

WINONA COUNTY SWCD MINUTES
Ag Service Center, Lewiston, MN
February 9, 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, and Jim Riddle.

Also present were óMena Kaehler, County Commissioner; Karin Sonneman, County Attorney; Duane Herbert, County Administrator; Daryl Buck, Marlow Mielke, and Brein Maki, SWCD; Jerry Hildebrandt, WWJPB; Naomi Corey, Rush-Pine Contractor; Mike Gilles, George Welshons, Allen Nagel, and Dave Schansberg, Supervisor Candidates; and Marv Hunger, citizen.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ó Jim made a motion to approve the February 9, 2011 agenda moving 2011 Annual Plan to go along with County Collaboration and Hiawatha RC&D dues (\$300) added to Billø Payable. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

SUPERVISOR CANDIDATES INTRODUCTIONS ó Mike Gilles, Allan Nagel, George Welshons, and Dave Schansberg introduced themselves to the Board. They each took time to share their interests in serving, background in conservation, and questions/concerns regarding the position of supervisor. A special meeting will be held February 15, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. at the Ag Service Center to interview candidates and the Board may appoint a new Supervisor.

OATH OF OFFICE ó Rudie and Jim took and signed the Oath of Office in front of the Board for their new term in office.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS and APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS ó Jim made a motion to table the Election of Officers and Appointment of Committee Assignments until the March 9, 2011 Board Meeting. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

CONSENT AGENDA ó Jim made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items with the noted changes to the minutes and the addition of Hiawatha RC& D dues (\$300) to Billø Payable; Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT ó Commissioner Kaehler update the Board on the new building, the consultant work being done with the Planning Department, and the continued training for county employees. She also updated on the WWJPB hiring process.

WINONA COUNTY PLANNING REPORT ó Duane reported on the Shoreland Buffer newsletter that was mailed out by the Planning Department.

D.C. REPORT ó Sue updated the Board on EQIP, CRP, and WHIP. She announced there would be a new CRP sign-up running from March 14 ó April 15, 2011. NRCS is still running on continuing resolution. She will be interviewing WAE candidates February 18.

WHITEWATER JPB REPORT ó Jerry Hildebrandt updated the Board on his continued outreach work, including landowner and council meetings. He would like to start more focused specialized meetings, such as manure management or nutrient management.

RUSH-PINE REPORT ó Naomi presented a report on her work in Rush-Pine this past month.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS ó Arlene reported that she was unable to attend the Hiawatha RC& D meeting, but reported on educational and information presented at the meeting. She handed out additional educational information to those present.

Jim praised the District staff for the Winona Post Article done on the CWA funding. He reported on the Organic Farming Conference ó February 24-26, Risk Management Guide for Organic Producers (available online), Extending the Growing Season Session ó April 7, and his continued work on the Practice Standards Work Committee (NRCS) to provide recommendations on practice standards.

Rudie reported that he attended the Area 7 SRF and the MRBI meeting.

COST SHARE

1. Daryl updated the Board on the 2010 Flood funding. MN Recovers received more applications than money that is available. No approvals have been made yet. EQIP applications are recommended to those who qualify. Once those rankings and approvals are complete, BWSR will do their preliminary screening and funding will be done.
2. Jim made a motion to approve the 16 Ag Waste Management projects that were approved for funding from BWSR. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The Board continued to discuss the County/District collaborations. Jim made a motion to authorize the District staff to work with the County staff to develop a proposal for improved collaboration. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
2. Arlene made a motion to apply for an extension until May 31, 2011 with BWSR for the completion of the 2011 Annual Plan. Jim seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. Jim will work with the staff to draft a Board policy for the cover crop program. The Board will continue to discuss this at the March 9, 2011 meeting.
4. Jim made a motion to authorize Daryl to draft an amendment to the contract with Corey Environmental Services and the District and to draft an amendment to the contract with the District and The Nature Conservancy (with the expertise/advise of the Winona County Attorney's office) to get the contracts corrected and up to date. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
5. The staff updated the WRP-RIM sign-up. March 4 is the deadline for the sign-up.
6. The staff updated the Board on the Data Release Request to NRCS. The District website has been updated.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Jim will be attending the 2011 Legislative Day at the Capital.
2. John made a motion to approve Daryl to attend the 2011 MECA Conference March 3 & 4. Jim seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. Arlene (as a Personnel Committee member) will start working on the Annual Employee evaluations.

MISCELLANEOUS DISTRICT NEWS AND INFORMATION

1. 2009 Final Audit is complete and copies are available.
2. Spring Area 7 Meeting for employees will be March 8.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ó None.

ADJOURNMENT ó Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jim Riddle
Secretary of the Board