

WINONA COUNTY SWCD

(SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT)

Winona County SWCD
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Weekdays 7:00 – 4:30

The Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District is a locally elected unit of government promoting soil and water conservation and environmental protection through landowner assistance, education and planning activities, coordination of public and private efforts and by serving as a forum on natural resource issues.
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

WINONA COUNTY SWCD MINUTES

Ag Service Center, Lewiston, MN

August 17, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chairman Jim Riddle.

Present were supervisors –Arlene Nelson, Jim Riddle, Lonny Dietz, and George Welshons.

Also present were –Mena Kaehler, County Commissioner; Karin Sonneman, County Attorney; Daryl Buck, Brein Maki, and Amanda Gentry, SWCD; Sue Glende, NRCS; Brian Watson; Natalie Siderius, WWJPB; Jack Roberts, SMCR Watershed; Mary Kells, BWSR; and Eric Nelson (Area III interested citizen).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Lonny made a motion to approve the August 17, 2011 Agenda adding Introductions after Approval of Agenda; FY-10, #05 amendment and FY-10, #05 final payment to Cost-Share; CWA Feedlot application for Ryan Bonow to Cost-Share; Cover Crop program to Old Business; and move Personnel Committee Report (J.6) after Brian Watson Report. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

CONSENT AGENDA – Lonny made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

D.C. REPORT – Sue handed out a report on NRCS program update; including updates on MRBI, CRP, and EQIP. She informed the Board of Dan Gunderson taking a new position out of state and other changes happening to Federal programs. She informed the Board of upcoming meetings. She asked the Board for a letter of support for nominating Johnny Micheel for “The Buss Ryan Forestry Award”.

Lonny made a motion to submit a letter of support for nominating Johnny Micheel for “The Buss Ryan Forestry Award.” Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

WHITEWATER JPB REPORT – Natalie updated the Board on current Whitewater JPB work; including continuing outreach efforts, upcoming septic workshops, and Grazing Day. She updated the Board on the Citizen Stream Monitoring Program and bacteria reduction monitoring. The CWF Partnership Grant is continuing with mapping sensitive features and setbacks. The WWJPB has an intern through SE Minnesota Water Resource Board. They are continuing their work with the Nutrient Management Cost-Share applications and PL566. She has been working with Brein on a CWF application for well sealing (county wide).

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT – Commissioner Kaehler updated the Board on current County happenings, including State budget cuts, tax levy, and the hiring of Jason Gillman as the Environmental/Planning/Emergency Director. A county curbside recycling contract has been approved.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

George will update his work later under the appropriate agenda items.

Arlene updated the Board on the WWJPB and educational material.

Lonny updated the Board on the Hiawatha RC&D meeting.

Jim will update the Board on Partner's Committee and Interview Panel later in the agenda. He updated the Board on the EQIP - Local Work Group. Jim will pursue requesting the movie "Green Fire" with the Frozen River Film Festival.

BRIAN WATSON REPORT – Brian updated the Board on his work; including an activity report of his work on staff hiring, MRBI, Clean Water Fund application, and collaboration work with the County.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT – George and Jim reported on the Interview Panel for the District Manager position. Their recommendation is to offer the position to Daryl Buck. George made a motion to ask the County Personnel Department to offer the District Manager position to Daryl Buck at a Step 6 on the Wage Scale. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

COST SHARE

1. George made a motion to support the staff in preparing the 2012 CWF Application for feedlot and well sealing projects. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
2. George made a motion to cancel Feedlot FY-11, #16 – Kim Pronschinske at the landowner's request. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. Arlene made a motion to approve the amendment request for Feedlot FY-11, #13 – Steve Buckbee to increase his Cost-Share amount by \$27,069.84 using slippage from 2010 and 2011 Feedlot funds. This request was approved by Mary Kells, BWSR. George seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
4. George made a motion to approve the Feedlot Cost-Share application for Ryan Bonow for a Milkhouse Wastewater Treatment System, Roof Structure, and Ag Waste Management System. Cost-Share requested to encumber is \$110,965.65 using slippage 2011 Feedlot funds. Additional Cost-Share is being provided by another source. This request was approved by Matt Drewitz, BWSR. Arlene seconded and carried by affirmative votes. Lonny abstained.
5. George made a motion to approve the Flood Cost-Share request for Chad Miller for diversion repairs. This project is eligible for 100% Cost-Share. The total estimate and Cost-Share requested is \$5,080 using 2009 Flood C/D funds. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
6. George made a motion to approve the Flood Cost-Share request for Chad Miller for pond repairs. This project is eligible for 100% Cost-Share. The total estimate and Cost-Share requested is \$12,110 using 2009 Flood D funds. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
7. George made a motion to approve the Flood 2011 C Cost-Share encumbrances as approved by BWSR. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
 - A. FL-11B, #03 – Mark Thoreson – Streambank repair - \$16,770.59
 - B. FL-11C, #01 – Peter Bambenek – Critical Area Planting - \$1,985.00
 - C. FL-11C, #02 – Jim Speltz – Grade Stabilizer (new up to 80%) - \$2,153.50
8. Arlene made a motion to approve the amendment request for FL-09D, #07 - Charles Eglund to increase his Cost-Share amount by \$3,559.38 due to additional cost to replace the pipe in the structure. This will be encumbered using 2009 Flood D funds. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
9. George made a motion to approve the final payment request for FL-09D, #07 - Charles Eglund. The total cost and payment requested is \$8,859.38. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
10. Arlene made a motion to approve the amendment request for FY-10, #05 – Luther Ulrich to increase his Cost-Share amount by \$892.88 due to rains immediately following construction and

needed additional repairs. This will be encumbered using 2010 and 2011 Cost-Share funds. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

11. Arlene made a motion to approve the final payment request for FY-10, #05 – Luther Ulrich. The total cost of the project is \$3,790.50. The total payment request is \$2,842.88 (FY-10 - \$1,736.60, FY-11 - \$1,106.28). George seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. George made a motion to nominate the Winona Post and Reporter Sarah Elmquist for the 2011 MASWCD Media Award and approve the presented application. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Arlene made a motion to approve up to 3 supervisors and 1 staff to attend the SWCD Governance 101 training in Alexandria, MN on September 12-13, 2011. George seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
2. Eric Nelson asked the Board to consider appointing him as the Area III Supervisor until the next general election. George made a motion to appoint Eric Nelson as the Area III Supervisor for the Winona County SWCD. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes. Eric took the Oath of Office.
3. George made a motion for the Chairman to sign the USDA-NRCS Mississippi River Basin Initiative Contribution Agreement contingent of Karin's, Attorney's Office, review and approval. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
4. George made a motion for the Chairman to sign The Nature Conservancy amendment contingent of Karin's, Attorney's Office, review and approval. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
5. The Partner's Committee discussed the committee meeting held August 16, 2011 at the Winona County building. Brian Watson will work with staff on collaboration ideas and a letter for the County Board of Commissioners.
6. Arlene made a motion to approve the 2011 Cover Crop program for the Rush-Pine Watershed only using The Nature Conservancy Cover Crop funds. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes. Lonny made a motion to authorize staff to encumber contracts up to \$5,706. A monthly report on contracts should be brought to the Board. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

MISCELLANEOUS DISTRICT NEWS AND INFORMATION

1. Reminder that the next Regular Board meeting will be September 21, 2011.
2. MCIT Region Risk Management Workshop – No action taken.
3. Russell Church Family Thank You was shared with the Board.
4. Arlene shared of her concerns about ariel fungicide spraying in the area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT – Arlene made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:



Arlene Nelson
Secretary of the Board