

MINUTES FROM THE September 17th, 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 September 17th, 2009.

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

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

Others Present: Land and Water Planning Director, Josh Stromlund; Resource Technician, Mike Hirst; Resource Technician, Corryn Trask; Lake of the Woods County Commissioner, Todd Beckel; District Conservationist, Kelly Voigt

Motion to approve September 17th, 2009 agenda: Krause Second: Pieper
Addition: letter from Bailey regarding ditch maintenance
Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried

Motion to approve August 13th, 2009 minutes: Sonstegard Second: Pieper
Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried

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

Motion to approve bills from September 17th, 2009 agenda: Pieper Second: Krause
Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard Opposed: None
Motion carried

District Business/Information

Update from Glen Kajewski, District Conservationist

Due to a change in meeting time, Kajewski was unable to attend the meeting. Trask informed the board that she had spoken with Kajewski over the phone the day prior to the meeting to cover questions from the board. In response to the technician position and space issues, Kajewski said he did not have any issues with the board sending letters to the State Conservationist stating their concerns regarding lack of progress. Kajewski indicated that he would be unable to attend a meeting in October, but would reschedule at a later date.

The board asked the staff to draft two separate letters, one that requested immediate action on posting and hiring for the NRCS technician position, and one to address the space issues and lack of resolution in over two years. The letters will be reviewed by the board at the next board meeting.

Outstanding Conservationist Award

A motion was made by Krause, with a second by Pieper, to approve travel expenses for a representative of Border State Bank if they chose to attend the MASWCD State Convention awards presentation.

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

JPB invoice for Frohreich project

A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Sonstegard, to approve payment to the JPB Engineers in the amount of \$800 for engineering plans for the Frohreich project.

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

Motion carried

NRCS Space Agreement and rental arrangements

A rental agreement for 2008-2009 from the NRCS was presented. See attachment to the agenda for a copy of the agreement. Voigt discussed the new change that would require Districts to enter into their own agreement with the landlord rather than reimburse the NRCS for space. Voigt agreed to talk with the appropriate staff to find out who currently serves as landlord for the Federal Post Office Building.

A motion was made by Sonstegard, with a second by Krause, to approve entering into an agreement to reimburse the NRCS for space for October 2008-October 2009.

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

Motion carried

DDAP contract extensions

A motion was made by Pieper, with a second by Krause, to approve extending the FY07-06DDAP drought disaster contract end date until December 31st, 2009.

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

Motion carried

A motion was made by Pieper, with a second by Krause, to approve extending the FY07-03DDAP drought disaster contract end date until December 31st, 2009.

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

Motion carried

A motion was made by Pieper, with a second by Krause, to approve extending the FY07-05DDAP drought disaster contract end date until December 31st, 2009.

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

Motion carried

Johnson abandoned well sealing cost share request

A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Pieper, to encumber funds for Phil Johnson's abandoned well sealing project, see attachment to agenda for application. Funding for the project will not exceed \$300 or 75% of the total approved project cost, whichever is less. The project must be completed within one year of approval.

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

Motion carried

Baade FY07-02 cost share final payment request

A motion was made by Krause, with a second by Sonstegard, to approve final payment for Baade's shoreline protection project in the amount of \$6,000. See attachment to agenda for cost share voucher and certification form.

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

Motion carried

Rathman FY09-03WP well sealing final payment request

A motion was made by Krause, with a second by Hansen, to approve final payment in the amount of \$187.50 for Rathman's abandoned well sealing project. See attachment

to agenda for payment information.

Affirmative: Nelson, Hansen, Krause, Pieper, Sonstegard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

MPCA Clean Water Legacy Grant

The staff informed the board that they are pursuing a grant through the MPCA which would provide additional funding for the Bostic Zippel Comprehensive Watershed Assessment Project

MASWCD 2009 Resolution Packet

Voting on 2009 resolutions for MASWCD will be tabled until the October meeting.

Cost share request

Trask informed the board that there were cost share funds which would need to be encumbered before June 30th, 2010. An application by Poolman had come in, which ranked as a high priority water quality issue. No cost estimates were available, but the landowner was considering technical assistance from the JPB for design plans. The board indicated that if the landowner agreed to JPB assistance there would be a good possibility that the project would be funded.

Letter regarding ditching assistance

Pieper presented a letter from Gary Bailey requesting assistance with cleaning out an existing ditch. The consensus of the board was to forward the letter on to the County Ditch Authority.

Letter from the IJC board

Hirst presented a letter from the IJC thanking him for participating in their tour and informing them of resource concerns on the lake. See attachment to the agenda.

Health Insurance Rates for 2010

Hirst presented health insurance rate increase information for 2010. See attachment to the agenda.

Well clinic summary and well testing costs for non-residents

Trask presented a summary of the 2010 well testing clinic. Participation was down, but overall the clinic was successful. See attachment to the agenda for summary.

Future monitoring contracts with MPCA

Hirst discussed with the board possibilities of entering into MPCA contracts for water monitoring. Some of the monitoring may take place in Koochiching or Itasca counties, depending on the project type. There was also discussion of entering into agreement with Koochiching SWCD to provide some technical assistance for monitoring. Hirst would be meeting with MPCA staff to find out more information on requirements and responsibilities. The board was open to ideas and would like more information before making a determination.

Discuss constitutional amendment funding and upcoming opportunities

The staff briefly discussed the large amount of natural resource funding to be available over the next 25 years via the constitutional amendment passed in 2008.

Wetland banking proposal

Stromlund informed the board that a mining company had purchased a section of land in Lake of the Woods County to be used as a wetland replacement for mining in eastern Minnesota.

Travel and Training Requests

Hirst requested permission from the board to attend a MACFO conference
A motion was made by Hansen, with a second by Krause, to grant permission to Hirst to attend the MACFO conference.

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

Motion carried

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 the Conservation Security Program is under-way and the NRCS was currently accepting applications.

The next regular Board meeting has been set for October 8th, 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: Pieper Second: Sonstegard

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

Motion carried

Meeting was declared adjourned at 7:30 a.m.

Secretary _____

Date _____