

WINONA COUNTY SWCD MINUTES
Ag Service Center, Lewiston, MN
January 12, 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; Mary Kells, BWSR; Sarah Elmquist, Winona Post; and Jack Roberts, SMCR Watershed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA óJim made a motion to approve the January 12, 2011 agenda adding Oath of Office after Acceptance of Supervisor Resignation and under Cost-Share adding Kukowski (NB-09, #04 and FL-09D, #03) amendment and final payments and 3 new applications for Flood 2011 Cost-Share. Also, adding Sonneman under Consent Agenda and Sharing Services under Sonneman. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

ACCEPTANCE OF SUPERVISOR RESIGNATION ó John made a motion to accept the resignation of Tom Choinski as Supervisor and to send a card thanking him for his service. Jim seconded and carried by affirmative votes.

Jim made a motion to advertise a public notice in the newspapers for nominations and interested people to contact the District one week prior to the February Board meeting. At that time, the Board may appoint a new Supervisor to replace Tom. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

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 ó John made a motion to table the election of officers until a new Supervisor has been appointed to the Board. Jim seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

John made a motion to appoint Jim as interim Board Secretary/Treasurer and serve on the committee assignments that Tom had prior to his resignation until the election of officers. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS ó Committee assignments will be made after the appointment of a new Supervisor is done.

SUPERVISOR VOUCHERS ó Jim made a motion to authorize Brein to sign the Supervisor Voucher checks. Arlene seconded it. John opposed. Motion carried.

Jim moved to authorize Brein to sign all checks in the interim. Arlene seconded. The Board discussed. Motion was withdrawal.

CONSENT AGENDA ó Jim made a motion to approve the remaining Consent Agenda items adding Hiawatha RC&D to Bill's Payable; Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

COUNTY ATTORNEY ó Karin Sonneman introduced herself to the Board. She acknowledged to the Board that State Statute states that the County Attorney is the legal service of the Board and will be attending monthly Board meetings. She reminded the Board that it is a good practice at the beginning of the year to review policies and Open-Meeting Laws.

SHARING SERVICES ó Rudie and John presented an idea to the Board about sharing management services with other Districts, such as Root River. The Board discussed. No action was taken.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT ó Commissioner Kaehler update the Board on the starting of the New County Officials and committee/board assignments. Commissioner Kaehler is the new Chair of the County Board and will continue to serve as the SWCD representative. She also updated the Board on the MN Southeast Resource Board meeting and presentation.

WINONA COUNTY PLANNING REPORT ó Duane reported on the consultant that was hired to oversee the Planning Department. He also updated the Board on the hiring of a Water Planner/WWJPB Coordinator position (doing a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the WWJPB). The Hilltop Garden update was discussed.

D.C. REPORT ó A hand-out was provided on the monthly workload report.

Jim made a motion to request NRCS to give authorization and access to the employees of the Winona SWCD to the NRCS computer used by Tim Terrill to get necessary information and files off of it. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

WHITEWATER JPB REPORT ó Jerry Hildebrandt updated the Board on his continued outreach work. He held a full council meeting on 1/11/11. He is scheduling landowner meetings during the month of January.

RUSH-PINE REPORT ó Naomi presented a report on meetings, land use surveys, and FANMAP.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS ó

John reported that he attended the Stockton-Minnesota City-Rollingstone Watershed meeting.

Arlene reported that she attended the WWJPB Council meeting and the Organic Conference. She passed out some research she found on cover crop.

Jim reported on the Winona County Economic Development ó Local Foods day is March 12.

Jim made a motion for the District to have an exhibit at this year's Local Foods Day. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

Jim continued his report. He will be attending and presenting at the Organic Conference. He is working with NRCS committee on the practice standards and revisions. He showed the Board the Agra News on Stearns SWCD being the top in the State this year. He reminded the Board that this is what Winona should be striving for.

Rudie reported that he attended the WWJPB meeting and Stockton-Minnesota City-Rollingstone Watershed meeting.

Jack Roberts, Stockton-Minnesota City-Rollingstone Watershed, said that they were updating their Water Plan. They are researching a pond clean-out program for landowners in the Watershed. They are also working with Bob Bilder, County Engineer, about flooding emergencies and flood mitigation.

COST SHARE

1. Jim made a motion to approve the Final Financial Report for the 2008 FWQM Grant and request final Close-out. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
2. Arlene made a motion to approve the 2011 Flood Cost-Share application for Ken Brown for Streambank repair. The total Cost-Share requested is \$23,013.18 or 100% Cost-Share, whichever is less. Jim seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. Arlene made a motion to approve the 2011 Flood Cost-Share application for Lloyd Kreidermacher for Streambank repair. The total Cost-Share requested is \$13,711.82 or 100% Cost-Share, whichever is less. Jim seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
4. John made a motion to approve the 2011 Flood Cost-Share application for Scott Seinola/Gary Dunn for grade stabilization repair. The total Cost-Share requested is \$8,275.00 or 100% Cost-Share, whichever is less. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
5. Jim made a motion to approve the amendment request for NB-09, #04 ó Randy Kukowski to increase his Cost-Share funding by \$3,475.10 using the remaining 2009 Native Buffer Cost-Share. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
6. Jim made a motion to approve the final payment for NB-09, #04 ó Randy Kukowski. The total cost of the project is \$29,679.37. Total Cost-Share requested \$9,655.10. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes. Additional Cost-Share funding is RIM - \$16,150.00 and FL-09D, #03 - \$3,874.27.
7. Jim made a motion to approve the final payment for FL-09D, #03 ó Randy Kukowski. The total cost of the project is \$29,679.37. Total Cost-Share requested \$3,874.27. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes. Additional Cost-Share funding is RIM - \$16,150.00 and NB-09, #04 - \$9,655.10.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The Board continued to discuss the County/District collaborations. Duane Hebert presented the Board with a draft of what the County can provide as SWCD assistance options. If the Board identifies the gaps that need to be filled and how the County can help. The Board decided that they need to look at the District's needs and get back to the County.
2. Jim made a motion to approve an official letter that will be available as official notification of the manager's release for partners, agencies, and businesses. John seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. The final invoice for the 13 CRP completed plans has been completed and submitted to MASWCD (\$6,240).
4. Jim made a motion to table the discussion of the Cover Crop Program. He asked the staff to update the policies as previously discussed at the December 2010 meeting and bring to the Board to review once completed. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Jim made a motion to approve the drafted and discussed Interim Operational Procedure/Staff Assignments as presented by the staff (adding Daryl as the County Operational Assistance contact). Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
2. Arlene made a motion to suspend the Manager Interaction Policy adopted on February 14, 2007 (pending revision); Jim seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. Arlene made a motion for the purchase of a new laptop for Brein up to \$1,500 using the County's IT assistance. Jim seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
4. Jim made a motion to approve the return of \$150.00 local fund match from Trout Unlimited as requested by their organization. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

5. Brein updated the Board on the CERT Grant completion.

MISCELLANEOUS DISTRICT NEWS AND INFORMATION

1. 2011 RIM/WRP sign-up and discussion of the program.

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 12:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jim Riddle
Secretary of the Board