

MINUTES FROM THE May 14th, 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 May 14th, 2009.

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

Members Present: Marshall Nelson, Roger Krause, Russell Hansen
Scott Pieper, John Sonstegard

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Land and Water Planning Director, Josh Stromlund;
Resource Technician, Mike Hirst; Resource Technician, Corryn Trask;
Kelly Voigt, District Conservationist

Motion to approve May 14th, 2009 agenda: Hansen Second: Sonstegard
Addition: Well Sealing Application
Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

Motion to approve April 16th, 2009 minutes: Sonstegard Second: Hansen
Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

Motion to approve April treasurer's report: Pieper Second: Hansen
Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

Motion to approve bills from May 14th, 2009 agenda: Pieper Second: Hansen
Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

District Business/Information

Tree Program Report

Trask presented the final tree sales and financial report from the tree program for 2009.

SWCD Supervisor Tour and Legislative visits from representatives

The board would like to hold a summer tour in late June. Legislators will be invited on the tour. Staff are to develop a list of sites to visit and the board will make the final determination at the next board meeting.

Lack of response in regards to County Ditch letter

The board discussed how to approach the County Board regarding the lack of response to the letter which was sent October 9th, 2008 that addressed concerns relating to maintenance of ditches within the county. Part of the discussion included the amount of time and effort SWCD staff are putting forth to deal with drainage issues. These efforts include the culvert inventory, the NRCS Watershed Team work plan, the Bostic Creek Judicial Ditch 28 project and LiDAR acquisition.

The board requested that the staff draft a follow-up letter to the County Board and bring

it back to the SWCD Board for approval.

NRCS Water Resources Staff Update and upcoming public meeting

Voigt discussed the recent conference call with the Water Resources Staff and the public meeting to be held sometime in mid-July. The project work plan is moving forward.

Living Snow Fence project at fairgrounds

Trask informed the board that the Fair Board was in favor of establishing a Living Snow Fence along the County Road. The board gave Trask the green light to plan the project and permission to incur some costs, subject to board approval.

Family Health Insurance Rates

The board reviewed a summary of health insurance provisions of various SWCDs throughout the state and the current provisions of the District. Currently, the District does not have a 2009 policy for family health insurance.

A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Sonstegard, to set the insurance rates for family coverage as the same rate of coverage for a single person in 2009.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

Well Sealing Application

A motion was made by Pieper, with a second by Krause, to encumber FY09 Water Plan funds for Kathleen Lightly's abandoned well sealing cost share application. Funding is not to exceed \$300 or 75%, whichever is less.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

Water Plan Fund switch

A motion was made by Krause, with a second by Pieper, to approve switching FY08 Water Plan funds reserved for cost share projects with FY09 Water Plan funds. FY08 funds will be spent for operational expenses by the end of the fiscal year to avoid returning them to the State. The amount of funds being switched will be \$1,072.60.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

SWCD Supervisor Training

Sonstegard expressed interest in attending the MASWCD Supervisor Training in St. Cloud. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

LiDAR

Stromlund informed the board that the County Board had recently signed the agreement for LiDAR. The flight may still occur this spring. Discussions on the state level include the possibility of state-wide LiDAR, but that has yet to be approved. The SWCD had approved a budget of \$40,000 for the project.

Gant agreement for MPCA County Feedlot Program 2008 Performance Credits

Hirst presented a grant agreement for MPCA 2008 performance credits.

A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Pieper, to enter into the agreement with MPCA for the 2008 performance credits.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

JPB Joint Powers Agreement Resolution

A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Pieper, to approve the Board Chair's signature on the North Central Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts Joint Powers Agreement, pending the approval of the County Attorney. See attachment to the May 14th, 2009 agenda.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

Contract extensions for State Cost Share

A motion was made by Pieper, with a second by Krause, to approve a contract extension for Boos, contract FY08-02, until June 20th, 2009.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Sonstegard, with a second by Pieper, to approve a contract extension for the PWD, contract FY08-03, until November 1, 2010.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

School Forest Committee request for assistance from Giziibii RC&D

A motion was made by Krause, with a second by Hansen, to approve the School Forest Committee's application for assistance from the Giziibii RC&D assistance in seeking funding for the Agassiz Lowlands Environmental Learning Area project.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

Internet for summer intern

A motion was made by Pieper, with a second by Sonstegard, to approve acquiring internet from Shoberg's Cable for the summer internship position.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

LOW TMDL Hiring

Stromlund talked about the possibility of hiring a full-time employee to assist with possible projects for the upcoming LOTW TMDL. There will possibly be a need to hire, and it is something the District should be thinking about.

Water Plan Committee Update

Hirst gave an overview of the recent Water Plan meeting.

Upcoming TMDL Public Meetings

Hirst notified the board that the Williams Creek and Baudette TMDL work plans include holding public meetings, and that he would be working on arranging those meetings in the upcoming months.

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 discussed the current EQIP signup, upcoming pasture/prescribed grazing walk-through, upcoming visit from NRCS acting Chief, request from Mr. Hunt and Colin Peterson for a project list that could utilize federal stimulus money. Space/lease issues and performing a market analysis on lease rates in the area.

The next regular Board meeting has been set for June 11th, 2009 at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room of the Federal Building in Baudette, MN

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn: Sonstegard Second: Hansen
Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried.

Meeting was declared adjourned at 8:30 pm

Secretary _____

Date _____