

Preliminary unapproved Minutes

The meeting of the Waseca SWCD Board of Supervisors was held at the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District's meeting room on May 13, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Larry Hagen, Chairman.

Members Present

Larry Hagen, Chairman
Ron Purcell, Treasurer
Jurgen Peters, Vice Chair
Bob Drager, Secretary
Wayne Cords

Staff Present

Marla Watje, District Manager
Darlene Kukuczka, Office Assistant

NRCS Staff

Jim Jirik, District Conservationist

Others:

Chris Hughes, BWSR Board Conservationist
Richard Borglum
Ramona and William Ripka

Motion by Ron, second by Jurgen to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion carried.
Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Wetland Appeal: Mr. Borglum provided the Board with a copy of two BWSR power point presentations. Two pages within the power point presentations were noted by Mr. Borglum: The first being a page with two pictures of individuals with captions "A TEP" and "Too many people for a TEP" the second page "What is a TEP" and Mr. Borglum commented that his area is not adjacent to public water. Mr. Borglum also provided a photo copy of aerial photos of his site for the years 1938, 1951 and 1956. According to Mr. Borglum drainage was occurring on site in 1938. He indicated the ditch was already in place for the purpose of drainage.

Mr. Borglum addressed the Board with his concern with Marla being on the TEP and requested that she be removed from the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP). Mr. Borglum stated he would be willing to sign an agreement to allow the TEP to operate with only two members, or if the Board chose to replace Marla with someone else, such as a consultant or an employee from a surrounding county with technical expertise. Mr. Borglum stated that if she (Marla) stepped outside the boundary of the area he will respond. Mr. Borglum provided the Board with a copy of Marla's wetland training certificates and commented that she is "over qualified" and wasn't sure why she needed any outside experts on site, however BWSR required that the review be done over because she did not do it right. Mr. Borglum had concerns about all the people attending the on site visit scheduled. He requested the Board review the material he provided, especially where it indicated that a TEP consists of 3 members and not all the other people.

Mr. Borglum addressed the tile installed on site and that he did not have to get a permit because he is exempt.

Mr. Borglum requested the Board to agree with the findings of I&S Consulting.

Wayne discussed the fact that by law, a technical professional employee of the soil and water conservation district of the county in which the activity is occurring must be on the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP). Marla Watje is the only qualified person for Waseca SWCD. Only the 3 members of the panel can decide, however others can be present to provide assistance to the panel in specific areas of expertise.

Motion by Ron, second by Wayne that Marla remains as a member of the TEP, as required by statute and to seek advice from others that are present at the site review. Motion carried.
Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Mr. Borglum noted the letter indicating who will be present at the site visit on May 19, 2010 and stated he has concerns about letting all these others on his property, but will go by what his attorney advises. He also commented that the district plans to use today's standards for the delineation. He requested to use the standards in effect at the time of the Cease and Desist order.

Motion by Jurgen, second by Ron to designate the outside experts, Chris Hughes, BWSR; Steve Lawler, BWSR; Derek Anderson DNR; Hugh Valiant, DNR; Carol Strojny, BWSR, as advisors to the TEP and to participate in the site review on May 19, 2010. Brent Ihnen and Chris Howe, DNR Conservation Officers will also be in attendance. Motion carried. Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Outstanding Tree Account: After reviewed of the paperwork, Mrs. Ripka stated that they did get reimbursed for the trees purchased through Waseca SWCD for their CREP project, but they were not reimbursed for their time spent for planting. The Board was informed that the expenses exceeded the state and federal cost share limit. It was noted the District did not get reimbursed for the actual tree planting or the rental of the planter. Discussion was held about the site visit that was conducted on March 19, 2010. The Board will contact the DNR Forester to provide advice this fall to determine the survival rate and if it will be necessary to plant additional trees. Cost share funds could be applied for, if it is determined to be failure due to natural causes. The outstanding balance for the trees was paid in full and presented to the Board.

Motion by Ron, second by Wayne to approve the minutes of the SWCD Board meeting held on April 8, 2010. Motion carried. Affirmative: All Opposed: None

The treasurer's report dated April, 2010 was presented to the Board for review.

Motion by Jurgen, second by Wayne to approve the treasurer report dated April 30, 2010 as presented and file for audit. Motion carried. Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Invoices: Motion by Ron, second by Bob to approve the payment of the presented invoices. Motion Carried: Affirmative: All Opposed: None

BWSR report: Chris Hughes discussed the general services budget cuts made earlier this year for FY2010 and FY2011. It will be unclear of any additional cuts, until the legislative session ends. Grant funds will be available starting July 1, 2010 for feedlots with 300 animal unit or less. Clean Water Fund: Applications can be submitted after August 1st.

NRCS Report: Jim informed the Board that the new State Conservationist, Dan Baloun, will be at the Waseca office on May 28th and wants to meet with district board members and staff. NRCS major work activities include EQIP and CSP programs. Another sign up period for CSP starts soon.

Approval of FY 2010 Feedlot Grant: Motion by Wayne, second by Jurgen to approve the feedlot grant of \$26,000 for the Marzinske project. The project will involve relocation of the current lot. Motion Carried: Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Resolutions: Resolutions are to be submitted for the June Area VI meeting. The board reviewed a resolution from McCloud SWCD requesting cost share for the purpose of upgrading septic systems. The recommendation was to not support it, because of the lack of funds already.

Area VI MASWCD meeting: Ron and Bob plan to attend the June 3rd meeting in St James.

2011 Budget: The County requested a preliminary budget by June 1st. Ron and Wayne will develop the 2011 budget.

Supervisors Reports:

Ron reported on Waseca Lakes and Loon Lake aeration system and Cannon River activities. Jurgen reported on GBERBA's activities and Satish Gupta's report on MN River and erosion.

Cost share:

Native Buffer: Motion by Ron, second by Wayne to make a partial payment of \$5850.00 to Steve/Dave Arndt for FY09 -03NB. Motion Carried: Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Staff Reports:

Marla – Briefed the board on tree distribution & plantings and other activities.

Darlene – Briefed the board on the upcoming GBERBA audit.

Notary: Darlene received the Notary Public commission. Motion by Ron, second by Wayne to authorize expenses related to completing the notary public process and to charge others \$2.00 for notary services. Motion Carried: Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Motion by Ron, second by Bob to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:40 p.m. Motion Carried. Affirmative: All Opposed: None.

The Next Board Meeting will be June 10, 2010 at 6:30 P.M. at the Waseca SWCD office.