

Minutes of the Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors regular meeting held on Thursday, August 11, 2011 at the Ag Services Building in Olivia.

Present: Marc Iverson
Dave Guggisberg
Loyal Fisher
Kathryn K Kelly
Jim Schafer

Also Present: John Stahl, Renville County Board; Jason Beckler, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist; and Tom Kalahar, Tara Latozke & Karen Flom, staff.

Meeting was **called to order** by Chair, Marc Iverson at 7:05 a.m.

MSC (Loyal, Dave) to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2011 regular meeting.

MSC (Dave, Kathryn) to approve the July Treasurer's Report subject to Audit and to approve the July bills as presented.

Staff Reports:

- **Karen reported**
 - The onsite audit was completed.
 - Most of the organizing/cleaning/sorting is complete and the remodeling project has been finished.
 - Tom, Kristen & Karen met with staff from Minnesota Conservation Corp for a review of both the program and Kristen's workload during her internship.
 - Karen & Marc worked on a budget request to Renville County and submitted it to Sara Folsted.
 - Proposed FY12 BWSR grant amounts were reported. Those amounts will be approved at the August 25th BWSR Board meeting.
 - The SWCD will receive nearly a \$3,700 dividend from MCIT for 2011.
 - Karen will be attending the SW/WC insurance meeting on August 17th.
 - Karen informed the Supervisors that the Hawk Creek picnic will be Sept. 7th. Supervisors need to let Steph Klamm know if they are attending.
 - There are three current and potential contribution agreements. MASWCD has one with NRCS for districts to write CRP conservation plans. Jason is working on those plans and we'll bill in a couple weeks. Initial information was sent to NRCS for the WRP monitoring agreement. Tara & Karen have been working with NRCS on preliminary info for the Certified Wetland determinations. Tara discussed workload issues relevant to this issue.

MSC (Dave, Loyal) to direct staff to move forward with a Contribution Agreement with NRCS to assist with workload for Certified Wetland Determinations.

- **Tom Reported**
 - The 2011 conservation easement site inspections are completed. There were no serious problems noted. Tom is working with BWSR engineers on plans to repair several wetland restoration sites this fall.
 - 7 feedlot inspections were completed. He is working with several feedlot owners to upgrade and correct problems from previous inspections.
 - Tom attended the July 19th Watershed Alliance Meeting.
 - There have been some requests to look at storm damaged groves.

- **Tara Reported**
 - She's been working with NRCS and county staff on both the Sampson & Maier easements.
 - Tara presented some projects for approval and payment:

MSC (Kathryn, Dave) to approve partial payment for continued maintenance on Contract B06-10 with Mark Young for Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (Practice 643/D-1) for interseeding his RIM with native local ecotype grasses and forbs in Sec. 24, Henryville Twp. Total cost was \$4,543.09 with cost share payment of \$3,407.31 and T/A \$851.83. Tara Latozke TAA

MSC (Loyal, Dave) to approve final payment to Tom Breitreutz for Contract #B05-10 for Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (Practice 643/D-1) for his project located in Sec. 28 & 33 of Flora Twp. Total cost was \$675 with cost share payment of \$506.25 and T/A of \$125.56. TAA, Tara Latozke.

MSC (Dave, Kathryn) to approve a \$465.14 final payment to John Maass for Contract FWQM 01-10 (Practice 313/D-6) for Wastewater Feedlot Runoff Control in Sec. 32, Cairo Twp. Total cost of the project was \$37,830.95. I & S Group, Inc. Nickolas Ellenberger, PE Design Engineer TAA.

- **Tara continued her report**
 - There was a WCA violation on a setback on an ag field. She documented the restoration.
 - The NRCS Certified Wetland agreement was reviewed
 - Tara attended the NRCS Agreement training. She also attended the Water Plan Task Force meeting, both Grass Waterway and Sediment Basin training conducted by NRCS and the Hydric Soils Training by BWSR. She worked at the MASWCD Booth with Loyal at Farmfest.

- **Jason reported**
 - He contacted a total of 245 people this month. There were two CRP contracts for 70.3 acres. He is currently working with landowners to manage new seeding sites and talking to them about mowing & spraying.
 - Jason is getting a lot of interest in the buffer easements. A sign-up date has not been announced.
 - Two landowners have signed Walk-In contracts for a total of 244.2 acres.
 - Jason attended the 7/19 MN River Watershed Alliance meeting and gave a presentation.

- He took part in a 7/20 CRP teleconference and a 7/29 PF teleconference.
- On 8/2 he met with the MN Cattlemen's Assoc. president regarding the GREP program.
- **Kristen reported**
 - She helped complete the easement inspections and has been working with Tom on feedlot inspections. Her AmeriCorp term will be ending on August 19th. Jeff has been able to get some WAE hours so she'll be staying on for awhile and working for NRCS.

NRCS Report: Jeff Kjorness, District Conservationist

- Jeff reported that the EQIP Local Work Group meeting was held on August 1st. The group adopted the same scoring as last year for the 2012 sign-up.
- Staff continue to make payments on WHIP contract items that were completed this spring.
- Working with SWCD staff on WRP monitoring agreement. Mike has been working with BWSR & the landowner on a new easement.
- Jeff is working with Tara on the Contribution Agreement for the Certified Wetland Determinations.
- Jeff attended the Grazing workshop in Cottonwood & Redwood Counties.

Board Reports:

- Jim reported on the Local Water Management Task Force meeting and indicated that the 10 year Water Plan update will be coming up.
- Loyal reported on the MASWCD board meeting including a report from Tom Schultz on Forestry Resolutions. He indicated that the next Area 6 meeting will be November 16th in McLeod County.
- Marc & Dave did not have anything to report
- Kathryn indicated that she'd been elected Treasurer at the SW/WC annual meeting. On July 18th she attended the Minnesota River Board Annual meeting in Glenwood. She also attended a policy meeting in Mankato for the MRB. She attended Farmfest as a representative of the MASWCD.
- The MASWCD Board met on August 10th. The Convention will be held Dec. 4-7 this year in Bloomington. The SWCD Governance conference will be in St. Cloud on Sept. 12 & 13.

There was discussion about the future of the tree planter and the uses for the shed. No action taken. The matter of disposal of the tree planter will be placed on the agenda at a later date.

Karen presented the proposed Record Retention Policy and gave some history of the development of the document. **MSC (Loyal, Dave) to adopt the Record Retention Policy as presented** and to forward it to the MN Historical Society for approval.

There was discussion about the MASWCD awards process for this year. Consensus was to nominate Ed Gaasch for Outstanding Conservationist.

MSC (Dave, Kathryn) to adjourn the meeting

