

**Benton SWCD
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
USDA Service Center, Foley, MN
August 19th, 2009**

Attendance: Supervisors - Joe Jordan, Wade Bastian, Bernie Thole, Chuck Rau and Phil Grosland.
Others: Gerry Maciej and Pat Gehling (NRCS).

I. Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order by Bastian at 8:32 A.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance - Recited

III. Approve Agenda

Maciej asked to add the following items. VIII Conservation Plans, C. Donnalea Foster – NB09-01, XI Information Items, B. New Business, 4. Schedule an Education Committee Meeting and 5) District Computers. Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve the agenda with the additions. All were in favor. The motion passed.

IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve the minutes from the July 7th, 2009 regular board meeting. All were in favor. The motion passed.

V. Treasurers' Report

Maciej presented the Money Market Account Report, Account Quick Report and July Program Summary Report. Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve the reports. All were in favor. The motion passed. Maciej presented the August Accounts Payable report. Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve the accounts payable report and pay bills. All were in favor. The motion passed.

VIII. Conservation Plans

A. Benton County Parks – NB08-01 – Maciej explained that Benton County completed most of the components of the buffer and will be finishing the planting by next spring. They are requesting a partial payment for items completed so far. Motion by Thole second by Rau to approve the partial payment request for contract NB08-01 in the amount of \$2,114.75. All were in favor. The motion passed.

B. Jill Semrau –EQIP Organic Farming – Gehling reported that this project was approved for funding by NRCS and that Maciej approved the conservation plan shortly after the July board meeting.

C. Donnalea Foster – NB09-01 – Maciej explained that the native buffer was recently installed and Foster is requesting a final cost share reimbursement. The Little Rock Lake Association is contributing an equal share of cost share for this project which will allow for more buffers to become established with grant funds. Motion by Rau second by Grosland to approve the payment request for contract NB09-01 in the amount of \$673.51. All were in favor. The motion passed.

VI. Mike Kremer – Capability Resources Presentation

Kremer presented a power point to supervisors and all SWCD and NRCS staff about his overall analysis of district operations. Maciej, Gehling and all SWCD staff left the meeting at this time. Kremer followed up with presenting specific recommendations to the SWCD supervisors.

VII. Information Items

A. Committee Reports

- 1) July 14-15, MASWCD supervisor orientation and refresher conference – Rau reported on the conference summarizing that it was very worthwhile experience.
- 2) July 16, MMM RC&D meeting – Grosland provided a report of the meeting

- 3) July 28, WRAC meeting – No supervisors were able to attend the meeting.
- 4) July 29, Voyageur's Canoe Tour – Grosland reported that he attended the canoe tour of the Mississippi River and presented a summary of the event.
- 5) August 5, 2010 Budget request to Benton County – Bastian and Grosland reported that they and Maciej presented their request to the Benton County Commissioners. The presentation focused on the activities of the district and the needs for 2010.
- 6) August 8, "Take a Day Off" Mississippi River Renaissance event – It was reported that the event was well attended and favorable comments were received.
- 7) August 13, Handbook Presentation – Bastian reported that he participated in the presentation of the handbook to district staff and that district staff should have a good understanding of its contents.
- 8) August 17, ERWA meeting – Jordan provided a summary of the meeting.
- 9) August 18, MASWCD Convention planning meeting – Thole was not able to attend the planning meeting. District Technician Katie Evans reported on the planning progress. The theme for the convention will be "SWCD's Working Clean, Green and Lean". The district will need to provide a moderator for one of the employee/supervisor sessions.

X. Progress Reports

- A.** Staff Accomplishments – These were reviewed.
- B.** Dan Martens – U of M Extension – Martens provided information about the on-going dairy operation tours, upcoming corn silage tour (September 10th) and upcoming small farm expo (September 12th). Martens discussed the slow crop development of corn and soybeans in the area and the development of alfalfa.

Motion by Thole, second by Jordan to recess the meeting until 8:00 A.M. on August 20th. All were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting was recessed at 12:10 P.M.

Bastian called the meeting back to order at 8:00 A.M. on August 20th.

Attendance: Supervisors - Joe Jordan, Wade Bastian, Bernie Thole. Others: Gerry Maciej (staff). Phil Grosland entered the meeting at 8:15 A.M. Rau was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

VII. Information Items

A. Committee Reports

- 3) July 28, WRAC meeting – Maciej reported that an electronic document with links to groundwater data on the internet was reviewed. A link to the document is available on the Benton SWCD website. The September WRAC meeting was cancelled and the next available date for a meeting is November 24th.
- 5) August 5, 2010 Budget request to Benton County – Maciej reported on the 2010 budget request presentation to Benton County.

IX. Action Items

A. Old Business

- 1) Release of USDA data – Maciej shared an e-mail he received from Benton County Attorney Robert Raupp on the matter. Raupp stated that written materials containing non-public data can be distributed to SWCD board members. Open meeting law

does not require that the public receive access to printed materials available to the board if the materials contain non public data. No further action was taken.

B. New Business

- 1) District Capacity Award – Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve the District Capacity Award application as presented. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- 2) Outstanding Conservation Cooperator contest – Ballots were cast by supervisors for the contest. Maciej tallied the votes (including pre-voting by NRCS and SWCD Staff). Voting results were Brian and Glen Kaschmitter, Inc. 3 votes, Roy and Cynthia Schneider 2 votes. Motion by Thole, second by Jordan to declare Brian and Glen Kaschmitter, Inc. the 2009 Benton County Outstanding Conservation Cooperators. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Grosland entered the meeting at this time.

- 3) Approve FY 2010 BWSR grant agreement – Maciej reviewed the dollar reductions to the grant agreement and several changes and new requirements in the agreement from previous years. Motion by Jordan, second by Grosland to approve the grant agreement as presented. All were in favor. The motion passed.

XI. Information Items

A. Old Business

- 1) 2010 Budget – Maciej shared information about numerous activities he has been working on since the July board meeting that may impact the 2010 budget. The following items were discussed in greater detail; 1) July 9th meeting with the Morrison SWCD District Manager 2) Communication with Mille Lacs SWCD related to possible partnerships/sharing of duties 3) Sherburne SWCD request for assistance during the process of hiring a District Manager and possible sharing of technical and/or administrative services. Copies of a letter to Sherburne SWCD requesting a meeting to discuss potential partnerships were distributed. Motion by Thole, second by Grosland to send the letter to Sherburne SWCD as distributed. All were in favor. The motion passed. 4) Staff request to consider reducing hours for all employees 5) 2010 health insurance premium increase.

XII. Correspondence

- E.** WC MASWCD Area 2 Special Meeting Agenda – Maciej indicated that the deadline for registering for the meeting is August 27th. Thole indicated he will be attending the meeting.

Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to schedule an SWCD board meeting for September 2, 2009, 8:30 A.M. at the USDA Service Center in Foley, MN. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to table all items that have not been discussed. All were in favor. The motion passed.

XIII. Adjourn

Motion by Jordan, second by Grosland to adjourn. All were in favor. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 A.M.

Secretary, Board of Supervisors

Date

Calendar of Future Events:

- August 20, Benton SWCD/NRCS tour of conservation practices
- August 26, Conservation Stewardship Program informational meeting
- September 2, Benton SWCD board meeting
- September 3, MASWCD Area 2 and WCTSA meeting
- September 16, Benton SWCD board meeting