

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



“Helping bring YOU clean water”

Redwood SWCD

1241 E. Bridge St.—Suite C
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
Phone: 507-637-2427 EXT 3
Fax: 507-637-6002
redwoodswcd.org

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 20, 2009 MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Supervisors

Chair
Mike Hewitt
District V
(507) 859-2406

Vice Chair
Donald Steffen
District II
(507) 648-3485

Secretary
Thomas Morley
District I
(507) 641-3742

Treasurer
Joseph Plaetz
District IV
(507) 747-2803

PR & I
Ralph Heiling
District III
(507) 249-3568

Staff

Marilyn
Bernhardson
District
Administrator

Kari Clouse
Office
Assistant

Judy Schulte
District
Technician

Karen
Wilhelmi
Education
Coordinator

The monthly meeting of the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, February 20, 2009 by chair Mike Hewitt. The meeting was held in the meeting room of the Ag Service Center in Redwood Falls, MN.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Hewitt – Chair
Don Steffen– Vice-Chair
Tom Morley – Secretary
Ralph Heiling – PR&I

STAFF: Marilyn Bernhardson – District Administrator

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Gary Dahms

NRCS: Gary Watson and Jamie Thomazin

Kelly Heather stopped by to thank the board for a year and a half of service to the office as she has taken a job in the environmental office in Redwood County.

ADOPT AGENDA: Motion by Heiling, second by Steffen to adopt the agenda as sent. Motion carried by all voting yes.

NRCS: Gary Watson reported to the board on the vacancy with Kelly Heather resigning as District Conservationist. Rich Giles will be acting DC. Announcement for the position has been approved by Mr. Hunt and has been sent to Washington D.C. for approval. Hope to have position filled in 60 to 90 days.

Joe Plaetz entered the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

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Jamie Thomazin, DC in Marshall and acting RC&D coordinator updated the board on the RC&D activities. Thomazin provided a draft copy of the 2009 Annual Plan. April 10th is the deadline for submitting any projects to full the council. Grazing workshop is being planned again. John Schueller has been given a plaque for the dry hydrant and we need to take pictures and submit to Jamie. Mr. Hunt provided the RC&D with \$20,000 that needs to be spent addressing environmental concerns.

Gary Watson and Jamie Thomazin left the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

Russ Hoogendoorn, P.E. and Mike Skoglund from the Technical Service Area (TSA) entered the board meeting at 9:45 a.m.

TSA PRESENTATION: Skoglund and Hoogendoorn gave a presentation on the activities of the TSA.

Hoogendoorn and Skoglund left the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

MINUTES: Motion by Steffen, second by Plaetz to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2009 board meeting as sent. Motion carried by all voting yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

SUPERVISOR POSITION DESCRIPTIONS: Bernhardson handed out copies of each supervisor's position description.

SIGNATURE CARDS: Board members signed new signature cards for Minnwest Bank, Ed Jones and Minnesota Fleet and Surplus Services Division.

STATE COST SHARE:

District: Motion by Plaetz, second by Steffen to accept the following request for cost share assistance:

10-08	Richard Dallenbach	Fmstd	\$ 375.00
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FY 2007 Clean Water Legacy: Motion by Heiling second by Plaetz to approve payment for the following 2007 clean water legacy contracts:

CWL-58-07	Robert Carr	Intakes	\$1,020.00
CWL-64-07	Jon Busack	Intakes	\$ 225.00
CWL-69-07	James Ourada	Intakes	\$1,125.00

Motion carried by all voting yes.

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FY 2008 Clean Water Legacy: At the request of the landowner, motion by Plaetz, second by Steffen to cancel the cost share request for Todd Schouvieller for a dam repair in the amount of \$15,000.00. Motion carried by all voting yes.

Motion by Steffen, second by Morley to approve payment of the following 2008 clean water legacy contracts:

CWL-26-08	Neil Schultz	638's	\$12,320.02
CWL-38-08	William Driscoll	Intakes	\$ 600.00
CWL-39-08	James Ourada	Intakes	\$ 1,636.38

Motion carried by all voting yes.

Motion by Steffen, second by Morley to approve the following request for cost share assistance:

CWL-46-08	David Fuhr	Intakes	\$ 3,600.00
CWL-47-08	Anthony Quade	Waterway	\$ 4,242.19

Motion carried by all voting yes.

RCRCA will provide technical assistance for CWL-46-08 and NRCS will provide technical assistance for CWL-47-08.

BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Steffen, second by Heiling to approve payment of bills through February 20, 2009 totaling \$47,688.33. Motion carried by all voting yes.

REPORTS:

Karen Wilhelmi entered the board meeting at 10:46 a.m.

EDUCATION: Wilhelmi – 1) Made changes on the district stationary and web site due to staff changes and supervisor board positions changes. 2) Attended the first of many environmental fair meetings. 3) Continue to prepare for the area Envirothon. 4) Setting up for poster and video contest. 5) Participated in a tree focus phone call. 6) Participated in the brainstorming session. 7) Attended Employees and Area V meeting. While at the meeting reported on Envirothon and Environmental fair. 8) Made presentation of the "Incredible Journey" to 5th graders in Redwood Falls.

Karen Wilhelmi left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR: Bernhardson Thanked the board for the support they gave her during the recent loss of her mother. 1) Attended Clean Water Council meeting and was elected chair. 2) Reviewed 2007 audit with Tom Stotesbery. 3) Staff held two brainstorming sessions on how conservation should be delivered in Redwood County. 4) Attended two meetings for putting together a partnership and civic engagement plan. 5) Completed WCA report, Pay Equity Report, Ag BMP Report, and Payroll report for MCIT.

RCRCA: Steffen reported on the January 26th meeting.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Dahms – 1) Budget is the big issue in the county. Trying to look not only at short term but long term solutions. Looks like we will be short about \$400,000 from the state. Trying to look at committee appointments for the future.

2007 AUDIT REPORT: Bernhardson handed out copies of the final 2007 audit as prepared by Thomas Stotesbery. Motion by Heiling, second by Steffen to accept final audit.

NEW MASWCD BOUNDARIES: Bernhardson handed out copies of the map that shows the new MASWCD boundaries.

BIORETENTION BASINS: BWSR recently approved a new cost share practice called bioretention basins. Letters will be sent to cities telling them about the availability of the basins.

MASWCD LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING: Ralph Heiling and Marilyn Bernhardson will be attending.

AREA V MEETING REPORT: Steffen and Hewitt reported on the Area V Meeting.

CHAIRS: Motion by Steffen, second by Plaetz to authorize the purchase of two chairs in the range of \$100.00 to \$200.00 per chair. Motion carried by all voting yes.

TOUR: Bernhardson presented information on sites the staff has recommended for our tour. Staff will continue to work on stops and other information.

AFFILIATE PROGRAM: 65 Letters were sent out and to date we have received payment from 29 recipients.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District will be held March 12, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the meeting room of the Ag Service Center in Redwood Falls, MN.

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ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Steffen, second by Morley to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. Motion carried by all voting yes.

After the meeting was adjourned the board held a discussion about conservation application in Redwood County.

Supervisor