

MINUTES FROM THE November 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 on November 12th, 2009.

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

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

Members Absent: Roger Krause

Others Present: Resource Technician, Mike Hirst; Resource Technician, Corryn Trask; Lake of the Woods County Commissioner, Todd Beckel; District Conservervationist, Kelly Voigt

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

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

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

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

District Business/Information

Financial report corrections

Hirst reviewed a few minor corrections to the financial reports stemming from previous accounting errors. The errors were minor, but were not caught immediately so they had carried through over several months.

A motion was made by Pieper, with a second by Sonstegard to approve the financial reports as presented with corrections and to submit the report for audit. A summary of all errors and dates affected would be attached to the November 12th, 2009 meeting minutes for review and approval.

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

Pieper asked Hirst if the Treasurer reports were generated via the QuickBooks accounting software. Hirst said only the general voucher was generated via QuickBooks and that the rest were generated in excel. The current report formats were developed by a previous financial manager, but it might be possible to generate the treasurers reports off

of QuickBooks. Nelson offered to assist Hirst with developing QuickBooks reports.

Shirts and District Wear

Trask presented the new logo and asked for the board's opinion on purchasing shirts for the staff and supervisors to wear. It was thought that the shirts would be good advertisement and therefore the SWCD could pay for this expense out of the education and promotion fund.

The board ask that Trask invite a local retailer to the next meeting to present a selection of shirts and color options.

Ditch meeting with the County

The board asked Commissioner Beckel if the County had made any moves on setting up a meeting to address ditching issues. Beckel said that committee members had been approved but he did not think that any meeting arrangements had been made.

Sonstegard was the SWCD representative that had been approached to sit on the committee. He offered to reach out to the County Board Chair to schedule a meeting date.

Commissioner Beckel also recommended that the SWCD Board look into scheduling a liaison committee meeting to take a look at the arrangement between the County and SWCD.

Cooperator's agreement for Jeff Poolman

A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Pieper, to approve a cooperator's agreement with Poolman. The JPB Engineers are providing technical assistance to correct a failing retaining wall on the shoreline.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None

Motion carried

Cooperator's agreement for Jesse Dziurewicz

A motion was made by Sonstegard, with a second by Hansen, to approve a cooperator's agreement with Dziurewicz. The JPB Engineers are providing technical assistance for a shoreline protection project on Lake of the Woods.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None

Motion carried

FY08 cost share closeout

A motion was made by Sonstegard, with a second by Pieper, to approve the FY08 cost share closeout paperwork for the State Cost Share Program.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None

Motion carried

Pine/Currys Island grant application

The staff presented a grant proposal for the Pine and Currys Island project. The grant deadline had already passed, but it was expected that there would be funding available in March of 2010 or November of 2010. The funding is through the constitutional amendment dollars and was being cycled through the DNR. The next step to get the project proposal approved is to have DNR support for the application since the work would take place on DNR lands. The staff will be meeting with DNR officials to present the proposal and try to gather support. The project budget and outline was

presented on the overhead screen.

The board was in favor of doing what needed to be done to save the islands. They stressed again the ecological and economical value of the islands.

Surface Water Assessment grant application

Hirst told the board that he had applied for the SWAG grant through the MPCA. The grant would pay for the District to train Kooch SWCD staff on water monitoring in the Big Fork Watershed. The goal is to train Kooch SWCD staff and enable them to conduct water monitoring in Kooch County. Itasca SWCD would coordinate the monitoring sites in their county and their efforts would compliment those of LOTW and Kooch. The project budget was presented in the overhead screen.

School Forest Grant

Trask presented the budget and the map for the School Forest grant. The grant had been submitted through the new DNR Partners Legacy Grant. If the grant was received the SWCD would have to enter into a contract with the School to implement their portion of the grant. The budget for the project was presented on the overhead screen.

New grant applications

The staff talked to the board about other grant opportunities available. There was discussion of possibly setting up committees to oversee the contracts and grants that the SWCD receives. This would be easier and less time consuming than assembling a full board, and the committee could report to the full board at regular meetings.

Green Acres and Rural Preserves Program

Trask talked about the new requirements for SWCDs under the Rural Preserves program. She had recently talked with the assessor and he did not expect a large number of applications. Despite this, the SWCD still needs to have a protocol for any applications. Trask suggested that she work to develop a draft action plan using the BWSR guidance and present it at an upcoming board meeting. See attachment to the November 12th, 2009 agenda for a copy of the new guidance.

Update on NRCS WRS Project - Bostic/Zippel

Voigt updated the board on the recent site visits by the NRCS Water Resources Staff and also talked about the soils investigations being completed by the geologist. Things are progressing as expected.

Water Plan approval by the BWSR Board

Hirst notified the board that the 2010-2020 Water Plan is completed and approved. The County Board would need to adopt the plan. The SWCD board would also have to consider adopting the plan as their comprehensive plan.

Emergency Resolution at the MASWCD Convention

Hirst discussed the emergency resolution (see attachment to the November 12th, 2009 agenda) to increase the maximum feedlot size eligible for state cost share to 1000 a.u., up from 300 a.u. The board said they would support the resolution if it came up for discussion at the MASWCD convention.

Contract signatures

A break was taken to get necessary signatures for contracts.

Reports

Josh Stromlund - Land and Water Planning Director

Stromlund was absent from the meeting, but he provided a report. See attachment to agenda.

Mike Hirst - Resource Technician

Hirst presented the highlights from his report. See attachment to agenda.

Corryn Trask - Resource Technician

Trask presented the highlights from her report. See attachment to agenda.

Kelly Voigt - NRCS District Conservationist

Voigt discussed the following points:

*The State FAC Committee has sent a letter to the National FAC Committee recommending that the Service Center be released from its lease.

*WAE hours have been allocated to Voigt and she is looking to hire someone one part time for a short term.

*CSP signups have been very time consuming and entail a large amount of paperwork. There has been a decent amount of interest in the program from both Kooch and LOTW landowners.

The next regular Board meeting has been set for December 10th, 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, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried

Meeting was declared adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Secretary _____

Date _____