

Minutes of the Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District regular meeting held on Thursday, January 13, 2011 at the Ag Services Building in Olivia.

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

Also present: John Stahl, Renville County Board; Jeff Kjorness, NRCS District Conservationist; Jason Beckler, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist; and Tara Latozke & Karen Flom, staff.

Meeting was **called to order** by Chair Marc Iverson at 7:00 a.m.

MSC (Kathryn, Dave) to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2010 regular meeting.

MSC (Dave, Jim) to approve the December Treasurer's Report subject to audit and to approve the bills as presented.

There was discussion regarding the 2011 dues request from the National Association of Conservation Districts. **MS (Loyal, Jim) to pay \$1,200 in NACD dues. Motion passed with 4 yes and 1 no votes.**

Staff Reports:

Karen reported:

- Semi-annual reports to the LCCMR were submitted for both active grants
- Three additional easements will be funded from LCCMR funds due to fund transfers and slippage
- Year End financial work has begun.
- Fund request submitted to Renville County for feedlot funds & half of 2011 General Fund monies
- Prairie Country RC&D will again be funding grants. Karen has the information.
- Minimal deposit to employee HCSP accounts at the end of year from the unused sick leave balances. The amount well under budget for 2010.

Tom was on vacation so Karen gave his report:

- Tom report on the Hard Rock Easements detailed the newly funded easements.
- Reported that Jason & Mike Anderson, NRCS Tech, met with the NRCS Technical committee on Jan. 4th regarding the proposed Grazing program.
- Tom reported that he submitted the year-end feedlot program report to Renville County as required in the agreement. A copy of that report was distributed.
- Tom met with the Renville County Feedlot Officer regarding 2011 inspection activity and Tom will begin inspections as the weather improves. The 2010 MPCA audit was completed and Renville County received the highest number of possible points.

- Tom requested input from the supervisors on the possibility of sponsoring a showing of Troubled Waters sometime in the spring. John suggested contacting the Renville County Administrator about a joint venture.

Tara reported:

- She has been updating her file paperwork, spreadsheets and completing e-link for the State Cost-Share program and working with Karen to reconcile accounts for the Year End financial report.
- Feedlot Water Quality Management grants have seen a similar workload to the State Cost-Share and Native Buffer Cost-Share programs.
- Kane Radel from BWSR was here to do an audit on WCA paperwork with few comments or recommendations coming out of that review.
- Tara reviewed a SMBSC replacement plan for WCA
- Tara has been reviewing bank and replacement plan annual reports for WCA.
- Local Water Management workload included well sealing and ag waste vouchers.
- Tara reported that she was attending the High Island Technical meeting.

Tara presented the following for approval and payment:

MSC (Dave, Kathryn) to approve partial payment for engineering costs for contract **FWQM #03-10** to Wayne Zimmer for Waste Water and Feedlot Runoff Control practice #784 (D-6) in SW ¼ Section 32, Birch Cooley Twp. Payment of \$2,737.00 based on 100% cost-share for Design and Inspection. Dennis Johnson, Design Engineer TAA.

MSC (Dave, Jim) to approve partial payment of \$5,302.95 based on 75% of total Cost (\$7,070.61) to Wayne Zimmer, Contract **FWQM #03-10**, for earthwork for his Waste Water and Feedlot Runoff control project (Practice 784 or D-6) in SW ¼ Section 32, Birch Cooley Twp. Dennis Johnson, Design Engineer TAA.

Staff Report:

Jason Beckler reported:

- He contacted a total of 89 people this month and signed up two wetland CRP contracts for a total of 7.2 acres.
- Jason is currently working on the second round of RIM Buffer Easement processing. He is also contacting landowners and taking applications in anticipation of another round of funding for the spring.
- Jason is scheduled to meet with the Renville County Board on January 18th to discuss cooperating to place buffers on ditches. He has a meeting scheduled for January 20th with Larry Zupke, Ditch Inspector.
- Jason reported on the NRCS State Technical meeting which was held in St. Cloud on January 4th. He and Mike Anderson attended and discussed the possibility of a grazing easement program with those on the Technical committee. The proposal was well received. The next step will be to meet with the BWSR RIM committee.

Board Reports:

Loyal reported:

- The Area VI Chair meeting will be held Jan. 18th in New Ulm.
- He went to his first MASWCD State Board meeting representing Area VI.
- He commented that past Hawk Creek Annual meetings have been valuable and he recommends other Supervisors attend.

Kathryn Reported:

- She attended the DNR Roundtable where she met the new DNR commissioner. Topics included invasive species.
- The Water Management Roundtable is in process of developing a white paper. Information will be available for the MASWCD Legislative Day at the Capitol which will be Feb. 28 & March 1. The headquarters is the Embassy Suites in St. Paul with shuttle buses running to the Capitol.
- Kathryn will be attending the national NACD Convention in Nashville as a voting member.

John Stahl, Renville County Board, updated the SWCD on SMBSC/Ditch 45 issues.

Jeff Kjorness, NRCS District Conservationist reported:

- The 2011 CSP sign-up is underway and will end on January 21, 2011. Currently the Olivia field office has 15 applications for the the 3rd CSP sign-up.
- 2011 sign-up for EQIP will run thru March 11th. It is anticipated that there will be \$21 million available which is about the same as other years. EQIP does contain technical assistance funds. Staff continue to make payments before the end of the fiscal year 2010.
- WHIP applications will be accepted thru Feb. 4th. There is less money available than in previous years.

Health Care Savings Plan revision: Marc presented a draft revision to the current Health Care Savings Plan portion of the Renville SWCD Personnel Policies. **MSC (Kathryn Dave) to approve the draft HCSP draft as presented and include it as Item #7 of the HCSP policy in the Renville SWCD Personnel Policies.**

MSC (Loyal, Jim) to take the motion tabled from the Dec. meeting off the table. That motion was "MS(Kathryn, Loyal) to deposit \$650 to the HCSP of each SWCD employee in lieu of a salary increase." Karen reported that the MSRS had given preliminary approval to the draft wording. Motion passed.

Election of Officers: MSC (Loyal, Kathryn) to retain the 2010 slate of officers.

Chair: Marc Iverson

Vice Chair: Loyal Fisher

Sec/Treas: Dave Guggisberg

Committee Assignments: After review and discussion MSC (Kathryn, Dave) to retain the same committee assignments as 2010.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Hawk Creek Watershed	Kathryn	Loyal
High Island Watershed	Dave	Jim
Crow River JPB	Jim	Loyal
Technical Service Area	Loyal	Kathryn
Prairie Country RC&D	Kathryn	Dave
Personnel Committee	Marc & Kathryn	
Pro Ag	Loyal	Dave
Minnesota River Board	Kathryn	Loyal
Avid Anglers	Jim	
Minnesota River Alliance	Jim	Loyal

MSC (Jim, Kathryn) that depositories remain at the discretion of the Office Manager in consultation with the Sec./Treas.

Regular meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 a.m. at the Ag Services Building in Olivia.

Meeting was **adjourned** at 9:02 a.m.