

**Benton County Water Resources Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 27, 2009 - 1:30 PM**  
**Benton County Commissioners Room - Foley, MN 56329**

The Benton County Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Jordan 1:34 p.m. at the Benton County Commissioners Room on Tuesday, January 27, 2009.

Those in attendance include: Joe Jordan – SWCD Board, Ken Nodo - At-large, Duane Cekalla – Little Rock Lake Association, Annie Felix – Benton SWCD and Water Plan Coordinator, Mark McNamara & Chelle Benson – Benton DOD, Phil Votruba – MCPA, John Bemboom – Benton Co. Twp Assoc., Brian Kaschmitter – ERWA, Dan Lais – DNR Waters, Craig Gondeck – At-Large, Warren Peschl – Commissioner, Jim Moshier – City of Foley, Dave Neiman – MRWA, Gerry Maciej – SWCD Manager, Pat Gehling – NRCS, Jason Weinerman – BWSR, John Henz – City of Sauk Rapids

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review / Approve Minutes. John Bemboom requested to change minutes for his representation to be changed from At-Large to Township official. Motion by Ken Nodo to approve the November 18, 2008 minutes. Second by John Bemboom. Motion Carried.

3. Agenda. Annie Felix requested to add two items under Reports: 4) SWCD Winter Meeting. Motion by Duane Cekalla to approve the agenda with the additions. Second by John Bemboom. Motion Carried.

4. Hand out voting member 3-ring binders & reviewed materials

Annie reviewed membership, voting will be postponed until March meeting when new SWCD Board member and potentially new At-Large member will be present. Annie stated that the binder contains the Water Plan, Scoping Document, and Appendix.

5. Reports

A. Benton County Geologic Atlas progress report – Chelle Benson

Dan Setterholm reported to Chelle that the County Well Index has 3,363 wells entered into the electronic inventory. Gary Meyer has created subsurface geology map. The bedrock topography draft is completed. The glacial thickness will be completed soon. Project is moving faster than expected.

B. Twin Pines Gas Station (South of Rice) – Cekalla

Gas tanks at Twin Pines were leaking. Cekalla contacted the SWCD. Gondeck reported that the recovery tank was what was actually leaking, about 50 gallons per month. Initially when the leak was detected, they pulled out the tanks and tested for leaks and found it in the recovery system. Twin Pines replaced the tanks anyway. Annie reported that you can sign up on the web for MPCA email updates about the Petroleum Program.

C. Feb. 19, 2009 Benton Co. Twp Officers Meeting – Annie Felix

Bemboom reported that all meeting invitations have been mailed out. Annie stated that she usually attends Twp Officers Meetings, but she will be on vacation for the Feb. 19 meeting. Bemboom will represent the WRAC for that meeting.

D. 2009 SWCD Winter meeting – Annie Felix

Meeting will be held in Foley sometime in March. An accumulation of 10 years of data from the SWCD test plot program will be presented

#### 6. Feedlot Delegation Consensus Discussion

Annie reviewed the topic using a Power Point presentation, including how the we got to the point we are at today. She reviewed discussions from past WRAC meetings. Question for the group: Is feedlot delegation the best tool to identify and work with non-compliant feedlots in Benton County?

Phil Votruba stated that he is not sure how the budget deficit will affect delegation funding.

Question asked: What is a level 3 inventory?

Need for an inventory was discussed. How to do it without being delegated? Discussion about funding for delegated counties. Can we accomplish what we need to do without being delegated? The MPCA feedlot program is reactive and a local program will act to detect problems because it is required that they assess a certain percentage of their feedlots a year. There was a general group consensus that an inventory is necessary.

What do we want to accomplished? Protect water resources. We want education with existing inventory and a voluntary approach. Reviewed the Feedlot/Nutrient Management Goal.

Chelle brought in the 2001 SWCD/NRCS windshield survey and shared with the group that it included addressed, maps, and type of livestock.

Group developed a Pros and Cons list:

#### Cons

- Producers may not be able to differentiate between regulatory programs and staff vs. voluntary staff and programs
- Funding has to be matched
- Part of the cost is for addressing feedlots that could be addressed voluntarily

#### Pros

- Able to do level 3 inspection and identify where the feedlots are in relation to proximity to water
- Delegation program provides funding for staff and associated costs
- Provides a local understanding of the program
- Provides local control of how future feedlot work is administered
- Inventory can be used for non-regulatory purposes
- Local control should provide faster service to producers

Ideas: Look into how we can find money to conduct an inventory. What information is missing from existing inventory that we could find with another survey?

Group asked if the SWCD/NRCS windshield survey findings could be put on a map and shown to the group. Annie added that the MPCA registered feedlots could be mapped and farm sizes portrayed.

Since the group has been indecisive for about 6 months about the feedlot delegation topic, Jason Weinerman suggested that the issue be tabled and that the group move on to look at the other 2 priority concerns.

7. Next meeting: Motion by Duane Cekalla, second by Guy Spence to set the next meeting on March 24, 2009. Motion Carried. This will be at 1:30 p.m. at the Benton County

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8. Adjournment. Motion by Duane Cekalla to adjourn. Second by John Bemboom. Motion Carried. Adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gerry Maciej

Approved by:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
WRAC Board Chairperson