

WINONA COUNTY SWCD MINUTES
Ag Service Center, Lewiston, MN
April 13, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chairman Rudie Spitzer.

Present were supervisors ó Rudie Spitzer, Arlene Nelson, John Bronk, Jim Riddle, and George Welshons.

Also present were óMena Kaehler, County Commissioner; Karin Sonneman, County Attorney; Daryl Buck and Brein Maki, SWCD; Jerry Hildebrandt, WWJPB; Naomi Corey, Rush-Pine Contractor; Justin Lindner and John Nicholson, NRCS; Brian Watson; and Mary Kells, BWSR.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA óJim made a motion to approve the April 13, 2011 agenda adding Luther Ulrich to Cost-Share, BWSR PRAP Grant wrap-up, unemployment payment to Billø Payable, Brian Watson under Partner Committee report, and move reconsideration of 2011 Board Officer elections to New Business. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

CONSENT AGENDA ó John made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items. Jim seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT ó Commissioner Kaehler update the Board on current County happenings, including the new building and County recycling.

WINONA COUNTY PLANNING REPORT ó No report.

D.C. REPORT ó Justin gave an NRCS program update. John Nicholson update the Board on the Federal budget resolution and the restructuring of NRCS.

WHITEWATER JPB REPORT óJerry Hildebrandt updated the Board on his continued outreach work, including landowner and council meetings.

RUSH-PINE REPORT ó Naomi updated the Board on her work in Rush-Pine this past month.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

John attended the SRMC Watershed meetings.

George attended the County Board meeting.

Arlene attended the RC&D meeting. She informed the Board of the Earth Day Celebration on April 21. She shared educational articles.

Jim updated the Board on NRCS ó Season Extension Day.

Rudie attended Rush-Pine meetings and Farmer Led meetings for WWJPB.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Jim made a motion to reconsider 2011 Board Officer Elections and for Karin to manage the election process. Arlene seconded it. John opposed. Motion carried. Karin took over the meeting.

Call for nominations for Chairman of the Board.

Arlene nominated Jim.

John nominated Rudie.

Rudie nominated George. George declined his nomination.

Karin called for any additional nominations three times.

Rudie Spitzer and Jim Riddle are eligible for ballot.

Both candidates addressed the Board.

Ballot by paper was taken.

Jim Riddle was elected/voted Chairman of the Board.

Call for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Rudie nominated John.

Arlene nominated George. George declined his nomination.

Jim nominated Rudie.

Karin called for any additional nominations three times.

Rudie Spitzer and John Bronk are eligible for ballot.

Both candidates addressed the Board.

Ballot by paper was taken.

Rudie Spitzer was elected/voted Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Call for nominations for Secretary of the Board.

Jim nominated Arlene.

Rudie nominated John. John declined his nomination.

Rudie made a motion to cease nominations and unanimously elect Arlene as Secretary of the Board. Jim seconded and carried by affirmative votes.

Call for nominations for Treasurer of the Board.

George nominated John.

Jim nominated George. George declined his nomination.

Jim made a motion to cease nominations and unanimously elect John as Treasurer of the Board. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

The meeting was turned over to Jim Riddle as the new Chairman of the Board.

2. Jim and George updated the Board on their work on the Partner Relations Committee. A meeting was held on April 12 with two members of the County Board and staff. No action on the Committee has been taken. They are looking into how other counties are structured and identifying important (silos) things to keep under the District's management. Karin discussed a memo she prepared and handed out to each of the Board members prior to the start of the Board meeting. Arlene made a motion for the Partner Committee to continue to work with the County. John seconded and carried by affirmative votes. A meeting was tentatively set-up for April 26, 2011 at 11:00 P.M. at Winona County.
3. Jim and John reported on their work with on the Personnel Committee; including employee evaluations. Each member filled out a review for Daryl, Brein, and Marlow and results were compiled. A meeting will be set-up with employees to do evaluations. The committee is scheduled to meet with Maureen Holte to discuss job descriptions for the positions of District Manager with a strong technical background, Technician, and Feedlot Technician.

Brian Watson was introduced to the Board. He provided a proposal to the Board to provide interim manager assistance for three months. Rudie made a motion to accept Brian Watson's proposal for services not to exceed \$5,000. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

Arlene requested Karin, County Attorney, to draft the contract between Brian Watson and the Winona County SWCD; once drafted, authorize the Chairman to sign. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

The Board discussed offering Marlow a contract position.

The Personnel Committee recommended a 3% COLA increase to employees.

4. The Budget Committee updated the Board on their review/work of the 2011 Budget. John made a motion to approve a 3% COLA increase to employees. Arlene seconded it. John withdrew his motion after Board discussion. Arlene withdrew her second to the motion. The Personnel Committee will further investigate salary, step-increases, COLA, and evaluations.
5. Jim made a motion to add all Board members as authorized signers of the Security State Bank checking account. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes. Rudie made a motion for all other bank accounts add the Treasurer as an authorized signer, in addition to Brein and the Chairman. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. John made a motion to approve the amendment between the District and The Nature Conservancy Contract. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
2. Rudie made a motion to approve the amendment between the District and Corey Environmental Services, LLC Contract. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. Arlene made a motion to authorize the Board Chairman to respond to Don Buckhout, BWSR for the PRAP grant wrap-up. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

COST SHARE

1. Mary Kells handed out a list of all the BWSR and PCA grants and contracts that the Winona County SWCD had or has had over the last five years.
2. Rudie made a motion to approve the 2011 Flood B Cost-Share Contract with BWSR for \$64,000. The grant agreement is for March 15, 2011 to June 30, 2013. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. Arlene made a motion to approve the State Cost-Share application for Tim Pozanc for a grade stabilization structure. The total estimate is \$12,450. Cost-Share requested is \$2,592.50 to get to 75% Cost-Share. Rudie seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
4. Rudie made a motion to approve the 2011 Flood B Cost-Share application for Gerald Bothum for a critical area planting. This project is eligible for 100% Cost-Share. The total cost estimate and Cost-Share requested is \$13,000. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
5. Arlene made a motion to approve the 2011 Flood B Cost-Share application for Lloyd Kreidermacher for grade stabilization repair. The total cost estimate is \$12,480. Cost-Share requested is \$3,347 to get to 100% Cost-Share. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
6. Arlene made a motion to approve the 2011 Flood B Cost-Share application for Mark Thoreson for streambank and shoreland protection. The total cost estimate is \$42,000. Cost-Share requested is \$41,834.82. This project is eligible for up to 100% Cost-Share. Rudie seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
7. John made a motion to approve the final payment for FL-11A, #02 - Lloyd Kreidermacher for streambank and shoreland protection. The total cost of the project and payment requested is \$13,711.82. George seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
8. Arlene made a motion to approve the 2011 Native Buffer application for Dean Tollefson for restoration and management for declining habitat. The total estimate for this project is \$1,280.

This project is eligible for up to 75% Cost-Share, \$960. Rudie seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

9. John made a motion to cancel CWA Feedlot FY-10, #08 ó Vernon Mote at the landowner's request. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
10. Rudie made a motion to approve the MRBI Cost-Share application for Margaret Schueler for streambank and shoreland protection technical/engineering assistance. The total requested is \$37,500. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
11. Arlene made a motion to approve the regular Cost-Share application for Luther Ulrich for new grass waterways. The total cost of the project is \$1,950 and is eligible for up to 75% Cost-Share. This project is funded 2010 - \$882.60 and 2011 - \$1,950.00. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

MISCELLANEOUS DISTRICT NEWS AND INFORMATION

1. The Board should send any recommendations for the draft Annual Plan to the staff for updates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ó None.

ADJOURNMENT ó John made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rudie seconded it and carried by affirmative votes. Meeting adjourned at 1:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Arlene Nelson
Secretary of the Board