



*Freeborn County Soil & Water
Conservation District
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**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
April 14th, 2011**

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Chairman Don Kropp in our district office located at 1400 West Main Street, Albert Lea, MN. Chairman Kropp then introduced guests John Nicholson, NRCS and Jan Flatness.

II. Those present were as follows:

Don Kropp, Chairman	Don Flatness, District Manager
Chris Dahl, Vice-Chair	Brenda Lageson, District Administrative Assistant
Dave Ausen, Treasurer	Mark Schaetzke, District Technician
Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary	Ed Moffett, NRCS District Conservationist
Colin Wittmer, Supervisor	

Absent: None

III. Chairman Kropp congratulated Don Flatness for his dedication and 45 years of service as of April 4, 1966. The board of supervisors and staff presented him with a plaque and expressed their great appreciation of him and all that he does for Freeborn County.

IV. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

- **Minutes of the March 10th regular meeting** were approved as presented on a motion made by Wittmer and seconded by Ausen. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Dahl, Ausen, Heers, Jr. and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

V. Treasurer's Report:

- **The treasurer's balance as of March 31st, 2011**, was \$2,331.22 in checking and \$308,649.32 in savings. A motion approving the treasurer's report as read and payment of bills was made by Heers, Jr. and seconded by Dahl. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Dahl, Ausen, Heers, Jr. and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

Discussion was held regarding a financial and compliance audit that we are required to have done for our year end 2010. Brenda will send a letter of request for bids from local accountants.

VI. State Cost Share Program Actions and/or Information:

- District Manager Flatness presented the following request for special flood cost share assistance:
- | <u>Contract #</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Practice</u> | <u>Est. Cost</u> | <u>Encumbered</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| SMFR11-01 | Pirkl, Alex | D.9 Streambank | \$9,000 | \$3,905 |

After reviewing this request for state cost share assistance a motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Wittmer approving the project# SMFR11-01 not to exceed the dollar amount mentioned above. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Dahl, Ausen, Heers, Jr. and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

District Manager Flatness then presented the following request for special flood cost share assistance:

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Encumbered</u>
SMFR11-02	Angel, John	D.9 Streambank	\$8,000	\$3,203

After reviewing this request for state cost share assistance a motion was made by Wittmer and seconded by Dahl approving the project# SMFR11-02 not to exceed the dollar amount mentioned above. Results of a roll

call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Dahl, Ausen, Heers, Jr. and Wittmer. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

VII. New Business:

- NRCS Agency report given by Ed Moffett, District Conservationist. EQIP sign-up is now complete and accepted applicants are coming in to sign paperwork. General CRP sign-up ends April 15th three or four applications received so far. Field checks are being done on possible re-enrollments.

John Nicholson then reported on the status of Federal budget and that Resource Council and Development (RC & D's) will not be funded. He also thanked and congratulated Don Flatness on his conservation efforts, his ability to train new staff, and his knowledge of the land and people.

- Read a note from Bev Nordby, Mower SWCD. She is still working on a contract with MPCA for Mower & Freeborn SWCDs to complete the practice inventory in the Cedar River Basin.
- Kropp reported on the GBERBA Policy meeting he attended in Mankato on March 11. They approved the 2011 budget, encumbered project dollars and heard a report from Buffalo Lake Energy of Fairmont (an ethanol plant).
- Heers, Jr. and Don F. reported on the SE Area SWCD meeting they attended in Stewartville on March 29. Regular business was conducted and agency reports were given. Several area annual reports and plans were reviewed to get ideas as to how other districts put these reports together. The afternoon ended with a training session on how to communicate with the press.
- Don F. then reported on the Shell Rock River WD Advisory Committee he attended on April 1st. Kyle Skov was elected as the new Chairperson. Items discussed included; County Commissioner Representation on Advisory Board, MPCA and area sewer updates, and a Legislative Update by Behnke.
- Brenda gave a short report on the Spring Admin. Training she attended in Mille Lacs on April 5 – 6th. She attended several interesting sessions which included tree programs, eLink reporting, raising district awareness, running effective meetings and how to deal with difficult co-workers.
- Mark gave a report on the Forestry Workshop that our staff with the help of Emily Hutchins, DNR held on March 24th at Country Inn and Suites. This workshop was well attended and the presentations were very informative. The project was sponsored by the State of MN through the MN Forestry Program.
- Reviewed Correspondence Received. . .
 - Turtle Creek W.D. minutes from their March 15th meeting.

VIII. Adjournment:

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

The next regular meeting will be held **Thursday, May 12th, 2011** 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,

Paul Heers, Jr., Board Secretary

Date