

# 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 SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

#### Supervisors

Chair  
Ralph Heiling  
District III  
(507) 249-3568

Vice Chair  
Joseph Plaetz  
District IV  
(507) 747-2803

Secretary  
Donald Steffen  
District II  
(507) 648-3485

Treasurer  
Jeff Potter  
District I  
(507) 641-3087

PR & I  
Sunny Ruthchild  
District V  
(507) 629-8276

#### Staff

Marilyn  
Bernhardson  
District  
Administrator

Kari Clouse  
Office Assistant

Kristy Zajac  
District  
Technician

Karen Wilhelmi  
Education  
Coordinator

The monthly meeting of the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order at 8:00 a.m., on Thursday, September 15, 2011 by Chair Ralph Heiling. The meeting was held in the meeting room of the Ag Service Center in Redwood Falls, MN.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ralph Heiling – Chair  
Donald Steffen – Secretary  
Sunny Ruthchild – PR&I

**STAFF:** Marilyn Bernhardson – District Administrator

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER:** Al Kokesch

**ADOPT AGENDA:** Motion by Steffen, second by Heiling to approve the agenda with addition of Farm Bill Assistance Grant Agreement. Motion carried by all voting yes.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Steffen, second by Ruthchild to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2011 board meeting as sent. Motion carried by all voting yes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

#### STATE COST SHARE:

*2008 Clean Water Legacy – BWSR Funds:*

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

CWL-94-08	Elverne Ziemke	Grade Stab. Structure	\$5,444.00
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Motion carried by all voting yes.

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*State Cost Share: continued*

*Cancellation:*

At the request of the landowner and Lyon SWCD, motion by Ruthchild, second by Steffen to cancel the following request for cost share assistance:

CWL-74-08	Robert Carr	638's	\$6884.00
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Motion carried by all voting yes.

*Native Buffer:*

Motion by Steffen, second by Ruthchild to approve payment of the following completed Native Buffer contract:

NB-2	Allan Zimmerli	Restoration of Declining Habitat	\$14,500.00
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Motion carried by all voting yes.

*Clean Water Fund:*

Motion by Ruthchild, second by Steffen to approve payment of the following completed cost share contracts through the 2010 Clean Water Fund:

CWF-02-10	Willard Pfarr	Grid Sampling	\$2,000.00
CWF-09-10	Brent Johnson	638's	\$3,388.12
CWF-10-10	Vincent Thooft	Intakes	\$2,700.00

Motion carried by all voting yes.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** Motion by Steffen, second by Ruthchild to approve payment of all bills through September 15, 2011 totaling \$40,629.11. Motion carried by all voting yes.

### **REPORTS:**

*District Technician - Zajac - Bernhardson* handed out copies of the report. 1) Training attended: One week of training for grassed waterways and water and sediment control basins and also attended drainage maintenance training. 2) Tree visits for shelterbelts. 3) Toolkit plans for CRP and CCRP. 4) Wetland Conservation Act issues: Reviewed animal shelter site and continue to work on the Rakouf violation. 5) Working on the Clean Water Fund Grant Application. 6) Went to St. Paul to enroll for linc-pass which gives me full access to the federal computer system.

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*REPORTS: continued*

*District Administrator* - Bernhardson 1) Working on Clean Water Fund Grant Application with Zajac. 2) Working on the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program agreements and submitted the first report for the grant. 3) Attended Legislative Committee Meeting. 4) Presented the 2012 budget to the county commissioners with Ruthchild and Potter. 5) Attended insurance meeting. 6) Worked with Fuhr insurance for wording to change policy regarding health and dental insurance. 7) Made calls to get producers in to sign EQIP contracts and assisted producers with the signing. 8) Working on 2012 calendar. 9) Signed and submitted the contribution agreement for the prairie pothole wetland initiative.

*RCRCA:* Steffen reported on the September 1, 2011 RCRCA meeting.

*TSA:* Heiling reported on the TSA meeting held September 7, 2011.

*SWCD Governance 101:* Ruthchild reported on the SWCD Governance meeting held September 12 and 13, 2011.

*County Commissioner: Kokesch* - 1) Minnesota West collage has space in the County Government Center; first year they had 26 students attend, second year they had 44 attend and this year they have 75 students enrolled. 2) Our 2012 allocation from the county will be \$100,000. County cut some funding for the Plum Creek book mobile. 3) 2012 County levy was kept at 0% increase. 4) Union increases for 2011 were .55 percent. 5) Board of Health with Renville County will be dissolved. County will look at merging with some other group for these services.

Brian Christiansen entered the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

*NRCS:* See attached report.

Brain Christiansen left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

**MASWCD AREA WINNER:** Our Conservation farmer, John Hogan Family has been selected as the Area V winner and will compete for the state title at the MASWCD state convention.

**CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT PROGRAM (CPL):** Because the district received a CPL grant through the DNR, we need to have an agreement with BWSR so they are able to receive and disburse the funds. Motion by Steffen, second by Ruthchild authorizing the chair to sign the agreement. Motion carried by all voting yes.

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**HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY:** Motion by Steffen, second by Ruthchild to change the personnel policy, effective January 1, 2013, in regards to the way the district provides health and dental insurance to it's employees. The new policy is on file in the SWCD policy handbook in the Redwood SWCD district office. Motion carried by all voting yes,

**FARMBILL ASSISTANCE GRANT AGREEMENT:** Motion by Ruthchild, second by Steffen to authorize chair to sign the 2012 grant agreement for farm bill assistance. Motion carried by all voting yes.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District will be Thursday October 13, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in the meeting room of the Ag Service Center in Redwood Falls, MN.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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Supervisor