



Freeborn Soil & Water
Conservation District
1400 West Main Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007
Phone: 507-373-5607 Ext. 3
FAX: 507-373-7654
www.freebornswcd.org

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
September 10th, 2009

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.

II. Those present were as follows:

Don Kropp, Chairman

Don Flatness, District Manager

Dave Ausen, Treasurer

Brenda Lageson, District Administrative Assistant

Chris Dahl, Board Secretary

Mark Schaetzke, District Technician

Roger M. Nelson, Supervisor

Ed Moffett, NRCS District Conservationist

ABSENT:

Cole Pestorious, Vice Chairman

III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

- **Minutes of the August 13th regular meeting** were approved as presented on a motion made by Ausen and seconded by Dahl. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Dahl and Nelson. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

IV. Treasurer's Report:

- **The treasurer's balance as of August 31st, 2009**, was \$1,109.54 in checking and \$334,913.65 in savings. A motion approving the treasurer's report as read and payment of bills was made by Dahl and seconded by Nelson. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Dahl and Nelson. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- Reviewed payment request to NRCS for Contribution Agreement #66-6322-8-7006 in the amount of \$855.00 for work completed. A motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Dahl to authorize Chairman Kropp to sign this payment request and forward to NRCS. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Dahl and Nelson. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**

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

District Manager Flatness announced that the following has requested cost-share assistance:

| <u>Contract #</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Practice</u> | <u>Est. Cost</u> | <u>Encumbered</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| FY09-05 | Brandt, Wayne | D8 Water & Sediment Basin (1 ea.) | \$3,500.00 | \$2,625.00 |

After reviewing this request for state cost share assistance a motion was made by Ausen and seconded by Dahl approving the project# FY09-05 with the dollar amount mentioned above. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Dahl and Nelson. Opposed - - None. **The motion carried.**

VI. New Business:

- Reviewed MCIT Insurance Coverage Documents for 2010.
- Employee Health Insurance was discussed. After a presentation from staff a motion was made by Dahl and seconded by Nelson to keep the current health plans (Blue Cross/Blue Shield of MN-High Deductible HSA and Landmark Dental) paying approximately 2% increases. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Dahl and Nelson. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.** A second motion was then made by Ausen and seconded by Dahl to pay one half of the high deductible for employees. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Dahl and Nelson. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- The Area 7 Southeast Fall meeting will be held on Sept. 16th in Stewartville. Three supervisors and three employees plan on attending.
- Employees have an opportunity to attend a training session entitled BWSR Academy put on by Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) in November at Cragun's in Brainerd. The training agenda has many useful sessions listed. There are funds available from Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) to help offset the cost. After some discussion a motion was made by Dahl and seconded by Nelson authorizing employees to attend this training. Results of a roll call vote were as follows: Affirmative- Kropp, Ausen, Dahl and Nelson. Opposed -- None. **The motion carried.**
- NRCS Agency report given by Ed Moffett, District Conservationist. Ed reported that staff have been busy with an EQIP audit, EQIP payments going out, CRP re-enrollments, WRP construction and the new CSP sign-up. Ed then reviewed office space and phone/lan/wan/voice rent agreement between our district and NRCS for FY2009. This agreement is for 10/1/08 – 9/30/09. Ed also reported that for FY2010 we will be unable to reimburse NRCS for our portion of the rent and will need to get a separate lease agreement with the landlord.
- **Reports from board members or staff attending meeting during the month. . .**
 - Roger Nelson stated that he had attended the Regular August Meeting of the Shell Rock River Watershed District, Board of Managers. He said much of the discussion at this meeting was devoted to issues surrounding the existing Dam on Albert Lea Lake. Nelson feels the dam needs repair or replacement because lake water levels are falling. However, the landowner who owns the land around it claims he also owns the dam, and is resisting efforts by the watershed district and county board to improve or replace it, primarily because of trespass issues.

Roger asked if our SWCD Board could do anything to expedite progress on this issue. Chairman Kropp felt that since our SWCD has no regulatory authority concerning this matter, any action taken needs to be initiated by the county board.
 - Don F. reported on the GBERBA Tech meeting he attended on August 26th in Mankato. The MPCA 319 Grant application was not approved, Brooke Hacker-Water Quality Trading Program Technician gave a presentation her efforts to date, Ron Harnack-Consultant gave a presentation he is working on with BARR Engineering to study sources of erosion in the Minnesota River, Kyle Jarcho,-MSU Grad Student reported on a study he's been working on of tile water and how bacteria enters the drainage systems.
 - Don F. also reported on the Shell Rock River WD Advisory Committee meeting he attended on September 4th. Discussions included Emergency Aerator Status, Rotenone Treatment for Pickerel and Mud Lakes, Dredging Plan update, South Industrial Park Project update, Summer Interns storm sewer assessment, and a report that a 37' long, 12.97 pound Northern Pike that was caught in Fountain Lake.

- Read thank you note from Annalie Plaetz, GBERBA Nutrient Management Specialist for working with her and incorporating her information into our County Fairbooth Display.
- Reviewed the Turtle Creek W.D. minutes from their August 18th meeting.
- Reviewed well records.
- Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Resolutions were reviewed and voted on for our upcoming State Convention to be held in Duluth, MN in December.

VII. Adjournment:

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

The next regular meeting will be held **Thursday, October 8th, 2009** 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,

Chris Dahl, Board Secretary

Date