

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



“Helping bring YOU clean water”

Redwood SWCD

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Supervisors

Chair
Mike Hewitt
District V
(507) 859-2406

MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

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

The monthly meeting of the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order at 8:00 a.m., on Thursday, September 10, 2009, by chair Mike Hewitt. The meeting was held in the meeting room of the Ag Service Center in Redwood Falls, MN.

Secretary
Thomas Morley
District I
(507) 641-3742

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Hewitt – Chair
Tom Morley – Secretary
Joe Plaetz - Treasurer
Ralph Heiling – PR&I

Treasurer
Joseph Plaetz
District IV
(507) 747-2803

STAFF: Marilyn Bernhardson – District Administrator

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

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Gary Dahms

Staff
Marilyn
Bernhardson
District
Administrator

ADOPT AGENDA: Motion by Heiling, second by Morley to adopt the agenda with the addition of: Wetland delineations, BWSR Academy and resolutions. Motion carried by all voting yes.

Kari Clouse
Office
Assistant

MINUTES: Motion by Heiling, second by Plaetz to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2009 board meeting as sent. Motion carried by all voting yes.

Judy Schulte
District
Technician

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Karen
Wilhelmi
Education
Coordinator

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STATE COST SHARE:

FY 2007 Clean Water Legacy - 319 Funds

Motion by Plaetz, second by Heiling to approve the 2nd year payment for the following nutrient management contracts:

CWL-59-07	Lowell Thooft	Nutrient Mgmt.	\$ 3,075.00
CWL-60-07	Weber Farms	Nutrient Mgmt.	\$ 3,750.00

Motion carried by all voting yes.

Don Steffen entered the board meeting at 8:07 a.m.

FY 2008 Clean Water Legacy

Motion by Plaetz, second by Heiling to approve payment for the following cost share contract:

CWL-59-08	Ronald Weidauer	Dam	\$12,647.25
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Motion carried by all voting yes.

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

CWL-71-08	Altermatt Farms	Basins	\$10,341.11
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Motion carried by all voting yes.

NRCS will provide technical assistance on CWL-71-08.

Native Buffer Strip Program

Motion by Steffen, second by Morley to approve payment of the completed contract under the native bufferstrip cost share program:

BS2-08	Jeff Huseby	Restore Habitat	\$5,400.00
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BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Plaetz, second by Morley to approve payment of bills through September 10, 2009 totaling \$47,195.47. Motion carried by all voting yes.

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REPORTS:

Judy Schulte entered the meeting 8:20 a.m.

Technical Report: Schulte 1) Many WCA issues. 2) Attended week long wetland delineation training. 3) Finished RIM/CREP spot checks. 4) Helped out at field day in Lambertton. 5) Received one more rock outcrop application and will be scoring them soon. 6) Designing tree plans. 7) Preparing CRP proposals. 8) Working on documentation needed to receive technical approval authority for ecological practices. 9) Helped with the write up for the conservation farmer application. 10) Helped Karen with items for the Environmental Fair. 11) Went out with Karen to learn how to measure DNR wells. 12) Have been getting many calls from landowners about a variety of tree and other issues.

WCA: Garnette Gardens: – Staff presented information regarding Garnette Gardens replacement plan application. They satisfactory completed the sequencing plan. They are required to do a 2:1 replacement and will be filling .32 acres and will purchase .64 acres from the city of Redwood Falls wetland bank. Water from roof and parking lot will run into a newly established rain garden that will then flow into the remaining wetland. TEP approved the plan as presented. Motion by Steffen, second by Heiling to approve the wetland replacement plan for Garnette Gardens. Motion carried by all voting yes.

Whittet Restoration – From the July 9, 2009 meeting the board gave approval for the Whittet wetland restoration application with the condition that all members of Technical Evaluation Panel recommended approval of the final plan. This is to document that the Technical Evaluation Panel met, reviewed the changes and all members recommended approval of the final plans.

DELINEATION OF WETLANDS: The district currently has a policy that states that any wetland delineations must be completed by a certified wetland delineator. This raises concern with the changes in WCA. This decision was made prior to the changes in the agricultural exemptions. Discussion followed on the options available. Motion by Steffen, second by Plaetz to rescind the old policy and change the policy to read as follows: The district will establish a setback boundary on all wetlands, if the landowner does not agree with this boundary; they have the option to hire a certified wetland delineator. If the district technician feels an area would be too difficult to delineate, she can request a certified wetland delineation. Motion carried by all voting yes.

Judy Schulte left the meeting and Karen Wilhelmi entered the meeting at 8:39 a.m.

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Education Report: Wilhelmi 1) Helped with junior rangers. 2) Prepared items for, attended and gave a presentation at our annual Women's Day event. 3) Working on Environmental Fair items. 4) Helped with reconciliation of the clean water funds/spreadsheets. 5) Updated website. 6) Planned, set up, worked at and took down both fair and Farmfest booths. 7) Putting contracts in eLink. 8) Assisted Brian with various items for all federal programs. 9) Conducted interview with the Southwest Research and Outreach Center staff for being selected as our outstanding conservationists and worked on the write up for the state award. 10) Preparing letter to go out to teachers telling them about various programs we can present in schools.

District Administrator: Bernhardson 1) Attended Clean Water Council and Work Group Meetings. 2) Rectified all cost share programs. 3) Attended and participated in the Civic Engagement workshop. 4) Prepared for Woman's Day. 5) Trying to organize a change in space for farmfest. 6) Got new rain gauge holders for a couple spots in the county and we need to deliver rain gauges. 7) Working on several wetland issues. 8) Putting together information for RFP for Clean Water Funds. 8) Received notice of Pay Equity Compliance.

RECESS MEETING: Motion by Heiling, second by Steffen to recess meeting at 8:45 a.m. to meet with county's building committee to discuss location of possible storage building the district plans to build.

Meeting was reconvened at 9:35 a.m.

During the recess the Board and Bernhardson met with the county's building committee at site west of Redwood Falls and discussed options for placement of building.

REPORT'S continued:

RCRCA: Steffen did not attend the meeting, however he reported on the August 17, 2009 meeting from minutes.

SW Prairie TSA Report: Heiling reported on the September 9, 2009 meeting.

County Commissioner: Dahms - 1) Completed budgeting process. SWCD's allotment for 2010 will remain the same as in 2009. 2) County will have a "0" tax levy increase for 2010. 3) Requested the district notify the county as soon a decision is made regarding the building. 4) Minnesota West College is up and running in the county government center.

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RC&D: Hewitt reported that the meeting notice came in the mail the day of the meeting and by the time he got the mail, the meeting had already started.

NRCS: Not available for report due to attending training. It was noted that we reviewed the memorandum of understanding at our April, 2009 board meeting.

SPACE LEASE FOR 2009 AND 2010: We need to sign the lease for our space with NRCS for FY-10. This is the last lease we can do with NRCS. The District will develop their own lease with Tersteeg's Inc. that will take affect October 1, 2009. Lease will be very similar to USDA. Motion by Plaetz, second by Steffen to approve FY 2009 rent with USDA-NRCS. Motion carried by all voting yes.

2010 lease – Bernhardson is in the process of developing a lease very similar to the USDA lease. The lease will be between Redwood SWCD and Tersteeg's Inc. The new lease will run from October 1, 2009 to February 28, 2012. The district will follow the same lease period as USDA agencies.

RCRCA AGREEMENT: The second addendum to the current RCRCA agreement will run from July, 2007 – September 2009. This 21 month agreement will put them back into the 2 year time frame. Motion by Plaetz, second by Morley to authorize Steffen to sign RCRCA agreement. Motion carried by all voting yes.

SWROC 50TH ANNIVERSARY: Southwest Research and Outreach Center is celebrating 50 years of contribution to southwest Minnesota with an ice cream social on Sunday, September 13, 2009 in the picnic shelter at the center.

DATA PRIVACY POLICY: Motion by Steffen, second by Heiling to adopt the resolution adopting the Data Privacy Law as handed out at the August, 2009 meeting. Motion carried by all voting yes.

DISTRICT BY-LAWS: Motion by Heiling, second by Morley to adopt district by-laws as handed out at the August, 2009 meeting. Motion carried by all voting yes.

BWSR ACADEMY: Registration for the BWSR Academy is due by October 2, 2009. Motion by Plaetz, second by Morley to authorize Judy Schulte and Marilyn Bernhardson to attend and pay expenses associated with the academy. Motion carried by all voting yes.

RESOLUTIONS: Resolution voting must be turned into MASWCD by October 31, 2009. Copies of resolutions were handed out and will be voted on at the next meeting.

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OTHER BUSINESS:

RAIN BARREL: As part of the Water Management Plan we will be working together with other SWCD's to offer rain barrels for sale. We want to purchase one to have on display in the office. Motion by Plaetz, second by Heiling to make payment of \$45.00 for the rain barrel. Motion carried by all voting yes.

Hewitt announced that there will be a strip till day north of Fairfax on Friday, September 11, 2009.

A thank you was received from Jacob Welu, 4-H award recipient; it was handed around for individual board members to read.

Tree matting machine will be sandblasted and painted for \$200.00.

Building: Discussed the proposed building the district will build utilizing funds received from Waukon RIM on the sale of their land. After the meeting with the county's building committee, the following recommendations were made for construction of the building: 1) It will be built to the west of the county building that was built several years ago. 2) If possible we will use their west wall as our east wall. 3) The dimensions of the building will be 36 x 48 x 12, so we are able to install a 10 or 12 foot overhead door. 4) See if we are able to hook into the electricity from the building that is there. 5) Discuss with the county the need to possibly cut several limbs from a tree that will be near the building.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Supervisor