



**SIBLEY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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**MINNESOTA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, FEBRUARY 9, 2010

Members present:

Dave Trebelhorn, Chairman
Paul Wiemann, Vice-Chairman
Robert Nielsen, Secretary
Tom Pfarr, Treasurer
Gary Schafer, Reporter

Others present:

Kevin Pioske, District Technician
Ron Otto, Water Management Coordinator
April Sullivan, District Conservationist

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trebelhorn at 4:04 P.M.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Wiemann, that the supervisors maintain the existing offices for 2010. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to approve the January meeting minutes. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Wiemann; seconded by Schafer; to approve the January financial report, subject to audit. Yeas: all, nays: none. Motion carried.

NRCS Report

The current EQIP sign-up will end on February 26th.

The Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Program (WHIP) is now limited to land that is “capable” of being farmed.

Only one application resulted in a contract from the Conservation Stewardship Program sign-up.

(over)

Water Management Report

Otto attended numerous meetings over the last month: Water Resources Advisory Committee; CROW Technical Committee; MN River Alliance Meeting; High Island Creek Watershed Alliance; Friends of High Island; and, Lake Titloe Committee.

The year-end reports to eLink, have been finished. A report on BMP totals for the work completed in the watersheds in Sibley County has also been assembled.

The process to update the County Water Plan has been started.

District Report

Pioske has been busy with year-end reporting. E-Link reports were submitted by February 1st; W-2's were processed and mailed; Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust reports were forwarded, along with audit verification based on Minnesota Unemployment Insurance figures for total wages paid; the draft of the Annual Plan of Work is 90% complete; and the AgBMP annual report was completed in conjunction with the reports of the Environmental Services Office.

Templates for the 2009 Financial Report were just recently received from BWSR. Draft information will be added to these templates before delivering them to the accountant.

Old Business

Staff will contact our 2009 Outstanding Cooperator, and Jackie and Gerald Smith to find out what would work for them regarding an awards dinner. The supervisors would prefer a Thursday night.

New Business

The District news letter/tree order blank was prepared and mailed to 2339 households on January 15th. This has resulted in the receipt of ten orders by January 31st.

Tree Day will be held on February 17th, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Motion by Wiemann; seconded by Schafer, to contribute \$350.00 to South Central Technical Service Area. Yeas: all, nays: none. Motion carried. The District is currently utilizing these services for two projects.

Other Business

The Chairmen of the various Districts in our area have decided that three Area meetings will be held this year. The June meeting will feature a tour and legislators will be invited.

(over)

Other Business (continued)

Schafer reported on his attendance at the NACD national convention, held in Florida. Sunday featured foods from Florida. Topics at the sessions included: Climate Change; Carbon Credits; water issues; the pitfalls of performing conservation work in the office; and livestock exclusion from water bodies.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to adjourn the meeting. All, nays: none. Motion carried. The meeting was concluded at 5:09 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9th, 2010, at 4:00 P.M., at the Agricultural Service Center.

Secretary _____