

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



“Helping bring YOU clean water”

Redwood SWCD

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Marilyn
Bernhardson
District
Administrator

Kari Clouse
Office
Assistant

Judy Schulte
District
Technician

Karen
Wilhelmi
Education
Coordinator

MINUTES FROM THE JULY 9, 2009 MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order at 8:00 a.m., on Thursday, July 9, 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
Ralph Heiling – PR&I

STAFF: Marilyn Bernhardson – District Administrator

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Gary Dahms

ADOPT AGENDA: Motion by Heiling, second by Steffen to adopt the agenda with the addition of the county fair schedule, tree program, Conservation Farmer and WCA. Motion carried by all voting yes.

Joe Plaetz entered the meeting 8:07 a.m.

MINUTES: Motion by Steffen, second by Heiling to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2009 board meeting as sent. Motion carried by all voting yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Steve Whittet entered the meeting at 8:09 a.m.

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STATE COST SHARE:

District FY 2008: Motion by Heiling, second by Plaetz to approve payment for the following completed cost share contracts:

7-08	Wayne Pankonin	Basins	\$3,825.62
9-08	Lindsey Kodet	Fmstd	\$ 728.73
10-08	Richard Dallenbach	Fmstd	\$ 383.58

Motion carried by all voting yes.

District FY 2009: Discussion was held regarding Diane Thram's tree planting. Motion by Steffen, second by Plaetz to approve payment of the contract utilizing district funds.

1-09	Diane Thram	Fmstd	\$555.68
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Motion carried by all voting yes.

FY 2007 Clean Water Legacy - 319 Funds

Motion by Plaetz, second by Steffen to approve payment for the following cost share contracts:

CWL-22-07	V. Paul Hagen	Intakes	\$ 450.00
CWL-49-07	Cory Jensen	Intakes	\$ 450.00
CWL-67-07	Jeff Otto	Intakes	\$1,350.00

Motion carried by all voting yes

At the request of the landowner, motion by Steffen, second by Heiling to cancel the following cost share application:

CWL-28-07	J-3 Feeders	Intakes	\$2,700.00
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FY 2008 Clean Water Legacy

Motion by Steffen, second by Plaetz to approve payment for the following cost share contracts:

CWL-56-08	Jeff Otto	Intakes	\$2,867.45
CWL-36-08	Randy Schenk	WW	\$ 78.75

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FY 2008 Clean Water Legacy (continued)

Based on recommendations by NRCS engineers, motion by Heiling, second by Plaetz to approve amendments for the following contracts:

CWL-22-08	Wallace Hedman(S)	WW	\$1,500.00
CWL-23-08	Wallace Hedman (N)	WW	\$1,500.00

Motion carried by all voting yes.

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

CWL-61-08	Donald Buhl	Intakes	\$ 900.00
CWL-62-08	Tim Swanson	intakes	\$10,500.00

Motion carried by all voting yes.

RCRCA will provide technical assistance on contracts CWL-61-08 and CWL-62-08.

Buffer Strip Program:

Motion by Plaetz, second by Steffen to approve payment for the following completed cost share contract applications under the Buffer strip Cost Share Program:

BS-5-08	Curtis Trost	Mgt.Habitat	\$ 1,162.00
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Motion carried by all voting yes.

BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Steffen, second by Plaetz to approve payment of bills through July 9, 2009 totaling \$48,713.27. Motion carried by all voting yes.

REPORTS:

Office Assistant is not available for report.

Judy Schulte entered the meeting 8:30 a.m.

Technical Report: Schulte 1) Took a week of vacation. 2) Completed two weeks of junior rangers. 3) Participated in a rock outcrop story with the Gazette. 4) Working on native garden in the front of the building. 5) Several WCA issues. 6) Continue to take rock outcrop applications. 7) Cleaned out tree facility. 8) Making tree visits for next year.

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WCA: Whittet Wetland Bank Application – Whittet and district staff explained project to board. Motion Steffen, second by Heiling to approve Steve Whittet's wetland bank application with the condition that all TEP members recommend approval of the final revised restoration bank plan. Motion carried by all voting yes.

TREE SALES: We have received a reminder from MASWCD, that the association passed a resolution in 2007 indicating that SWCD's would sell trees that are native to our state.

TREE PROGRAM: Renville SWCD is discussing the possibility of discontinuing their tree program. They have asked if our district is interested in taking over the program in their county. It was discussed that we would like them to keep their tree planter and they would make the sales and we would do the planting. Motion by Steffen, second by Plaetz to enter into an agreement with Renville SWCD to handle their tree program for one year and at the end of the year will assess the program. Motion carried by all voting yes.

Judy Schulte left the meeting and Karen Wilhelmi entered the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Education Report: Wilhelmi 1) Helped with junior rangers when needed. 2) Attended Woman's Day meeting and working on presentation for the event. 3) Continue to work on environmental fair. 4) Measured wells and submitted report and voucher. 5) Helped reconcile clean water legacy fund and typed report. 6) Working on Redwood Fair and Farmfest booths. 7) Entered eLINK in the computer. 8) Sent out three different affiliate letters. 9) Sent out letters for Brian for EQIP and WHIP Programs and scanned EQIP payments.

Karen Wilhelmi left the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

District Administrator: Bernhardson 1) Attended Clean Water Council Meeting. 2) Attended Woman's Day meeting. 3) TEP Meeting for wetland issues. 4) Reconciled 2007 Clean Water Legacy Funds and working on final report. 5) Sent letter to well drillers about well sealing funds. 6) Continue to work on data practices and hope to have one ready for board approval soon. 7) Working on By-laws. 8) Put together 2010 budget. 9) Sent out letters to affiliate members. 10) Submitted federal contribution reimbursement. 11) Reviewed City of Redwood well head protection plan.

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REPORTS: continued

Brian Pfarr entered the meeting at 9:26 a.m.

NRCS: Pfarr - 1) Received additional EQIP dollars. Have funded 14 of our 24 applications totaling \$362,754. Have one organic contract funded and hope to get one more funded. 2) Have one WHIP contract funded. 3) CSP sign up to be held in August. Based on the 2008 farmbill, the program was renamed Conservation Stewardship Program. 4) Have finished with the compliance reviews. 5) Grassland Reserve Plan (GRP) sign up start on July 22. 6) Brian Christianson has continued to process wetland paperwork. 7) The office sent up 5 WRP applications and we did not get any funded. 8) Currently making EQIP payments.

Brian Pfarr left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

RCRCA: Steffen reported on the June 15, 2009 meeting.

Technical Service Area: Heiling reported on June 16, 2009 meeting. Each district signed the new technical service agreement. Due to increased funds coming to each TSA, our local share will be increased by \$250.00.

Area V Meeting: Heiling reported on the June 18, 2009 meeting.

County Commissioner: Dahms - 1) Redwood County received notice that the unallotment amount for 2010 will be \$274,914. Working on making adjustments accordingly.

EMPLOYEES HOURS/WORK WEEKS: District employees have been working a compressed schedule every other pay period for several years to see if it would work without causing issues with staffing. It has worked very well, so staff will switch to working a compressed schedule every pay period.

BWSR GRANT: BWSR Grant amounts were reported to the board.

STORAGE BUILDING: A couple of years ago Waukon RIM indicated to the district once they sold their land they would provide funds to the district to build a storage building for use by SWCD and DNR. District office has been informed that we should receive approximately \$35,000 sometime in the near future to construct this building. Plaetz and Steffen volunteered to serve on a committee to work on design, etc.

CONSERVATION FARMER: Office staff recommended Southwest Research and Outreach Center (SWROC) as our 2010 Outstanding Conservationist. The board agreed that SWROC would be a good choice. Staff will notify them.

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2010 BUDGET: Budget committee presented the 2010 budget. Motion by Steffen, second by Plaetz to adopt the budget as presented.

FAIR SCHEDULE: Fair is scheduled July 29th - August 2nd. Times the booth could be staffed was presented to the board. Board members selected time they could staff booth.

ADDITIONAL BILL: Motion by Steffen, second by Heiling to authorize issuing a check to OBC Northwest, Inc. to purchase sign holders. Motion carried by all voting yes. Funds will come from a balance that remains in a native management workshop account.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District will be held August 13, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in the meeting room of the Ag Service Center in Redwood Falls, MN.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Supervisor