

Benton SWCD
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Lakeview Center, Rice, MN
July 7th, 2009

Attendance: Supervisors - Joe Jordan, Wade Bastian, Bernie Thole and Phil Grosland. Absent – Chuck Rau. Staff advisors - Gerry Maciej, Pat Gehling and Jason Weinerman

I. Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order by Bastian at 8:30 A.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance - Recited

III. Introductions – Introductions were made by all in attendance.

IV. Approve Agenda

Maciej asked to add the following items. VIII Conservation Plans, 1. Mike Sustercich, 2. Roy Schneider, 3. Betty Mastey, 4. Kaschmitter Farms Inc., 5. Diane Fromelt, 6. Don Herbst, 7. Jason Smelter. VII Action Items, B. New Business, 2. Outstanding Conservation Cooperator Contest. IX Information Items, C. New Business, 5. Managing Workloads and Budget. Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve the agenda with the additions. All were in favor. The motion passed.

V. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Maciej presented the revised minutes from the May 20, 2009 board meeting. Motion by Thole, second by Jordan to approve the minutes from the May 20th, 2009 regular board meeting. All were in favor. The motion passed. Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve the minutes from the June 17th, 2009 regular board meeting. All were in favor. The motion passed.

VI. Mississippi River Renaissance Project Presentation

Kimberly Thielen Cremers made a presentation about the Mississippi River Renaissance project that is underway. Duane Cekalla was present to represent the Benton County Water Resources Advisory Committee. The project coordinates local units of government to protect and utilize the Mississippi River corridor from the Blanchard dam near Royalton to the 10th Street dam in St Cloud. Thielen Cremers presented several maps that have been created for the project. As part of an on-going effort to create a vision statement for this project, Thielen Cremers distributed a survey that meeting attendees completed. She also discussed several upcoming events related to the project.

VII. Treasurers' Report

Maciej presented the Money Market Account Report, Account Quick Report and June Program Summary Report. Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve the reports. All were in favor. The motion passed. Maciej presented the July 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. Maciej presented the first half of 2009 budget versus actual report for the operating budget. Several items were discussed including income and expenses that are over budget. Maciej informed the board that during the preparation of the report, it was identified that an adjustment to the 2008 closeout may be necessary to account for changes in the retained earnings from the previous year (interest from a certificate of deposit). Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve the budget versus actual report. All were in favor. The motion passed.

VIII. Conservation Plans

- A.** Mike Sustercich
- B.** Roy Schneider
- C.** Betty Mastey
- D.** Kaschmitter Farms Inc.
- E.** Diane Fromelt
- F.** Don Herbst

G. Jason Smelter

Gehling reviewed each individual conservation plan and answered questions. Motion by Thole, second by Jordan to approve all conservation plans. All were in favor. The motion passed.

VII. Action Items

A. Old Business

- 1) NRCS/SWCD Tour of Conservation Practices – Maciej provided an overview of the type of projects that will be visited during the tour. Possible dates for holding the tour were discussed. Maciej was asked to coordinate with potential participants and choose from August 20th or 25th.

B. New Business

- 1) Release of USDA data – Gehling explained that in order for SWCD supervisors to have access to private information in NRCS files, they need to comply with new farm bill requirements related to releasing personally identifiable information. Supervisors need to acknowledge their acceptance of the terms by signing a form (Attachment C). Maciej distributed copies of “Attachment C”. The board discussed if following these policies will be consistent with their required duties as elected officials and open meeting law. After discussion Maciej was asked to forward a copy of the form to the Benton County attorney for review and comment.
- 2) Outstanding Conservation Cooperator Contest – Maciej and Gehling presented an outline of ways to streamline and improve the OCC contest. Maciej asked for board support of the changes and to move forward with the contest for this year. Motion by Thole, second by Grosland to approve the changes to the OCC program and to move forward with the contest for 2009. All were in favor. The motion passed.

VIII. Progress Reports

A. Staff Accomplishments – These were reviewed.

B. Dan Martens – U of M Extension – Martens distributed copies of a “Summer 2009 Dairy Tours” flyer and provided a briefing. Martens presented a summary of a U of M Extension Service grant application to the MPCA. If funded the project would work with farmers in central Minnesota to identify soil phosphorus variability using grid sampling. Variable rate application of phosphorus would then be used to evaluate effectiveness and applicability. Maciej indicated he wrote a letter of support for the grant application and committed up to \$5,000 in in-kind services for the project if funded.

IX. Information Items

A. Committee Reports

- 1) MCIT human resource management seminar (Wade and Gerry) - Bastian and Maciej provided a summary of the seminar.
- 2) Little Rock Lake Association annual meeting and nitrate screening clinic - June 27 (Chuck) – Rau was not present to provide a report.
- 3) TSA 2 board meeting – June 30 (Bernie and Gerry) – Thole reported that the West Central Technical Service Area has officially formed and contains all 12 counties. One year agreements with the Stearns SWCD were approved for providing staff and administrative services to the TSA.
- 4) WRAC/Commissioner Committee of the Whole meeting – July 6 (Gerry) – Maciej summarized the committee of the whole meeting at which the WRAC recommended Benton County accept the MPCA’s feedlot regulation program.

B. Old Business

- 1) Benton County plat book update (tabled from June) – Maciej discussed several proposals he has received for publishing a new plat book. One of the proposals includes software that would allow future editions of a plat book to be done in house. Various departments in Benton County are also interested in obtaining this software. The software will assist with quality assurance and quality control of the digital parcel data on an on-going basis. It will also present the parcel data in a format that automates the labeling of parcels for daily use within some departments. This partnership will benefit the District and Benton County for many years. Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to authorize the District Manager to move forward with Red Barn Plat Books & Cartographic Services, contingent upon Benton County's continued partnership with this effort. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- 2) Elk River Watershed primer (tabled from June) – This item was tabled.
- 3) Tree program advertising summary (tabled from June) – This item was tabled.

C. New Business

- 1) Budget request presentation - Maciej informed the supervisors that the District will have an opportunity to present the Elk River Watershed Association and Benton SWCD 2010 budgets to Benton County on August 5th at 10:45 A.M.
- 2) Little Rock Lake TMDL Contract amendment – Maciej indicated that District Technician Annie Felix informed him that there was slightly over \$30,000 in this contract that would not be needed for the project. This is due to the fact that the cost of processing water samples was billed directly to the MPCA instead of to the District. The MPCA requested that we revise our TMDL contract to reflect this change. Maciej indicated he signed the contract revision on June 29th.

Jordan left the meeting at this time.

- 3) Clean Water Legacy grant final report – Maciej discussed the final expenses for the FY07 Clean Water Legacy grant that were paid for on June 30th.
- 4) MPCA Watershed Planning initiative – Maciej provided information about the Mississippi River – St. Cloud watershed planning effort that is underway. On behalf of the water quality management entities within the watershed, the MPCA has requested pre-planning funds for this initiative.
- 5) Managing workloads and budgets – Maciej presented the board with several decisions he has made over the past few weeks that affect staff workloads and District finances. Maciej indicated the purpose for bringing the examples to the board's attention is to have productive dialog about his management of staff and finances. After discussing each situation the board supported Maciej's decisions and indicated he should continue managing staff workloads and finances as he currently is.

X. Correspondence

- A. None

XI. Adjourn

Motion by Thole, second by Grosland to adjourn. All were in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 A.M.

Secretary, Board of Supervisors

Date

Calendar of Future Events:

July 14-15, MASWCD supervisor orientation and refresher conference

July 16, MMM RC&D meeting

July 20, ERWA board meeting

July 28, WRAC meeting

July 29, Voyageur's Canoe Tour

August 8, "Take a Day Off" Mississippi River Renaissance Event

August 17, ERWA board meeting

August 19, Benton SWCD Board Meeting

To be determined (August 20 or 25), Benton SWCD/NRCS Tour of Conservation Practices