

Approved Minutes

The meeting of the Waseca County SWCD Board of Supervisors was held at the Waseca Soil and Water meeting room on February 14th, 2008.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Wayne Cords, chairman.

Members Present

Wayne Cords, chairman
Roger Androli, vice chairman
Ron Purcell, Treasurer
Jurgen Peters

Staff Present

Marla Watje, District Manager
Todd Piepho, CREP Technician
Jim Jirik, NRCS

Others

Jim Peterson- County Commissioner

Motion by Ron, second by Jurgen to approve the agenda as distributed.

Motion carried. Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Motion by Jurgen, second by Ron to approve the minutes of January 10th, 2008 SWCD Board meeting. Motion carried. Affirmative: All Opposed: None

The treasurer's report dated January 31st 2008 was presented to the Board for review. Motion by Jurgen, second by Roger to approve the January 31st, 2008 Treasurers Report as presented and file for audit. Motion carried. Affirmative: All Opposed: None

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

Supervisors Report:

Roger- Attended policy meeting at three rivers in Blue Earth County.

Ron- Attended lakes meeting at community education center. Discussed take a kid fishing day that will be taking place this weekend. Next summer there will be a fishing contest on Loon Lake at the park. Attended Cannon River Meeting.

Jurgen- Attended Alliance tech meeting in Mankato. Marla was named vice chair for the group. Discussed priority projects in the area.

Staff Report:

Todd- Discussed projects and other activities that are getting worked on in the office and in the field. Working on the website for Waseca SWCD. Attended both tree days.

Marla- Discussed projects and other activities that are getting worked on in the office and in the field. Reported that tree day was busy and many people were in to order trees and attend the presentations provided by the DNR foresters. She also attended feedlot site visits.

NRCS Report:

Jim- Discussed EQIP sign up. The current contracts in Waseca County will be funded at approximately \$400,000.00 with the possibility of additional funding coming. Jim will attend a D.C. meeting on February 20th and an organic farming conference on February 22nd.

Website-

Todd reported that the website is nearly complete. He contacted nacdnet with questions about how to get a server and what the process is. A rough draft of the website was printed out and presented to the board. The fee for a server will be \$150.00 annually and a \$30.00 start up fee is charged.

Chapter 103C-

A copy of Statute 103C was handed out to the board members. Members should review and plan on discussing at the March board meeting. Ron thought it would be a good idea for the district to go over the statute with the commissioners when the meeting in March is held.

Steele County SWCD Personal Meeting Update-

Jurgen informed the board that he and Marla met with the Steele County Personal committee and discussed the farmbill technician position. Jurgen stated that without additional funding as requested from the county, we are financially unable to commit to a full time permanent position. Jim Peterson stated that the Rinke Noonan bill of \$13,000.00 incurred by the county for the Borglum WCA appeal plus the possibility of another \$5,000.00 in January would have been the employee's wage and Jim did not think there would be County Board support for additional funding.

Consensus of the board was to have Ron and Jurgen coordinate a meeting between the Board of Commissioners and the SWCD Board to review the Statute 103C and funding for an employee. Jim Jirik informed the board that with the help of the SWCD staff, the \$400,000.00 EQIP funds would not have been spent or any other program funding to the extent currently. The funds are coming into the community for the farmers. Without a farmbill there is no guarantee we will have an opportunity to enter into any contribution agreement and we have no commitment on the farmbill assistance grant yet.

Motion by Roger, second by Jurgen to keep Todd Piepho on through December 31st, 2008 at a full time status. Motion Carried: Affirmative: All Opposed: None

The board tabled approving full time permanent status until the meeting with the county commissioners.

Motion by Ron, second by Jurgen to pay the Lake Elysian Watershed due of \$25.00. Motion Carried: Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Motion by Ron, second by Jurgen to send Marla and Todd to the Annual Drainage and Natural Resources Conference March 26th in St. Cloud MN. The cost will be \$100.00 per person. This money can be taken from the Alliance training funds. Motion Carried: Affirmative: All Opposed: None.

Open Law Meeting-

A handout was given to the board informing them of the Minnesota Open Meeting Law. They were told to read over the law so they are informed.

Motion by Ron, second by Jurgen to pay the Pheasants Forever Membership dues of \$260.00
Motion Carried: Affirmative: All Opposed: None.

Annual Plan-

Marla got the boards thoughts on adding to the annual plan. She mentioned that if they have any ideas that they should stop in the office and let her know. The plan is due March 15th, 2008.

Misc.

Signs-

Marla mentioned that she will be getting donations from conservation organizations to replace the road signs for Waseca County Soil and Water. The board thought this was a good idea. Marla will report more next month.

Remund Lake-

Jurgen discussed the possibility of restoring Lake Remund. He thinks it would be a great site to use as a banking site and would be easy to restore. Marla thought that other organizations would be willing to put some funding in the project. More about the possible project will be discussed next month.

Motion by Ron, second by Jurgen to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M. Motion Carried:
Affirmative: All Opposed: None.

The Next Board Meeting will be March 13th at 6:30 P.M. in the District meeting room.