

**Minutes of the Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors regular meeting held on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at the Ag Services Building in Olivia MN**

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

**Also present:** Tom Fischer, BWSR Board Conservationist; John Stahl, Renville County Board; Tom Kalahar, Tara Latozke & Karen Flom, staff.

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

MSC (Kathryn, Jim) to **approve the minutes of the October 14, 2010 regular meeting.**

MSC (Dave, Kathryn) to **approve the October 2010 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and to approve the October 2010 bills as presented.**

**Staff Reports:**

Karen reported:

- We've received all the WLI funds that we've requested.
- Reimbursement was received from BWSR for the legal fees and title insurance costs for the Buffer Easements. Easement processing funds for the 2009 Hard Rock Easements was requested and received and disbursed to the other SWCD offices.
- Tom & Karen will be working on semi-annual reports to LCCMR on the two active Hard Rock grants. Reports are due Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 2010 Dividend of \$2,455 was received from MCIT making the net insurance cost for the year \$1,946. MCIT provides property, auto and D&O insurance.
- We've been asked to host the May 16, 2011 MN River Board meeting and have accepted.
- Supervisor votes on resolutions were sent to MASWCD along with registration for the convention.

Tom Reported:

- On progress of easement processing for 2009 & 2010 Hard Rock projects. Also reported on workload for buffer easement program.
- Jason & Tom hope to meet with the BWSR RIM Committee in December to present the grazing easement idea.
- Tom has been checking the water control structures & dikes on existing RIM/CREP wetland restorations for muskrat and beaver damage. About 50% have some degree of damage.
- Tom reported on his conversations with BWSR & MASWCD regarding the "Walk In" program. Discussion followed regarding workload, funding opportunities, how the program could affect the perception of the SWCD role, priorities and mission of SWCD offices, etc. Consensus was to help interested landowners learn more about the program.

- Seven feedlots were inspected during the month. Tom is working on contacting feedlot owners who not responded to calls or letters.
- Tom attended an "Ask an Expert" meeting and explained the program to the Board.
- Tom gave a presentation on Natural Resources and Wildlife to a local Boy Scout group.

Tara Reported:

- Well measurements continue on the mitigation easements & she is working with some maintenance planning for next year. The two RIM/WRP projects are both in the design process with BWSR engineers.
- Tara completed 35 site inspections on State Cost-Share projects as required by the rules. She found two violations and will contact landowners.
- Tara has been processing several well sealing contracts to be paid with Local Water Management funds.
- WCA workload included numerous site visits for farm wetland setbacks, follow-up work on the SMBSC replacement plan, follow-up with BWSR on procedures for the Woelfel violation, and she reviewed slides for the City of Olivia storm water and water line project.
- Tara reported that her 2001 grant application for DNR CPL grant was not funded. She is waiting for approval on the revisions to the 2010 grant.
- Tara attended the BWSR Academy and also attended a meeting about the Walk In Program.

Jason was not present but submitted a written report which included the following information:

- He had 91 landowner contacts this month regarding CRP. He enrolled on contract. Worked with 2 CRP management activities. He has a number of projects waiting for more funding.
- The Crow River and Hawk Creek Watershed projects both had incentives paid to Renville County landowners who enrolled CRP. Jason assisted in distributing about \$35,000.
- Paperwork has started for the new RIM Buffer easements. He anticipates getting additional funding for this program and is promoting it with landowners.
- Jason attended the DNR/BWSR meeting in Marshall to discuss the Walk In program.
- Jason & Tom are tentatively on the Dec. BWSR RIM committee agenda to discuss their grazing program idea.

**Cost-Share Program Amendment:**

MSC (Dave, Loyal) to amend **Contract #B-13-09** with Renville County to extend the contract from May 1, 2012 to April 1, 2014 to allow adequate time for Site Prep.

**Cost-Share Program Approval/Vouchers:**

MSC (Loyal Kathryn) to approve partial payment on **Contract #B-05-10** with Tom Breikreutz for \$3,918.75 based on a total cost of \$5,225.00. Practice D-1 or 643, Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats in Sections 28 & 33, Flora Township. TA of \$979.69 with Taralee Latozke TAA.

MSC (Marc, Dave) for final approval and payment on **Contract #B-03-09** with John Stahl for \$1,200 based on total cost of \$1,670 for Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats 643 , D-1 in Section 14, Henryville Township. TA of \$300 with Taralee Latozke TAA. Kathryn Kelly abstained.

MSC (Loyal, Kathryn) to approve partial payment of **Contract #B-06-09** with Mark Erickson for \$105.14 based on total cost of \$140.19 for Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats 643, D-1 for his project in Section 32, Wang Township. TA \$26.29, Taralee Latozke, TAA.

#### **NRCS Report:**

NRCS staff were not available to report to the Board but a written report was submitted for their review which included the following information:

- The 2011 CSP sign-up is underway and will end on January 7, 2011. Jeff was at a meeting to go through the process of making payments.
- NRCS Staff are working on cleaning up contracts and making payments for existing EQIP & WHIP contracts. The start of the 2011 ranking period for new EQIP and WHIP applications has not been released.
- WRP workload includes modifying a contract to allowing cropping 150 acres in 2011 because of a failed seeding and to reseed the area in 2012. They are also working on the conservation plan for a new easement and are preparing for a closing on another easement.
- Staff finished up the Activity Based Costing (ABC) which is NRCS's new accountability software.
- Jeff is the Acting DC in Glencoe until the new DC arrives on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Board Reports:**

Jim reported that he'd attended Avid Anglers and there was discussion of the Green Corridor projects at that meeting.

Loyal gave an update of the Green Career event and indicated that it will be repeated in fall 2012.

- He was elected Area 6 Director at the Area meeting the week before. Mark Schnobrich was elected Sec/Treas. and Dave Trebelhorn Co-Director.
- Loyal indicated that he would work on a study guide for Troubled Waters.

Marc reported that he and Kathryn will have a personnel committee report for the full board in Dec. Some of the issues discussed with the staff and Personnel Committee earlier in the month were ways to deal with salaries and ideas for Supervisors to deal with comments from the public regarding SWCD projects.

- Marc & Kathryn met with Mark Erickson and Sara Folsted regarding the continuation of the feedlot agreement past the Dec. 31, 2010 date. All indications are that it will continue.

Dave congratulated Marc & Kathryn on their re-election.

Kathryn reported that she attended the MN River board meeting and was part of a presentation on the recent Roundtable and on MASWCD cooperation with AMC & MAWD. The League of MN Cities will be joining those efforts.

- Kathryn also attended a SW/WC Service Coop Meeting.

John Stahl indicated that the County is forming a trails committee and is in need of reps.

Tom Fischer added some information about the Walk In program and meeting.

MSC (Loyal, Jim) to approve the FY11 Grant Agreement with BWSR for the Farm Bill Assistant for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 at \$31,500 reimbursable.

The **December meeting** will be a long-range planning session. Invitations will be extended to Senator Kubly & Rep. Koenen as well as to Mark Erickson & Sara Folsted. The meeting **will be held Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Karen will check with The Masters to see if space can be reserved at their facility.

MSC (Dave, Kathryn) to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 a.m.