

**Minutes of the Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors regular meeting held on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at the Ag Services Building in Olivia MN.**

**Present:** Dave Guggisberg  
Loyal Fisher  
Jim Schafer  
Marc Iverson

**Absent:** Kathryn Kelly

**Also Present:** John Stahl, Renville County Board; Jeff Kjorness, NRCS; Jason Becker, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist; Karen Flom & Tara Latozke, staff.

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

**MSC (Loyal, Dave) to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2011 regular meeting.**

**MSC (Dave, Loyal) to approve the June 2011 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and the June bills as presented.**

**Staff Reports:**

- Karen reported on the workload related to the 2009 & 2010 LCCMR grants. She reported that the remodeling was complete and the last month she spent significant time with tasks related to that project. Day-to-day tasks are up to date.
- Tom was not present but his written report indicated that he'd done 27 RIM inspections during the month with no significant problems on those easements.
- Tom, along with other SWCD & NRCS staff, attended training on WRP & RIM/WRP site inspections. The SWCD will be paid to do these inspections.
- On June 22<sup>nd</sup> several BWSR staff were on sites in Renville County regarding easement evaluation procedures.
- Feedlot workload has been low due to landowners being busy with field work. Tom did work on follow-up on feedlot repairs on three past violations. Two have been completed and one is just entering the construction stage. Tom is also working with Kyle Vogt of the TSA on MinnFarms and construction plans for feedlot corrections.
- Tom attended the Area 6 MASWCD meeting, the BWSR easement monitoring meeting and the NRCS WRP site inspection training this month.
- Again, office remodeling workload was significant.
- Tara reported that office remodeling and the State shut-down took up a great deal of time. She also reported that she is reviewing a new proposed design for the Sampson project and is working on a county tile permit for the Maier project.
- Tara reported that she sent general information to landowners on management of establishment on Buffer Cost-Share plantings.

**MSC (Dave, Loyal) to approve partial payment of Contract FWQM 01-10 to John Maass (practice D-6, 313) in Sec. 32 Cairo Twp. for \$12,068.96 from the FWQM grant for roof structure and labor and concrete based on total project cost of \$28,330.95 and bills totaling \$26,330.95. Engineers are the I & S Group, Inc. Nickolas Ellenberger, PE Design Engineer TAA.**

**MSC (Dave, Loyal) to approve partial payment of \$1,500 for the John Maass project for engineering construction and inspection costs. Project FWQM 01-10 is located in Sec. 32, Cairo Twp and is practice D-6 (313). Total project cost is \$29,830.95.**

**I & S Group, Inc. Nickolas Ellenberger, PE Design Engineer TAA.**

- Tara reported that she'd done some WCA reviews including a setback review in Renville County and a site visit for the replacement at the Buffalo Lake Grain Elevator. She's also reviewed the NRCS Certified Wetland agreement.
- Tara reported that a rain garden in Lake Allie was removed by the landowner.
- She reviewed one mining reclamation plan.
- Tara attended the area MASWCD meeting, the Hawk Creek Technical meeting, the CROW technical meeting, the MASWCD committee developing self evaluation criteria, a Renville County stress management program, the leadership program and the WRP monitoring training.
  
- Jason reported that he contacted 18 people. Three CRP contracts for 13.3 acres were enrolled. Both General CRP applications were accepted for a total of 70.3 acres. Jason is working with several landowners to manage their new seeding and is checking with both landowners and vendors to determine if required seeding is complete.
- Jason reported that the Buffer Easement sign-up has been delayed until fall due to the State shutdown. He has several applications ready to go and continues to send out quotes. Kristen has been assisting him with those contacts.
- Jason had a meeting with Matt Holland from PF, he helped with the tour for the Area 6 meeting, he met with BWSR staff about a new GPS RIM monitoring system which he & Kristen tested gave feedback to BWSR.
  
- Kristen gave a general report on her experience so far with the SWCD. She's getting a wide variety of experiences and learning about conservation programs.

#### **NRCS Report – Jeff Kjorness, District Conservationist**

- Jeff reported that Round three of the 2011 CSP sign-up is completed and the Olivia field office was notified that three additional applications were approved. Field reviews are completed, contracts signed and funds are obligated.
- Staff continue to make payments on EQIP contract items for work completed this spring. Two ag waste storage facilities began construction last month. A local work group meeting will be scheduled in late July.
- Staff also continue to make WHIP payments on spring projects.
- The SWCD will enter into a Contribution Agreement with NRCS to do 10 of the 18 WRP easement monitoring reviews. Training was completed for both NRCS & SWCD staff..

#### **Board Reports:**

- Marc reported that he and Kathryn met with Sara Folsted & Mark Erickson about the feedlot program.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.**

