



**SIBLEY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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**MINNESOTA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, APRIL 13, 2010

Members present:

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

Others present:

Loren Evenson, District Manager
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 Chairman Trebelhorn at 4:05 P.M.

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

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

NRCS Report

Twenty-two applications, totaling \$608,000 of requested practice money, were received in the last EQIP sign-up. Ten of these will likely get funding, bringing the total dollars down to \$276,635.

Five new CRP contracts have been approved. Two applications were received for the latest RIM/WRP sign-up.

Don Baloun, former Assistant State Conservationist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wisconsin, began his duties as Minnesota's state conservationist on April 26. In this top management position, he manages and provides overall leadership for agency operations statewide.

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NRCS Report (continued)

Ann English began her role as South Carolina NRCS State Conservationist April 26, 2010. Her previous positions within the agency include assistant state conservationist for field operations in Minnesota, agronomist, district conservationist, and soil conservationist.

Water Management Report

The Rush River and High Island Creek Watershed Implementation Project sponsored a nutrient/manure management workshop. The session was not well attended; only four or five producers were present.

Sullivan and Otto attended a training session to learn how to operate the Trimble GPS unit. This will be used to pinpoint features on the landscape with greater accuracy.

A draft workplan for the Bevens/Silver Creek SSTS project has been submitted to the MPCA for their review.

Six projects have been proposed for the Rush River/High Island Creek Projects that could not secure funding from SWCD or NRCS programs. There was either no funding dollars available or the project did not rank high enough in the EQIP calculations.

High Island Creek Watershed Project received its final grant, about 30% of the total project.

A water control structure placed at the outlet of High Island Lake during the winter has failed. Compounded with rising flood waters, the Creek took its natural path back into the Lake, negating the fish kill that was anticipated. DNR will conduct a public meeting to address changes in the management plan, due to these occurrences.

Rush River Watershed Project will undergo a mid-project review in the near future.

District Report

As of March 31st, the District has received 115 orders for trees and shrubs. Numerous re-orders have been made. Delivery of the nursery stock will be on April 26th. Several tree plans have been designed.

Construction plans were received for Earl Pagenkopf's RIM/WRP easement. The landowner is required to put these out on a competitive bid.

Staff attended a RIM/WRP training session related to seed mixes and weed control. This was a joint NRCS/SWCD meeting.

Three applications were received from Sibley County for bridge replacement projects. These will be either under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources or will meet exemption standards for work within an existing road right-of-way.

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District Report (continued)

An informational meeting was held at DNR headquarters in New Ulm to discuss accelerated funding for EQIP in the Middle Minnesota Watershed. The Eight Mile Creek sub-watershed in the southwest part of the County is eligible for this funding. Procedures and payment rates are the same as for the regular EQIP.

Old Business

Evenson has attempted to arrange an awards banquet but has had difficulty in finding a mutual time and place for all involved. The supervisors suggested that the Outstanding Cooperator and his wife, and the past supervisors be invited to the annual picnic.

New Business

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Wiemann, to approve the 1st quarter supervisor per diems and expenses, as presented. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

After approval of the previous motion, it was discovered by Schafer, that he wasn't compensated for his meeting per diems while attending the NACD national convention in Florida. After discussing this issue, Schafer motioned that he receive these meeting per diems. The motion was seconded by Nielsen. All were in favor and the motion prevailed.

A close-out audit was performed for the 2007 State Cost-Share grant. The audit found that one produced had received an over-payment. State Cost-Share rules indicated that the landowner may receive up to 75% of the estimated cost of the project, not of the actual cost. This confusion has apparently been encountered by other Districts as well. The over-payment for the project in question was \$337.50.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Schafer, to remit \$337.50 to BWSR for over-payment of a 2007 cost-share project. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. The payment will come out of District funds.

There was discussion about the vast difference in installation costs of earthen projects between some of the contractors in the County, and one in particular. It was suggested that the staff encourage landowners to do some cost comparisons, rather than having to put the projects out on bids.

Motion by Nielsen; seconded by Pfarr, to approve a State Cost-Share practice completion of Earl Tesch, Henderson Township, for the construction of a water and sediment control basin. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Payment of \$3,375 will be issued for the completion of Contract #FY10-1. Technical and administrative funds in the amount of \$843.75 will be retained by the District.

Motion by Nielsen; seconded by Wiemann, to approve a State Cost-Share practice completion of Dona and Dale Meierbachtol, Belle Plaine, for land in Jessenland Township, for the construction of a water and sediment control basin and diversion. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried. Payment of \$2,000 will be issued for the completion of Contract #FY08-18. Technical and administrative funds in the amount of \$500.00 will be retained by the District.

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New Business (continued)

Motion by Schafer; seconded by Nielsen, to approve an AgBMP Loan request of Tom and Beth Rasmussen, Severance Township, for a septic system upgrade. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

Other Business

The Sibley County Trails Group has inquired as to whether the Sibley SWCD would share its booth at the County Fair. The supervisors advised against this, as it might create conflicts with landowners that are not particularly interested in public trails.

Motion by Pfarr; seconded by Wiemann, to renew the copier agreement with ICON Office Solutions. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Wiemann; seconded by Nielsen, to the effect that the District charge \$50 to review plans submitted for the Rural Preserves Program. Yeas: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

A reminder to the supervisors that two supervisor positions will be up for election this year; District #1, currently served by Pfarr, and District #2 being served by Wiemann.

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 5:40 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11th, 2010, at 4:00 P.M., at the Agricultural Service Center.

Secretary's Signature _____