshall Nelson, Scott Pieper

**Others Present:** Land and Water Planning Director, Josh Stromlund  
Resource Technician, Mike Hirst  
Resource Technician, Corryn Trask

Motion to approve April 16th, 2009 agenda: Sonstegard                      Second: Hansen  
Affirmative: Krause, Hansen, Sonstegard                      Opposed: None  
Motion carried

Motion to approve March 12th, 2009 minutes: Sonstegard                      Second: Hansen  
Affirmative: Krause, Hansen, Sonstegard                      Opposed: None  
Motion carried

Motion to approve March treasurer's report: Hansen                      Second: Sonstegard  
Affirmative: Krause, Hansen, Sonstegard                      Opposed: None  
Motion carried

Motion to approve bills from April 16th, 2009 agenda: Hansen                      Second: Sonstegard  
Affirmative: Krause, Hansen, Sonstegard                      Opposed: None  
Motion carried

### **District Business/Information**

Giziibii Resource Conservation and Development staff report

Casey Olson, the new Giziibii RC&D Coordinator, attended the board meeting to present the 2008 reports for Giziibii RC&D and the Minnesota RC&D. She also gave updates on projects happening currently in Lake of the Woods County.

Olson also discussed that Giziibii RC&D was looking for a sponsor for a soils tunnel project. The project is a mobile unit that could move from District to District and could be housed by Giziibii, but the District would be asked to help promote it and should not incur any costs for sponsoring the project.

A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Sonstegard, to adopt the Giziibii RC&D project.

Affirmative: Krause, Hansen, Sonstegard                      Opposed: None  
Motion carried

Hiring

A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Sonstegard, to offer the seasonal water monitoring intern position to Ashley Grundthner at the rate of \$11.15 per hour for

the posted term of the position. Dependent on Grundthner's acceptance, the position would be then offered to the next 3 applicants in line in the order ranked following the application process. The top 4 applicants would be offered the same rate of \$11.15 per hour. If the top four applicants decline the position, the staff would then interview the next four applicants in line and rank them accordingly to their total score. Applicants ranked 5-8 would be offered the position at a rate of \$10.50 per hour. This rate could be negotiable, depending on need.

Affirmative: Krause, Hansen, Sonstegard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

#### Supervisor email addresses for updates and notices

Hirst recommended that the board sign up for email accounts that could be committed to SWCD business, apart from personal email accounts. This would be a way to stay connected without possibly interfering with work or personal email accounts.

#### NRCS Freedom of Information Act

Hirst and Trask discussed the most current information with the board regarding the new Freedom of Information Act regulations that are coming down from the federal level. No decision was made at this time, the board would like to wait until a NRCS representative could be present.

#### Resolutions

The staff presented several ideas for resolutions that could potentially be brought to the Area VIII June Resolution meeting. The staff presented these ideas and the board was in favor of drafting the resolutions for the next board meeting. No formal motion was made.

#### Environmental learning area

Trask presented information to the board on the environmental learning area at the school.

#### Family health insurance policy

Stromlund talked to the board about needing to set a rate for a family health insurance plan. The board tabled any decisions until the next meeting, and would like to see the figures presented on a spreadsheet at the next meeting.

#### Monetary discrepancy amendment - Intuit Payroll Services

Hirst presented a notice of debit due to a clerical error on the reporting for W-2.

#### Abandoned well sealing applications

A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Sonstegard, to encumber FY09 Water Plan funds for the following abandoned well sealing cost share applications:

Joseph Chan, funding not to exceed \$300 or 75%, whichever is less.

MariLou Anderson, funding not to exceed \$300 or 75%, whichever is less.

Jeffrey Rathman, funding not to exceed \$300 or 75%, whichever is less.

All projects must be completed within one year of the date of encumbrance.

Affirmative: Krause, Hansen, Sonstegard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Tree sales and nursery update

Trask informed the board that the nursery that the SWCD goes through to purchase trees is going out of business and there could be some issues with the availability of trees.

Board retreat location appreciation gift

A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Krause to purchase a gift certificate in the amount of \$100 as a thank-you for the use of the facility for the SWCD Board Retreat.

Affirmative: Krause, Hansen, Sonstegard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Area VIII meeting report

Stromlund presented information from the recent Area VIII meeting in Bemidji.

Update on Pine and Curry Island project

Trask discussed with the board her recent conversation with Peter Buesseler from the MN DNR. Trask will continue to update the board as things proceed.

Cooperative Working Agreements

The SWCD staff will be pursuing cooperative working agreements with the NRCS to provide site checkouts to generate income through the summer. The staff is working with NRCS DC, Voigt, to determine which projects would be reasonable and beneficial for the SWCD to undertake.

Review DNR Permit 2009-0534

Hirst presented a DNR permit to upgrade an over-the-water boat structure. No concerns were expressed.

CRP Contract Modification in Bostic Watersheds

Hirst discussed with the board a recent CRP contract modification that he had reviewed and signed.

**The next regular Board meeting has been set for May 14th, 2009 at 6:00 p.m in the Conference Room of the Federal Building in Baudette, MN.**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn: Hansen Second: Sonstegard

Affirmative: Krause, Hansen, Sonstegard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

**Meeting was declared adjourned at 9:05 pm**

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_