



KANABEC SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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**MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2010 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom Demarais, Paul Hoppe, Kevin Belkholm, Wayne Anderson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Karen Longerbone

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kelly Osterdyk, Jan Anderson, Shannon Rasinski,  
Pat Kandakai, Dave Pauly – MN DNR; Nick Solomon, TSA 3

Chairman Hoppe called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

**Election of Officers:** Kelly called for nominations for **Chairman**. Demarais made motion, seconded by W. Anderson to nominate Paul Hoppe; W. Anderson made motion to cease nominations and elect Paul Hoppe Chairman, seconded by Belkholm, approved. Belkholm nominated Wayne Anderson as **Secy.-Treasurer**; Demarais seconded, carried. W. Anderson made motion to nominate Tom Demarais **Vice-Chairman**; Belkholm seconded, approved.

**Committee Assignments:** **M/S/C** Belkholm, Demarais to appoint Wayne Anderson to Onanegozie RC&D Council. Kelly reported that Paul Larson has resigned as Kanabec Member at Large to the RC&D Council. Hoppe stated that Bobby Gryewski, DNR Forester, agreed to be Kanabec's Member at Large to the council. **M/S/C** W. Anderson, Belkholm to appoint Tom Demarais to the TSA 3 board. **M/S/C** W. Anderson, Belkholm to appoint Paul Hoppe to the SRWMB CAC and the MASWCD Forestry Committee.

**M/S/C** W. Anderson; seconded by Demarais to designate People's National Bank of Mora as our official depository.

**M/S/C** Anderson, Demarais to approve the Minutes for the Dec. 1 & Dec. 3, 2009 (continuation of Dec. 1) board meeting; with the addition that on Dec. 3 the meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Craig Schultz ditch/wetland fill site; Nichole Sternquist has prepared a cost-estimate for a cattle crossing, water control structure and fencing for him; Kelly reported that we are waiting to hear back from Schultz about whether he wants to go ahead with the project. Cost-share assistance could be available.

Pat Kandaka & Dave Pauly discussed DNR's proposal for acquiring the SWCD conservation farm property and turning it into a wildlife management area. After much discussion the following action was taken: **M/S/C** Demarais; seconded by Belkholm not to sign over ownership of the District's 120 acre farm.

Nick Solomon, Vegetation Restoration Specialist for TSA 3 discussed projects he works on for the area. Snake River Watershed Management Board recently approved funding for the position for one year.

**M/S/C** W. Anderson, Demarais to approve the financial report for December 2009 and payment of the vouchers, including a new office chair for Jan (up to \$200); also included payment of the dues, excluding the state association dues for which we should request hardship dues for 2010.

Gene Carda has a NRCS designed earthen dam, designed in 1971. The area around the culvert has washed out. NRCS engineering tech Marv Kunkel has designed a repair plan for it; it is currently being reviewed and awaiting approval by the NRCS area engineer.

State Convention: Paul & Kelly attended the convention in Duluth. They also attended the outstanding conservationist's luncheon with representative from Ann Lake Watershed Alliance.

Rural Preserve Property Tax Program: The program provides tax relief to taxpayers with eligible class 2b rural vacant land. Participants must commit to a conservation management plan approved by the county's soil & water conservation district for at least ten years. We will help landowners develop a basic plan. Landowners have until 2012 to receive a conservation plan, and until May 1, 2010 to apply for the program. SWCD's can charge a fee to the landowners for the plan; no decision was made on how much Kanabec SWCD will charge for this service.

Freedom of Information agreement with NRCS – **M/S/C** W. Anderson, Demarais to table until February board meeting.

Cost Share Projects: Roy Brasch livestock fence exclusion from river project is completed. Motion by W. Anderson, seconded by Belholm and approved to pay Roy for 75% of the final cost of \$2,375.02, our share is \$1,781.26; contract #07-04.

Legislative Days at the Capitol – February 17 & 18. Paul will go to session put on by MASWCD in the evening; registration cost is \$60 (Kelly will attend as a Pine SWCD board member); Wayne & Kevin will be going the next day with them to the individual meetings with our legislators.

Tom reporting on the TSA meeting, and the question on Nick Solomon's square footage for Nick Solomon's space came up, previously IMPACK had not been paying rent for that space; with the new rental lease that space is now included in the total square footage being rented.

D.C. Report: Shannon presented her report. She reported that one of Mora's EQIP contracts was chosen by the Duluth area office as one of the most environmentally beneficial in the state. She also reported that she & Donna Nelson are currently developing plans for the conservation stewardship program. The new EQIP program will be similar to last year's program, with the exception of how they compete with other applications. The six funding pools are: cropland, pastureland, livestock concerns, forestry/woodland, general (all other) and also historically underserved landowners. The Local Work Group meeting will be tomorrow (Dec. 2) to determine resource concerns/target areas in the county and establish ranking criteria for score sheet.

D.M. Report: Kelly reported that he will be working on TMDL work plan for the Snake River Watershed starting in the spring of 2010. The watershed group will likely decide who will be putting this out for consultant bids. The Ann River TMDL project will likely include consultant bids as well.

**M/S/C** Demarais, W. Anderson to put the staff back to 40 hour work weeks and will reevaluate after June 30, starting with this pay period.

Next meeting scheduled for February 9 at **4:00** p.m. (move up time ½ hour earlier). Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved    Date \_\_\_\_\_