



*Freeborn County Soil & Water
Conservation District
1400 West Main Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007
Phone: 507-373-5607 Ext. 3
FAX: 507-373-7654
www.freebornswcd.org*

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

March 8th, 2010

- I. **The meeting was called to order** at 5:00 P.M. by Chairman Don Kropp in our district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN.

Those present were as follows:

Don Kropp, Chairman	Don Flatness, District Manager
Cole Pestorius, Vice Chairman	Mark Schaetzke, District Technician
Dave Ausen, Treasurer	Ed Moffett, NRCS District Conservationist

Absent:

Chris Dahl, Board Secretary
Roger M. Nelson, Supervisor

II. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

- **Minutes of the February 11th regular meeting** were approved as presented on a motion made by Pestorius and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Pestorius and Ausen. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

III. **Treasurer's Report:**

- **The treasurer's balance as of February 28th, 2010**, was \$1,478.32 in checking and \$284,106.14 in savings. A motion approving the treasurer's report as read and payment of bills was made by Ausen and seconded by Pestorius. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Pestorius and Ausen. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

IV. **State Cost Share Program Actions and/or Information:**

- No contract actions or information items were discussed.

V. **New Business:**

- NRCS Agency report given by Ed Moffett, District Conservationist. He stated he received 17 – EQIP applications during the ranking period that just ended Feb. 26th. Funding decisions on these applications will probably be made by April 1st. Ed also discussed the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative briefly. He said an informational meeting is planned for March 15th at the Peoples Coop Power Building in Rochester. The initiative will provide funding opportunities for EQIP, WHIP, CSP and WREP Conservation Cost Share Programs.
- **A memo received from John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director** was read. It addressed “Supplemental Budget Reductions” BWSR and other state agencies are being asked to make by the Governor’s Office. They’ve been asked to cut 3% from Operating Budgets and 6% from programs. Although everything is still uncertain, the basic core grants to districts may be protected from further cuts.

- **Another memo to SWCDs from Judy Erickson**, MASWCD Legislative Lobbyist was read. She asked that supervisors write their state legislators and support the position of MASWCD stating that we accept the proposed cuts to BWSR. However, we should strongly urge them not to make any deeper cuts, as we need to protect our basic core activities and programs.
- **Dave Ausen** reported on the MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol held Feb. 17th & 18th. He said they were given MASWCDs Legislative Position at the briefing on the 17th. The next day they joined supervisors from Mower & Fillmore Counties and visited with Dan Sparks, Robin Brown and Jeanne Poppe to present their position. Dave sensed that the legislators were not as open to hearing about our needs this year as in the past. Their primary interest seemed to be in finding places to cut back on funding.
- **The Annual Report and Plan** recently completed by staff was reviewed and discussed. After completing the review, a motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Pestorius to approve the 2009 Annual Report and 2010 Annual Plan as prepared and submit it to BWSR and others, as required. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Pestorius and Ausen. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- **Brenda Lageson** has requested that she be given authorization to attend an "Administrative Assistant's" Training Session on March 30th & 31st in Alexandria. After some discussion a motion granting approval for this training was made by Ausen and seconded by Pestorius. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Pestorius and Ausen. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Brenda also requested authorization to purchase a "QuickBooks Pro" accounting software update. She's currently using a 2007 version and wants to update to a 2010 version. A motion authorizing the software purchase was made by Pestorius and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Pestorius and Ausen. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- **Ann Bryson, Cub Scout Leader** from Alden has requested a donation of trees, shrubs and mulch from our district. The cub scouts are planning a community service/beautification project and will actually plant the trees to gain some tree planting experience. She would purchase trees, shrubs & tree mats from our SWCD and is asking that we donate the cost of these materials.
- **Policy on Tree Donations** -after considerable discussion, it was felt our SWCD needed a policy on donations before acting on this request. A motion was then made by Pestorius and seconded by Ausen to establish a policy as follows: Tree Donations to Non-Profit Organizations will be considered on a 50% retail cost of material basis, with a \$100.00 not-to-exceed maximum. This assumes they would purchase these trees from our SWCD. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Pestorius and Ausen. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- **Action on Bryson's request**- after setting this policy, a motion was then made by Ausen and seconded by Pestorius to offer the trees and shrubs to Bryson at 50% of retail cost if purchased from our SWCD, with a \$100.00 not to exceed maximum. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Pestorius and Ausen. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.** Mark Schaezke will communicate this information to Ann.
- **Reports on Meetings attended** by supervisors and staff during the last month were then heard. Don Flatness distributed a brief report and commented on a GBERBA Technical Committee meeting he attended on Feb. 24th and a Shell Rock River Watershed Advisory Committee meeting he attended on March 5th (see reports attached).
- **Vehicle Repairs**- Don Flatness reported that our district pickup needs a new windshield. Three estimates have been obtained and the lowest was from The Glass Center in Owatonna, MN. After

some consideration, a motion was made by Pestorius and seconded by Ausen to accept the low estimate from The Glass Center (\$170.90). Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Pestorius and Ausen. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

- Reviewed the Turtle Creek W.D. minutes from their January 19th meeting.

VI. Adjournment:

- There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ausen seconded by Pestorius. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Pestorius and Ausen. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

The next regular meeting will be held **Thursday, April 8th, 2010** at 7:30 P.M. at our SWCD office at 1400 West Main, Albert Lea.

These are preliminary minutes subject to board approval at the next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Respectfully submitted,

Chris Dahl, Board Secretary

Date