



*Freeborn County Soil & Water
Conservation District
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

April 8th, 2010

- I. **The meeting was called to order** at 7:30 P.M. by Vice Chairman Cole Pestorius in our district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN.

Those present were as follows:

Cole Pestorius, Vice Chairman

Dave Ausen, Treasurer

Chris Dahl, Board Secretary

Don Flatness, District Manager

Mark Schaetzke, District Technician

Ed Moffett, NRCS District Conservationist

Absent:

Don Kropp, Chairman

Roger M. Nelson, Supervisor

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

- **Minutes of the March 8th regular meeting** were approved as presented on a motion made by Ausen and seconded by Dahl. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Pestorius Ausen and Dahl. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

III. **Treasurer's Report:**

- **The treasurer's balance as of March 31st, 2010**, was \$2,930.20 in checking and \$273,129.39 in savings. A motion approving the treasurer's report as read and payment of bills was made by Dahl and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Pestorius, Ausen and Dahl. 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 10 – EQIP applications that have been funded for \$110,000. Still waiting to hear on the organic and the high tunnel applications. There is a RIM/WRP sign-up going on now, a CSP sign-up will start this May, and a General CRP sign-up is expected to open up this summer. Staff is currently working on structures that are scheduled to be installed this year.
- Reviewed information from MASWCD re: Supervisor election filing dates. Districts 3 and 4 are up for re-election this year. Staff will keep the website up to date with the election information.
- Discussed state budget update and planned BWSR cuts. According to an email from Judy Erickson, MASWCD Legislative Affairs Specialist, we are looking at a proposed 6% reduction in both our general services (operating) grant and the cost share grant.

- Don F. that he and Ed Moffett attended an informational meeting on the new Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative on March 15th in Rochester. This is special funding available by RFP (request for proposal) to cost share projects in the Mississippi River Basin. They also attended another meeting in Austin on March 18th for discussion on reactions or plans of SWCDs or Partner Agencies in applying for these funds.
- Don F. reported on the GBERBA meeting he attended March 24th in Mankato. They had a PowerPoint presentation on Streambank stabilization.
- Don F. then reported on the SE Area MASWCD meeting he attended on April 1st in Rochester. Topics included; 14 areas of expertise needed to effectively run an SWCD, state budget cuts, and an appreciation award to Wally Hildebrandt for his 50 years of dedication to conservation. The afternoon consisted of training for building good staff and supervisor relationships. Resolutions meeting will be held in June.
- Don F. reported on the Shell Rock River W.D. Advisory meeting he attended on April 2nd. They talked about bottom contours needed for preparation of dredging and that there may still be money available for the Albert Lea Lake dam project from the Army Corps. of Engineers.
- Brenda reported on the Administrative Assistant Training she attended on March 30-31st in Alexandria. She found several of the topics covered to be useful.
- Don F. informed the board that our district pickup needs new brakes.
- Reviewed the Turtle Creek W.D. minutes from their March 16th meeting.

VI. Adjournment:

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

The next regular meeting will be held **Thursday, May 13th, 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