



KANABEC SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2008 Mahogany St., Ste. 3
Mora, MN 55051
(320)679-3982
FAX (320)679-4692

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2012 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Demarais, Betty Wilkens, Paul Hoppe, Gene Carda, Kevin Belkholm

OTHERS PRESENT: Kelly Osterdyk, Shannon Rasinski, Jan Anderson, Jason Weinerman, Mike Johnson

Chairman Demarais called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

M/S/C Wilkens, Hoppe to approve the minutes of the August 14 board meeting. M/S/C Wilkens, Belkholm to approve financial report for August.

D.C. Report: Shannon reported that they are working with the district in conservation planning for Tom Felger, by inventorying his feedlot, pit closure and repairing a filter strip. She also reported on EQIP activities; WHIP; training & meetings attended, progress reporting and wetland determinations and other activities.

Jason Weinerman, BWSR Board Rep was present to talk about a letter he sent to the SWCD regarding high corn prices and seeing more row crops planted that may have an impact on soil erosion and water quality. He also gave an update on BWSR activities.

Betty asked Jason for clarification from BWSR about what BWSR's role is in CRP sign ups. She stated that FSA, NRCS & others are already working with landowners on CRP. She said that BWSR recently received a grant and may apply for another to facilitate hiring people to go into the field to work with farmers filling out paperwork, etc. She felt that this is undercutting local SWCDs and wondered what role SWCDs will have in this process. Jason said he would get back to her on this issue.

Healthy Waters Initiative (federal grant) – Paul reported on a meeting he attended with State agencies and The Nature Conservancy.

Kelly reported that the BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant application has been submitted as well as a SRWMB grant.

Old Business: Employee's Wage & Benefits – Staff is working on getting enrolled in HSA's. PEIP changed our renewal date to January 1, so if needed staff can be covered until they get into a new plan.

BWSR Clean Water Fund update – Applications are due to BWSR by September 14 for FY 2013.

MASWCD Convention planning update – With Area 3 “hosting” the convention; volunteers are needed to help out in the hospitality room, to introduce speakers at the break-out training sessions and also at the auction.

The Nature Conservancy – DNR recently acquired the Aanestad property on the Snake River in Ford Township. Board discussed the county’s concern about private property being taken off the tax rolls. Betty explained that sometimes the payments paid by DNR to the county in lieu of taxes often end up being more than the taxes would have been on marginal land. Discussed putting a letter in the paper about this issue.

Project Cost-Share Update: 2010 Cost Share funds from BWSR closeout; the total funds spent were \$8,639.00; final financial report will be submitted to BWSR. M/S/C Belkholm, Carda to approve financial report; Paul Hoppe as treasurer signed. Paul inquired about the Ford Township road and ditch runoff erosion adjacent to the Snake River. We continue to work with MPCA on acceptable chemicals that could be applied to help stabilize the road surface to keep it from eroding and washing sediment into Snake River at the bridge.

Leroy Sipes diversions/grade stabilization, fence exclusion and critical area seeding near Snake River; \$8208.64 has been approved to date in cost share funds for the project; a partial payment of \$4,000 was made in July for work that was completed. M/S/C Hoppe, Belkholm to approve payment of \$3,000 for work completed; balance of remaining cost share is \$1,208.64.

M/S/C Wilkens, Carda to approve \$660 (75% of total cost of low bid of \$880) of CWP funds to the City of Mora to seal two abandoned wells at the airport site. The airport property is the site of the old city dump; it was suggested that a courtesy call be made to the city inquiring if they currently have any monitoring wells on the dump site.

DNR Prescribed Fire Management Grant – Wildlife Habitats – DNR is in need of habitat work on public lands to improve habitat for fish, game and wildlife and to improve public recreational opportunities. M/S/C Carda, Hoppe to proceed with the Prescribed Burning Grant with DNR, for \$25,000, and to contract with the consultant recommended by DNR, Dave Pauly.

Girl Scout Centennial Day of Service – October 13; will set up meeting prior to October 13 to go over the procedures with the Girl Scout leader Rob Vernon. Kelly, Paul, Betty & Tom will be participating. This will be one of our Clean Water Partnership grant projects for education.

BWSR Academy – M/S/C Wilkens, Carda to approve Kelly to attend for one day; and stay overnight (double occup.).

MPCA St. Croix Basin Civil Governance Training & Civic Policy Pilot – For work to be completed in 2013, it would require about 76 hours of staff time; administrative cost of \$3,800 M/S/C Hoppe, Wilkens to approve the work plan and agreement with MPCA as fiscal agent.

Supervisor’s Reports: Paul reported that the SRWMB and CAC had a brief meeting to discuss areas of concern; a representative from the St. Croix River Association was also present. Paul will be attending the next state forestry committee meeting at Cohasset and will tour the Itasca tree nursery.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, 4:00 p.m. M/S/C Wilkens, Carda to adjourn at 7:12 p.m.

_____ approved _____ date