

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

December 14, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 A.M. by Chairman Jim Riddle. Introductions were done. Dave Dockter introduced himself to the Board as the new NRCS Technician.

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

Absent was supervisor – George Welshons.

Also present were –Mena Kaehler, County Commissioner; Karin Sonneman, County Attorney; Daryl Buck, Brein Maki, and Amanda Gentry, SWCD; Natalie Siderius and Jerry Hildebrandt, WWJPB; Jake Overgaard, U of MN Extension Office; and Jack Roberts, SMCR Watershed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Eric made a motion to approve the December 14, 2011 agenda adding CWA Feedlot FY-11, #13 – Steve Buckbee and CWA Feedlot FY-11, #03 – Don Ritter final payments and Harvey Krage native buffer application request to Cost-Share; and Lewiston-Auto -\$34.59 and Arlene Nelson (Convention baskets) - \$111.95 to Bill's Payable; Clothing Apparel and Computer Network to New Business; and Jake Overgaard (Extension) after Manager's Report. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

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

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT – Commissioner Kaehler updated the district on current county happenings; including frac sand mining forums and public hearings (December 15th and January 3rd), the county levy reduction (4%), Greater Minnesota Advisory Panel, burn barrels, and the SWCD's budget request approval.

COUNTY PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT – Director Jason Gilman emailed a report. Natalie added that the Winona County Water Plan was approved at the December 13, 2011 County Board meeting.

NRCS D.C. REPORT – No oral report given. A report was mailed in the packet.

WHITEWATER JPB REPORT – Natalie updated the Board on current Whitewater JPB work; including continuing outreach efforts, Rush-Pine council updates, farmer led grant, bacteria reduction grant, stream monitoring results, and basal stalk analysis, and nutrient management plans. She presented summary results from the Whitewater Watershed Resident Survey and the Whitewater State Park Visitor Survey.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Eric updated the board on the MASWCD Convention and Frac Sand Forum.

Arlene updated the board on the MASWCD Convention and Interview Panel.

Lonny updated the board on the Hiawatha RC&D Executive Council and the MASWCD Convention.

Jim updated the board on the MASWCD Convention including the resolutions passed/failed results. He also updated the on the Interview Panel work.

The Board noted that Pete Fryer, SRF Engineer was named BWSR's Outstanding Employee of the Year.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Daryl reported on Minnesota Southeast Soil Water Monitoring Network meeting held with Toby Dogwiler. They are looking to add sites in Winona County. He also discussed a new RIM application program and the Frac Sand Forums.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION – Jake Overgaard introduced himself to the board as the Ag Production Educator in Winona County. He shared upcoming events he is working on. He expressed interest in collaboration efforts with the District.

COST SHARE

1. Arlene made a motion to approve the 2011 Native Buffer Cost-Share application for Mary Lou Faber. The total restoration of declining habitat estimate is \$2,760. This project is eligible for up to 75% Cost-Share. Cost-Share requested is \$1,230. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
2. Lonny made a motion to approve the final payment request from CWA Feedlot FY-11, #03 – Don Ritter for a Milkhouse Waste Water Treatment system. Total cost of the project is \$10,050.00. This project is eligible for up to \$10,389.63 or 75% Cost-Share. Final payment requested is \$7,878.75. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. Lonny made a motion to approve the final payment request from CWA Feedlot FY-11, #13 – Steve Buckbee for his Ag Waste Management System contingent of the final payment confirmed amount from another cost-share source so that a 75% match can be reached. Total cost of the project is \$226,823.12. Other cost-share is \$136,531.27. Final payment requested to reach 75% Cost-Share is \$33,586.07 (CWA 2010 - \$9,387.19, CWA 2011 - \$22,394.88). Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
4. Arlene made a motion to approve the 2011 Native Buffer Cost-Share application for Harvey Krage. The total restoration of declining habitat estimate is \$828.00. This project is eligible for up to 75% Cost-Share. Cost-Share requested is \$621.00. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Eric made a motion to approve the training request from Amanda for Concrete Field 1 (ACI) training for \$380.00 and Concrete Field 2 for \$470.00. The training dates are February 15-16, 2012 in Rochester, MN and April 3-6, 2012 in Shoreview, MN. Hotel accommodations are approved for the Shoreview training. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
2. Lonny made a motion to approve a one-time \$50.00 per person (supervisors and staff) for Winona County SWCD apparel. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. Eric made a motion to authorize the District to establish a computer server not to exceed \$8,000 and to work with the Winona County IT (Mark Anderson) to get it set-up and running. Arlene seconded and carried by affirmative votes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Arlene made a motion to accept the Letter of Resignation from George Welshons effective December 31, 2011. The Board thanks him for his dedication and service. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
2. Partner's Committee – Nothing new to report.
3. Resource Specialist Position – The Interview Panel updated the Board on their work and recommendations. Arlene made a motion to approve the offering of the Resource Specialist position to Mark Root contingent of a successful driver's license and background check (done by Winona County Personnel). Mark will be offered an hourly pay at a Step 4 on the Resource Specialist scale. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
4. The Board continued to discuss Frac Sand Mining in Winona County.
5. Frozen Film Festival – The Board continued to discuss their part in the 2012 Frozen Film Festival. Kasey Taylor, NRCS had emailed to inform the Board that they will be matching \$500.00.

MISCELLANEOUS DISTRICT NEWS AND INFORMATION

1. January 18, 2012 will be the date for the January's Regular Board Meeting.
2. February 15, 2012 will be the date for the February's Regular Board meeting.
3. The Board was reminded to turn in the 4th Quarter expenses and per Diems before December 31, 2011.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. None.

ADJOURNMENT – Lonny made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
Meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:



Arlene Nelson
Secretary of the Board