



KANABEC SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2008 Mahogany St., Ste. 3
Mora, MN 55051
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MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2015 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Johnson, Paul Hoppe, Kevin Belkholm, Gene Carda

MEMBERS ABSENT: Betty Wilkens

OTHERS PRESENT: Kelly Osterdyk, Jan Anderson, Shannon Rasinski

Chairman Hoppe called meeting together at 3:02 p.m.

M/S/C Johnson, Carda to approve minutes and financial report for January. The draft of the 2015 Annual Plan was handed out for review to bring comments back to next board meeting.

Legislative Day – Paul attended the meeting the evening before and also met with legislators the next day to discuss stable funding for SWCDs.

Area 3 meeting – Mike, Kelly & Jan attended. Discussion on sustainable funding for SWCDs.

D.C. Report: Shannon reported that CSP application deadline is Feb. 27; EQIP they are working on contracts and designs. Also attended workshops and training sessions. NRCS is currently working with a landowner who will be receiving 100 plugs of sweet grass provided by the NRCS Plant Materials Center. They are requesting the SWCD be a sponsor of the project. **M/S/C** Johnson, Carda to be a sponsor for the sweet grass demonstration planning project in Comfort Township.

Kevin entered the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Grants: Diana Dahl – CWP grant; well sealing project completed, total cost was \$175. **M/S/C** Carda, Belkholm to pay \$131.25 of the cost which is 75%. Current balance in the CWP grant for on the ground projects is \$33,318; to be used by March 2016.

DNR Forestry announced they are withdrawing from the Ford Township erosion control project along Pilot Street. They will continue to work with Ford Twp. on the road authority and responsibilities; and the DNR funds have now been committed to other projects.

Snake River Watershed was awarded a CWF Projects and Practices grant for \$312,025. Funds are for administration/coordination; technical/engineering; education/information; agricultural practices and project development. The grant includes \$45,000 for project development, which SWCDs can take part in. SRW also was awarded an Accelerated Implementation Grant for \$135,000 to hire a watershed coordinator to coordinate activities and outreach within the Snake River Watershed based

on the Snake River WRAPS. Kanabec SWCD was awarded \$30,000 for the City of Mora Storm water assessment.

M/S/C Johnson, Carda to apply for a MPCA CWP grant to monitor unassessed lakes & streams in the county and provide for best management practices implementation; it would focus on watershed protection as the priority. Mike amended motion and Kevin seconded that the District Manager would be the designated signature.

There was discussion on the Governor's proposed state buffer law to protect streams, lakes and drainage ditches.

Discussion on position description for the District Manager was handed out for review. Staff will work on a shortened version to be used for placing job announcements. **M/S/C Johnson, Belholm** to send the job announcement to board members for review and then advertise with schools, social media sites, MASWCD, state job service site.

Committee Reports: Mike attended SRWMB meeting; elected same officers and discussed grants. Mike attended the TSA board meeting. Also discussed Lynn Erickson field erosion project with engineering staff. Project would be split up in phases. Phases 1) rock lined channel, cost estimate of \$16,900; Phase 2) grass swale cost estimate of \$13,800, with seed and blanket.

Paul attended State forestry committee meeting; BWSR will be hiring a forester to be located in Aitkin. April 1 the status of the long eared bat will be decided, which could impact the forest industry.

Next meeting date is March 10 at 2:00.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

_____ approved _____ date