



WASECA

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

105 22nd Avenue N.E.
Waseca, MN 56093
Phone (507) 835-4800

Approved Minutes

The meeting of the Waseca County SWCD Board of Supervisors was held at the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District's meeting room on December 10, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Wayne Cords.

Members Present

Larry Hagen
Jessie Shaffer, Secretary
Wayne Cords, Chairman
Todd Stencel, Treasurer
Scott Hildebrandt, Vice Chair

Staff Present

Eric Gulbransen, District Manager
Adrienne Justman, Administrative Assistant
Tyler Polster, District Technician

Others

Noel Frank, NRCS District Conservationist

The agenda was reviewed and two items were removed. Motion was made by Hildebrandt, second by Stencel, to approve the agenda with the changes. Motion carried. All yes

Minutes of the November Board Meeting were distributed to the supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Hagen, seconded by Stencel, to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried. All yes.

Cash flow worksheet was reviewed. The treasurer's report dated November 2015 was presented to the Board for review. Motion was made by Stencel, seconded by Shaffer, to approve the Treasurers Report. Motion carried. All yes.

Bills: (See Attached) Motion was made by Hildebrandt, second by Stencel, to approve payment for the presented invoices that total \$4,237.10. Motion carried. All yes.

Old Business

1. Meeting Reports – Jessie Shaffer reported on the Minnesota River Congress meeting held November 12. There was a presentation on Paddle Forward. There was also discussion about Discovery Farms and the results of their current research regarding how nitrates and phosphorous leave the farms.

Shaffer also reported on the GBERBA meeting that she attended. They spoke about the plans to hire 2 people for the Water Quality Certification program. There also was talk about using Clean Water funds to complete ditch projects.

Cords attended the Water Plan Task Force meeting. They passed an amendment to extend the current plan. They are evaluating what can realistically get completed in the set 2 year time span as well as who is responsible to the various portions of the plan.

2. Tyler Polster reported on the MASWCD Annual Convention. He found the sessions to be very beneficial as well as having the opportunity to network with other SWCD and agency personnel. He stated that the Conservation Farmer of the year winners greatly enjoyed the recognition lunch and morning session that they attended.

Old Business – Cont.

3. Other: Conservation Farmer award winner signs – The topic of sign for the award recipients was discussed. It was decided that it would be a good idea to look into the possibility of getting them for future winners. Gulbransen and Polster are going to investigate prices and quality.

New Business

1. 2016 Steele-Waseca Agreement for Services – Gulbransen presented the agreement to the Board. There was discussion about the increased hourly billing rates and the possibility that the rates may be increased during the year due to changes in pay rates for the contracted staff. It was agreed that an amendment could be attached to the contract if rate increases were necessary. Motion was made by Shaffer, seconded by Hagen, to approve and sign the agreement. Motion carried by voice vote, all yes.
2. 2015 MCIT Dividend received – Gulbransen informed the Board that the dividend was received.
 - a. Workers Comp - \$184.00
 - b. Property/Casualty - \$662.00
3. Buffer Law and Water Quality Certification Grants – Gulbransen informed the Board that the funds for these grants has been received.
 - a. Buffer Law - \$20,000
 - b. MAWQCP - \$6,000
4. 2015 Annual Convention – Gulbransen presented the agenda for the meeting. They discussed the Conservation award winner luncheon. Motion was made by Hildebrandt, seconded by Stencil, to approve the cost of registration and lodging for those interested in going. Motion carried by voice vote, all yes.
5. Pheasants Forever Membership – Gulbransen brought the idea of becoming member of Pheasants Forever before the Board. They agreed that becoming members of the local chapter would be a good idea when that information is available.
6. Cost Share Payment Approvals
 - a. SMLRP-Waseca SWCD-2013-003, Aaron Kanewisher, Total \$6,320 C-S \$4,740 – Motion to approve this payment was made by Stencil, seconded by Hagen. Motion carried by voice vote, all yes.
 - b. 2(14) Melvin Guse W+SCB Total \$8,482.20 C-S Eligible \$3,367.20, C-S \$2,525.40 – Motion was made by Hildebrandt, seconded by Stencil, to approve this payment. Motion carried by voice vote, all yes.
7. Cost Share Project Approval
 - a. 2(15) Wendell Armstrong W+SCB Total \$10,697.50 C-S \$5,728.13 – This approval was tabled
8. Cost of Living Adjustment – The Board discussed applying a COLA to the current pay scale. Motion was made by Stencil, seconded by Shaffer, to not grant a COLA for 2015. Motion carried by voice vote, 4 yes, 1 opposed.

Agency Reports:

Noel Frank reported for NRCS. He reported that it is still planned to have an Ultima employee in the office but does not have a time frame for when they will start. He stated that there are many open NRCS positions in the area. He also said that there are going to be lots of CRP contracts coming up for renewal in 2016.

Staff Reports:

Polster stated that he attended the Water Plan task force meeting. He reported on the flooding issue in New Richland. The current plan is to hold a landowner meeting to discuss ways to increase water storage in order to reduce flooding. The meeting is tentatively planned for early March.

Eric Gulbransen reported that he has been attending a lot of meetings. He also reported on his impression of the annual convention. He presented information from the Mankato about a plan to charge an admin fee per acre for ditch maintenance.

Justman reported on the current state of the calendar. More advertising sponsors are needed to complete the project so she requested that anyone with ideas of businesses that might be interested contact her and she would pass the information to the printer.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 14 at 3:30 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:56 PM

December Bills

Steele Co. SWCD	Hours		3179.22
	Expenses/Mileage		221.88
Clemons Properties	December Rent		665.00
Jared J Dufault	Accounting		125.00
Waseca County Recorder			46.00
		Total	4237.10