

MINUTES FROM THE February 12th, 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 February 12th, 2009.

Meeting was called to order by Marshall Nelson at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Marshall Nelson, Russell Hansen, John Sonstegard

Members Absent: Scott Pieper, Roger Krause

Others Present: Resource Technician, Mike Hirst; Resource Technician, Corryn Trask; Lake of the Woods County Commissioner, Todd Beckel; Lake of the Woods County Commissioner, Tom Hansen

Motion to approve February 12th, 2009 agenda: Hansen Second: Sonstegard
Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried

Motion to approve January 8th, 2009 minutes: Sonstegard Second: Hansen
Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried

Motion to approve January Treasurer's Report: Hansen Second: Sonstegard
Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried

Motion to approve bills from February 12th, 2009 agenda: Hansen Second: Sonstegard
Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried

District Business/Information

Grove Grassed Waterway discussion

Trask asked the board for direction on whether or not to close out the Grove Grassed Waterway project. She had recently spoke with the County Highway Engineer, and he was concerned about needing to reseed in the spring. The board directed Trask to close out the project, but indicated that funds may be available for purchasing seed in the spring if needed.

Letter to BWSR and John Jaschke

A motion was made by Sonstegard, with a second by Hansen, to authorize the signature of the Board Chairman on the letter to John Jaschke regarding the distribution of funding for the Constitutional Amendment. See attachment to February 12th, 2009 board packet for a copy of the letter.

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

Strategic Planning Session

The Strategic Planning Session for the SWCD Board will be held on February 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The board requested that Chad Severts, the BWSR BC, preside as the moderator for the session.

County Elected Officials Planning Session

Commissioner Beckel asked if the SWCD Board would like to be included in a meeting of Lake of the Woods County elected officials. The intent of the meeting is to plan for the future and find ways in which the various local governments could cooperate. The SWCD Board indicated that they would like to see an outside moderator for the event, but would be interested in attending.

New Hire

The staff discussed with the board the need to hire an additional person to assist with the workload. The board discussed the current hiring freeze at the county level, and budget concerns. No decisions were made, but the board agreed to revisit the topic during the strategic planning session. At that time, they would discuss setting up a hiring committee.

Review of SWCD Annual Report

The Board reviewed the SWCD Annual Report presented by the staff.

Review of SWCD draft Annual Plan

The staff presented a draft Annual Plan for the board to review. The planning discussion would be tabled until the retreat.

SWCD Financial Statements Review

The 2008 SWCD Financial Statements were submitted for review.

Request to contract for financial audit services

A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Sonstegard, to accept the bid for the 3-year audit from James Maiser, CPA.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Sonstegard Opposed: None

Motion carried

Grazing Systems Workshop

Hirst notified the board that he and Voigt were organizing a Grazing Workshop to be held on February 19th.

Albrecht Easement Project

Trask updated the board on the Albrecht easement project.

Petty cash fund for tree sales

A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Sonstegard, to establish a petty cash fund for the SWCD in the amount of \$100.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Sonstegard Opposed: None

Motion carried

Living Snow Fence

Trask notified the board of a recent MOU established by the MASWCD, USDA and MNDOT to increase the number of living snow fences along state highways. Trask stated that she and Voigt were working on a project to establish a snow fence along

the fair grounds property, where the highway department had noted icy conditions and drifting snow. This project could serve as a demonstration project, and be used as a model for establishing a county-wide effort to establish snow fences.

Training and Travel Requests

Legislative Day at the Capitol

The notice of the MASWCD Legislative Days was presented. No motion was made.

Water Quality Forum

A motion was made by Sonstegard, with a second by Hansen, to authorize expenses for any staff or supervisors interested in attending the Water Quality Forum in International Falls.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Sonstegard Opposed: None

Motion carried

General Information and Discussion

Envirothon Donation Requests

Trask asked the board for input on seeking donations for the Envirothon

Washington DC trip

Hirst asked the board for input on discussion topics for the Washington D.C. trip that he and Stromlund were attending as part of the MASWCD Leadership Program.

Web Soil Survey Training

The staff notified the board of the Web Soil Survey Training being provided by NRCS.

Review MPCA Permit - MNP069337

The board reviewed the MPCA permit. No directives were given.

Review 2008 Budget vs. Actual Profit Loss Report

Hirst presented a corrected Profit vs. Loss Report for 2008

Reports

Josh Stromlund - Land and Water Planning Director

See attachment to agenda.

Mike Hirst - Resource Technician

See attachment to agenda.

Corryn Trask - Resource Technician

See attachment to agenda.

The next regular Board meeting has been set for March 12th, 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: Nelson, Hansen, Sonstegard Opposed: None

Motion carried

Meeting was declared adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Secretary _____

Date _____