

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

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

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

Meeting was called to order by chair Marc Iverson at 7:02 a.m.

MSC (Dave, Kathryn) to approve the minutes of the Sept. 8, 2011 Regular meeting.

MSC (Kathryn, Loyal) to approve the September Treasurer's Report subject to audit and the September bills as presented.

Staff Reports:

Karen reported that she had just returned from vacation and from being ill.

- Mr. Maiser sent the preliminary audit report including a letter to Marc, and he indicated that final copies would be sent after the report is reviewed and approved by the State Auditor's office.
- Signed Contribution agreements were received from NRCS for both the WCA/Swampbuster and the WRP spot checks.
- BWSR FY12 Grant Agreements are not out yet. Beginning with this grant, money will be distributed differently than in past years.
- Supervisors were reminded to sign the MASWCD Resolutions ballot and to let Karen know if they would be attending the Nov. Area meeting.
- Karen attended an MCIT training in Sept. and will be attending the BWSR Academy in late Oct.

Tom Reported:

- He has been working with easement owners on spring burning projects and other management practices. The repair work on the Korkemeier wetland will begin this week with Phase 1 to be completed this fall and Phase II to be completed next summer.
- Tom completed 3 feedlot inspections this month. He is working with several feedlot owners to upgrade and correct problems from previous inspections.
- Tom attended the RIM 25 year anniversary event along with Kathryn, Jason & Kristen.
- Scott Kudelka from the Water Resource Center was in Renville County filming for the Ask an Expert project. The first segment dealt with buffers, marginal land easements and rock

outcrops. There will be another session dealing with manure management and wetland restorations.

Tara Reported:

- Tara completed the monthly well measurements for Elfering, Deinken & Neubauer. She is also working with BWSR on some tile easement issues dealing with easement projects.
- She has been working with landowners on management of plantings on some of the Buffer Cost-Share sites. She is also working with landowners on fall plantings.
- Three applications were submitted for the 2012 RFP for Clean Water funds. The first is a feedlot fix for two sites, the second a stream bank stabilization and the third a LiDar review of the Renville County portion of the Middle MN Watershed.
- Tara has been reviewing ag drainage requests for WCA. She reviewed sites for power line work that Renville Sibley Co-op will be doing. She attended the DOT road bank application training with BWSR and the Ag mitigation banking meeting. She also attended a two day refresher on Wetland Delineation.
- One well closure contract and voucher were completed this month.
- Tara worked with two landowners doing DNR CPL grants on their tree removal projects. She also viewed a demonstration of the Loftness timber ax.
- Tara attended the Hawk Creek Watershed Project picnic and the CROW technical meeting.

Loyal made a motion to reimburse RCW schools for the \$46 cost for transporting the photography class to the rock site for their class project. Second by Dave. Carried.

Loyal is planning to attend the NACD annual meeting in Las Vegas next winter. He can stay with family and is requesting the SWCD pay his registration. A decision will be made at the Nov. meeting.

Loyal left the meeting.

Jason reported:

- He contacted a total of 78 people this month and has been working with CRP contract modifications for food plots and burning for next spring. Four sites will be getting seeded this fall and he's working with landowners and vendors on those details. Crop prices and rental rates are currently making CRP less competitive for landowners.
- Jason is still sending out quotes for the RIM Buffer Easement program. He talked to BWSR and was told information on the sign-up would be sent out soon. This sign-up will require a local work group to set priorities. Currently Jason has applications for 165 acres.
- The properties involved in the Walk-In program have signs marking them as available for public access. Jason has a meeting coming up with Kevin Auslund to look over those areas and discuss several conservation issues.
- Jason sent letters to landowners in a proposed Boon Lake WLI area to see if there would be any interest. He'll continue to explore a possible new WLI area.

- Jason attended the Grazing meeting in Glenwood, the RIM 25th anniversary celebration. He participated in the RCW Photography Class field trip to a rock outcrop area. Continues to work with groups on the grazing lands conservation easements.

NRCS Report – Jeff Kjorness, District Conservationist

- Jeff reported that EQIP & WHIP payments were sent out before the end of the federal fiscal year. No word on when the 2012 sign-up will begin.
- NRCS staff are working on a project next to a WRP to reduce the impact of ground water on a neighbor's property. Requires contract modification for funding approval.
- NRCS staff are waiting for congress to release funds for payments for the 2011 CSP payments. No news on the 2012 sign-up.
- Jeff attended the CCA Workshop in Elrosa which focused on nutrient management and biofuels.
- Both Mike & Jeff are working at processing the 1026/certified wetland determinations.

Board Reports

Jim reported that he'd been to the CROW meeting

Marc did not have a report

Dave reported on the meeting with the insurance agent. He said that the agent would have some options to consider by the Nov. meeting.

Kathryn reported:

- The Supervisor 101 training was well attended.
- She's been attending the Roundtable meetings. They plan to bring their viewpoint to the legislature
- Kathryn attended the RIM 25th Anniversary
- She attended area meetings in Duluth & Walker along with other MASWCD meetings.
- Kathryn attended the SW/WC meeting in Marshall
- She took part in the tour and visit with representatives to Renville County from the Ukraine

Meeting was adjourned (MSC Kathryn, Dave) at 8:45 a.m.