



that are employed with the SWCD. There is currently a grant available through the MN Department of Agriculture that could help pay for the cost of the computer. The requirements for receiving the grant would include entering information regarding feedlots into an emergency management database.

The board directed the staff to look into options for a computer, and to come back to the next meeting with more information regarding the grant requirements.

#### Adoption of 2009 Annual Plan

A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Sonstegard, to adopt the final version of the 2009 SWCD Annual Plan. See attachment to March 12th, 2009 agenda for a copy.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Sonstegard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

#### Letter of request for Zippel/Bostic project

The board reviewed the draft Zippel/Bostic project plan provided by the NRCS Water Resources Team. It is a summary of actions to be taken to identify sedimentation problems within the watersheds. Staff had previously discussed this plan prior to meeting with the NRCS staff in the fall.

The board reviewed a draft letter requesting the assistance of the NRCS on the project. See attachment to the March 12th, 2009 agenda for copy of the letter. A motion was made by Sonstegard, with a second by Hansen, to authorize the signature of the Board Chair and send the letter to the NRCS Area 1 Conservationist.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Sonstegard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

#### Area VIII Meeting Agenda

The draft agenda for the upcoming Area VIII Meeting was presented to the board. See attachment to the March 12th, 2009 agenda for a copy of the agenda.

#### Spring Newsletter

Trask handed out copies of newsletters distributed by SWCDs throughout Minnesota and asked the board to make recommendations for the upcoming newsletter.

Suggestions included: historical feature, advertising tree sales, announcing current rule revisions for the county and DNR, discussing the recently passed constitutional amendment, pictures of kids and people participating in conservation, before and after photos.

#### Office supplies order

Trask presented a list of office supplies to be ordered. Most supplies would fall under the \$100 pre-approved limit. The staff proposed purchasing two keyboard trays for the computer desks. Chairman Beckel said that there were keyboard trays at the extension office that the SWCD could potentially have. The staff would check into these trays. A motion was made by Sonstegard, with a second by Hansen, to approve purchasing two keyboard trays if the keyboard trays at the Extension Office were unavailable or not sufficient.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Sonstegard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

#### Prescribed Fire Assistance

The board approved two days of SWCD staff time to assist the DNR Wildlife Office with prescribed burns. The Wildlife Office had provided a snowmobile for SWCD staff to conduct water sampling throughout the winter, so this will be a way of giving back to the DNR for their help.

#### Health Insurance - Healthy Living Incentives

Hirst informed the Supervisors that the staff participating in the Health Insurance Plan through the SWCD are eligible for a Healthy Living Incentive of \$60. The staff need to determine how to spend the money according to the Northwest Service Coop's restrictions, but the funds will most likely go towards purchasing gym memberships.

#### NRCS Freedom of Information Act Update

Voigt notified the board that the NRCS and USDA is subject to new Freedom of Information Act requirements. These requirements were actually dictated by the Dept. of Homeland Security. They will affect all cooperators files and all projects that the SWCD and NRCS partner on. Voigt told the board that they would most likely be asked to sign a form or memorandum of agreement, but the information is not available at this time. The board may also be subject to closed meeting laws when discussing projects that the NRCS is participating in.

More information will most likely come within the next month or two.

#### WCA Training

A motion was made by Sonstegard, with a second by Hansen, to approve travel expenses for Hirst to attend a WCA Training in Grand Rapids.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Sonstegard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

#### Hirst Leave Request

Hirst notified the Board that due to an immediate illness in the family, he may need to take extended leave in March and April, although he is not certain of dates or length. The board was in favor of Hirst taking whatever time necessary, and to work with the other staff with matters concerning the office.

#### MPCA Annual Review of LOTW County Delegated Feedlot Program

Hirst informed the board that the Feedlot Program had received a positive review.

#### Grazing Workshop Report

Hirst notified the board that the Grazing Workshop had received positive reviews, and that participants were interested in additional workshops.

#### Giziibii Meeting Report

Trask gave a short report on the recent Giziibii Meeting, including the status of the Biomass Gasification Project at Northern Excellence and the awards recently received by the Area VIII Envirothon Committee and Northern Excellence. Trask also informed the board that Giziibii's new coordinator was on board and that the Council was seeking new projects to undertake.

#### Recap Board Planning Session

See attachment to the March 12th, 2009 agenda for summary of the discussion from the retreat. The board discussed inviting legislators to the upcoming meetings or possibly to a road tour. Also, the board discussed possibly inviting Katie Haws from the DNR to a meeting to discuss possible partnerships with the SWCD for Pine and Curry Island.

#### Washington DC Leadership Training Report

See attachment to the March 12th, 2009 agenda for a report.

#### LOW Water Quality Forum report

Hirst, Stromlund and Nelson gave a report on the recent Water Quality Forum in International Falls, MN.

#### MPCA Funding for Zippel and Bostic Work Plan

Hirst notified the Board that a project list submitted to the MPCA had recently been reviewed and some of the projects may receive funding in the next year.

#### MASWCD Legislative Update

See attachment to the agenda for a legislative update from the MASWCD. The board was also notified that Stromlund had recently been appointed to the MASWCD Legislative Committee.

#### Space/Lease update from Voigt

Voigt notified the board that there may be some upcoming developments to the space issues because the NRCS lease of the Post Office Building will end within 6 months. A conference call was scheduled.

### **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.

Kelly Voigt - District Conservationist

Voigt notified the board that EQIP signup has tentatively been scheduled for April, but nothing has been officially announced.

**The next regular Board meeting has been set for April 16th, 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 8:45 p.m.**

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_