



**SIBLEY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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**MINNESOTA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, MARCH 9, 2010

Members present:

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
Joel Wurscher, High Island Creek WS Coordinator

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Wiemann at 4:05 P.M.

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

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

NRCS Report

Nineteen applications were approved for the last round of EQIP funding. The majority were for residue and nutrient management.

There are a large number of requests for certified wetland determinations to be performed this year (038's).

One application was received for the Grassland Reserve Program.

A second sign-up for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) will be offered sometime this summer.

Water Management Report

The Bevens/Silver Creek SSTS project contract was taken to the County Board for their approval. Once approved, a work-plan will be developed.

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Water Management Report (continued)

Post card mailings were sent to landowners of the Buffalo and Middle Minnesota River watersheds, notifying them of septic loan opportunities now available to those areas.

Another follow-up post card mailing was sent to landowners of the watershed projects who applied for alternative tile inlet practices who have not yet installed these practices.

Wurscher commented on the mid-project review for the High Island Creek Watershed. There is a sizable amount of available funds remaining for projects.

District Report

An application was received for the new "Native Buffer Cost-Share". Unfortunately, all of the dollars allocated to this program have been encumbered. The District has been advised to submit the application and inform the landowner of the lack of funding at this time.

Staff attended an administrative training session dealing with the new rules of the Wetland Conservation Act. Exemptions and no-loss decisions do not have to be noticed, but are still subject to the 60 day rule. Part of the meeting was devoted to an open forum, where the LGU's shared their experiences with the program.

The ratios for replacement wetlands have also changed: from 2:1 on non-agricultural land, to 2.5:1; and on ag-land, from 1:1 to 1.5:1. If wetland credits are purchased, the ratios will be as they were previously. There are no longer Public Value Credits for the upland buffer. These are now valued as ½ of new wetland credits.

Walter Fuller's project will require more money than what was allocated to get it on the ground. Mr. Fuller has enrolled in the EQIP program to secure additional funding.

A draft copy of the revised 2010 annual plan has been completed. It has been streamlined, but not necessarily shortened. The 2009 annual report is also completed, and will be picked up from the accountant shortly.

Old Business

Evenson is still attempting to arrange an evening out to award our 2009 Outstanding Cooperator, and to recognize past supervisors Jackie and Gerald Smith.

New Business

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Nielsen, to approve the 2010 Annual Plan of operations. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Nielsen; seconded by Pfarr, to approve the 2009 Annual Report. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

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New Business (continued)

As of February 28th, the District has received 91 orders for trees and shrubs. Several calls have been made to re-order sold out stock. Tree Day had about the usual number of customers as in the past.

Correspondence

A Parks and Trails Committee from Sibley County wish to apply for grant funds through RC&D to begin establishing a trail system in the County. They are looking to the District to support their efforts and to act as a project sponsor for the application.

Motion by Nielsen; seconded by Pfarr, to sponsor the trail application. Yeas: Pfarr, Nielsen, and Wiemann; nays: Schafer. Motion carried.

Other Business

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to approve a contribution agreement between the District and NRCS. Contribution will be for performing crop residue checks on EQIP contracts. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

Area VI MASWCD will conduct its next meeting on March 31st at Lafayette. Le Sueur SWCD will be the host.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Schafer; seconded by Pfarr, to adjourn the meeting. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. The meeting was concluded at 4:58 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13th, 2010, at 4:00 P.M., at the Agricultural Service Center.

Secretary _____