

Benton SWCD
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
USDA Service Center, Foley, MN
September 16th, 2009

Attendance: Supervisors - Joe Jordan, Chuck Rau, Wade Bastian, Bernie Thole and Phil Grosland.
Staff advisor - Gerry Maciej, Other – Pat Gehling - NRCS, Tim Wilson - NRCS

I. Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order by Bastian at 8:34 A.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance - Recited

III. Approve Agenda

Maciej asked to add the following items. X Information Items, C. New Business, 5) MASWCD Resolutions, XI Correspondence, E. Letter from Jason Weirnerman, BWSR Board Conservationist and F. Mississippi River Renaissance Boat Tour. Motion by Jordan, second by Grosland to approve the agenda with the changes. All were in favor. The motion passed.

IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2009 Benton SWCD board meeting. All were in favor. The motion passed.

V. Treasurers' Report

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

VI. Supervisor discussion about future district operation opportunities – set meeting date

Motion by Thole, second by Grosland to set a special meeting of the Benton SWCD for September 25th, 2009 at 8:30 A.M. at the USDA Service Center in Foley, MN. All were in favor. The motion passed.

VII. Conservation Plans

A. Kurt Martenson –FY08-06 – Partial Payment Request

Maciej indicated that the only part of the project that has not been completed is a dormant seeding of the buffer area. This is scheduled to be completed later this year. Motion by Rau, second by Grosland to approve the partial payment request for contract FY08-06 in the amount of \$19,902.03. All were in favor. The motion passed.

VIII. Action Items

A. Old Business

1) 2010 Budget

Maciej reviewed an updated 2009/2010 operating budget spreadsheet and related documents. Discussion followed about the expected deficits for 2009 and 2010. Potential revenues and expense reducing measures were discussed. SWCD staffs were invited into the meeting to gather input on budget balancing options. The board indicated a desire to continue budget discussions during the September 25th special meeting.

B. New Business

1) Approve FY 2009 NRCS Lease Agreement

Motion by Grosland, second by Rau to approve the NRCS FY2009 lease agreement, authorize the District Manager to pay the bill, authorize the District Manager to pay for computer expenses and authorize the District Manager to negotiate future lease

agreements with the NRCS and landlord. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

2) Set an education committee meeting date

By consensus an education committee meeting was set for October 8th, 2009 at 8:30 A.M.

IX. Progress Reports

A. Staff Accomplishments

B. Dan Martens – U of M Extension – Martens was not present to provide a report.

X. Information Items

A. Committee Reports

1) “Tour of Practices” – August 20 (Wade, Joe, Phil, Bernie, Gerry) – No discussion.

2) WC MASWCD and WC TSA Area 2 meeting – September 3 (Bernie and Gerry)

Maciej provided an overview of the meeting including details about the MASWCD annual convention planning activities.

B. Old Business

1) Benton County plat book update (tabled from August) – Maciej provided a progress report.

2) Clean Water Legacy grant final report to BWSR (tabled from August) – No discussion was needed.

3) MPCA Watershed Planning initiative (tabled from August) – Maciej provided an update on the status on MPCA’s initiative in the Mississippi River – St. Cloud watershed.

4) Handbook update (tabled from August) – Maciej indicated that District Technician Katie Evans has pre-scheduled vacation for the first week in January, 2010 and Maciej had already approved the leave request prior to the board approving the updated handbook. The changes to the handbook allocate vacation monthly instead of the entire year’s worth on January 1st. An unintended consequence is that Evans may be short of vacation during the first part of 2010. Maciej requested that the board make a one time exception to this policy for Evans. Motion by Grosland, second by Rau to allocate technician Evans the first 6 months of vacation on January 1st, 2010. This will be a one time exception to the vacation policy. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed. Maciej reported that he had discussed with Robert Raupp, Benton County Attorney, the board’s question about making changes to the vacation and sick leave sections in the handbook. Raupp advised that he was not aware of any restriction the board would have related to the potential changes to vacation and sick leave. The board indicated they will discuss this matter further during the September 25th special board meeting.

5) Elk River Watershed primer (tabled from August) – This item was not discussed.

6) Tree program advertising summary (tabled from August) – This item was not discussed.

7) Reply from letter to Sherburne SWCD – Maciej indicated that the Sherburne SWCD board is interested in meeting to discuss potential new partnership opportunities. A special evening meeting may accommodate the schedules of most supervisors. By consensus the board selected the evening of October 28th or 29th after 6:00 P.M. as possible dates for a meeting and asked Maciej to identify a location convenient for both boards.

C. New Business

- 1) Draft Little Rock Creek Stressor Identification Report (tabled from August) – Maciej reviewed the primary stressors identified in the report and encouraged supervisors to attend the stakeholder meeting if possible.
- 2) Draft 2010 impaired waters list – Maciej indicated that as a result of water quality data collected in the Little Rock Creek watershed, additional impairments are expected when the 2010 impaired waters list is released.
- 3) MASWCD Leadership Institute report (tabled from August) – This item was not discussed.
- 4) 2009 fair booth summary – Maciej provided information about the 2009 fair booth display.

XI. Correspondence

- A.** WC MASWCD Area 2 Envirothon Letter (tabled from August) – Maciej indicated that he previously discussed this letter with Bastian and indicated that the district is supporting the Envirothon financially but is providing staff support at this time.
- B.** WC MASWCD Area 2 June 4 meeting minutes (tabled from August) – No discussion was necessary.
- C.** WC MASWCD Area 2 Bylaws (tabled from August) – No discussion was necessary.
- D.** WC MASWCD Executive Committee July 24 meeting minutes (tabled from August) – No discussion was necessary.
- E.** Letter from Jason Weirnerman, BWSR Board Conservationist – Maciej distributed a letter from Weirnerman. The letter recognizes the high level of professionalism, accountability and proactive nature of the Benton SWCD.
- F.** Mississippi River Renaissance Boat Tour – Maciej distributed a letter from Kimberly Theilen Cremers, Central MN Mississippi River Renaissance Coordinator. The letter invites the board to a Mississippi River boat tour on September 30th to “get acquainted with your Mississippi River”. Maciej encouraged board members to attend this event.

XII. Adjourn

Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:29 P.M.

Secretary, Board of Supervisors

Date

Calendar of Future Events:

- September 16, Little Rock Creek TMDL stakeholder meeting
- September 24, MMM RC&D meeting
- September 25, Benton SWCD special board meeting
- October 8, Benton SWCD education committee meeting
- October 19, ERWA meeting
- October 21, Benton SWCD board meeting
- October 28 or 29, Benton and Sherburne SWCD joint planning meeting