

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held on Thursday, June 9, 2011 at 7:00 a.m. at the Ag Services Building in Olivia.

Present: **Marc Iverson**
 Kathryn K. Kelly
 Dave Guggisberg
 Loyal Fisher

Absent: **Jim Schafer**

Also Present: John Stahl, Renville County Board; Jason Beckler, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist; Kristen Kieta, Minnesota Conservation Corp Intern & Karen Flom, Staff.

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

MSC (Kathryn, Loyal) to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2011 regular meeting.

MSC (Dave, Kathryn) to approve the May Treasurer's Report subject to audit and to approved the May bills as presented.

Staff Reports:

- Karen reported on audit progress, plans for the area meeting, the 2011 WALK events with BOLD & GFW 6th grade students, the remodeling project and the Minnesota River Board (MRB) meeting & tour that was held in Olivia in May.
- Karen informed the Supervisors that the staff will be participating in a food drive on June 30th.
- She gave background on two issues that will need action later in the meeting and she summarized Kristen's training program and workload.
- Tom was not at the meeting but Karen summarized his written report. He reported that there were 4 feedlot inspections and that getting appointments was difficult this time of year. He is working with Kyle Vogt of the Technical Service Area on feedlot cost-share plans.
- Tom attended several meetings including the MRB meeting, both WALK events and he was interviewed by a reporter for an article in the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's newsletter. He also had a meeting with Rob Collett from DNR Waters concerning wetland issues in Renville County.
- Tom & Kristen have completed 51 of the required 126 RIM inspections. He is working with BWSR staff to design repairs for some of the sites impacted by Beavers. He presented the information on one violation and outlined the steps needed to deal with this violation.

MSC (Kathryn, Loyal) to send a letter from the Board of Supervisors to Mr. William Steffel regarding the RIM violation found on his easement #65-03-01-01.

- Tara was not at the meeting but left a written report that was presented to the Supervisors. She reported that she was working on the RIM/WRP easements including boundary lines, tile permits, and some seeding. She's been doing the weekly well measurements on the DOT mitigation sites.
- Most of the work for the Buffer Cost-Share program has been to work with landowners on management and establishment of plantings. She anticipates bills coming in before the next meeting.

- Tara reported that Redwood SWCD hired a new technician who has many years of experience in the conservation field and who Tara has worked with in the past. She expects she will be trained quickly and will be able to take over the WCA duties in Redwood County soon.
 - Tara has been reviewing replacement plans and also fielding phone calls with wetland questions. There was one Swampbuster and WCA violation this month. The tile will be removed.
 - Tara attended the City of Granite Falls Well Head Protection meeting.
 - Tara reviewed two mining reclamation plans during the month. She attended the MRB tour, the two days of WALK and went to hydrology training.
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- Jason reported that he contacted 53 people and had 3 CRP contracts signed this month. He spot checked 10 contracts. He has not heard the results for the General CRP sign-up.
 - Jason is working with several landowners to make sure they get the proper seedbed prep completed and he is also working with the seed vendors and landowners to make sure everything is getting seeded. He assisted Tara with a WRP survey.
 - Jason also attended the MRB tour, was interviewed for an article in the Clara City Herald, attended BWSR Walk-In training and helped with one WALK event.

Kristen Kieta introduced herself to the Supervisors and gave them some personal and education background as well as information on the MCC Internship program. She outlined her workload and training since she arrived at the Renville SWCD office.

NRCS Report – Jeff Kjorness

- The Olivia field office was notified that 3 additional CSP applications have been approved for funding. Work continues on CSP with field reviews. One landowner has cancelled his application.
- EQIP workload continues with payment of contract items completed this spring.
- Staff continue to make WHIP payments on work completed this spring.
- Most WRP workload has been making payments on prescribed burns completed this spring.
- Jeff discussed the possibility of a contribution agreement for the SWCD staff to do Certified Wetland Determinations. He also notified the Board that Mike attended Civil Rights Compliance training and both Mike & Jeff attended Hydric Soils training. He notified the Supervisors that the NRCS Ford Taurus was damaged in a theft attempt on Friday June 3rd.

Loyal left the meeting at 8:20 a.m.

Board Reports:

Marc reported that he had been negotiating the PF Contract details with Matt Holland and would fill the Supervisors in on details when that item came up on the agenda. There will be a late June meeting regarding the feedlot program and this time Scott Refsland and Tom Kalahar will be attending.

Kathryn reported that Loyal is on a MASWCD committee working on revising the awards system. The MASWCD Convention will be held at the Bloomington Sheraton the next two years. There is a new Resolutions system.

Kathryn attended the SW/WC Service Coop meeting on May 25th. She is the treasurer of this group. She will be in Washington DC next week. She reminded people to watch the KARE 11 show on the Minnesota River on June 12th and shared information on a June 24th seminar about sediment.

Kathryn attended the Prairie County RC&D Council meeting. They are viable for about a year and are dealing with the many changes they are experiencing since federal funding for RC&D programs no longer exists.

Contract renewal with Pheasants Forever for Farm Bill Position:

Marc gave the background of the contract and the financial obligations of all parties. He met with Matt Holland of PF and has been exchanging emails with him due to the fact the proposed contract for July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 will increase the SWCD contribution to PF by about \$3500. After considering financial and personnel issues, Marc recommended that a one year contract be signed.

MSC (Dave, Kathryn) to enter into a contract with Pheasants Forever for a Farm Bill Biologist for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

There was discussion regarding the potential contribution agreement with NRCS for SWCD staff to do Certified Wetland Agreements. **MSC (Dave, Kathryn) to direct staff to notify both BWSR & NRCS that the Renville SWCD is interested in the possibility of pursuing a contribution agreement to do Certified Wetland Determinations.**

MSC (Kathryn, Dave) to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 a.m.