

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

October 12, 2011

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

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; Jason Gilman, County Planning & Environmental Services; Kasey Taylor and Sue Glende, NRCS; Daryl Buck, Brein Maki, and Amanda Gentry, SWCD; and Natalie Siderius and Jerry Hildebrandt, WWJPB.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Lonny made a motion to approve the October 12, 2011 Agenda adding Feedlot FY-11, #10 – Alfred Lehmkuhl final payment and Greden Native Buffer application to Cost-Share; CPESC Renewal (\$100) and State of Minnesota Unemployment (\$1,114.80) to Bill's Payable. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

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

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT – Commissioner Kaehler updated the board on current county happenings; including frac sand mining, Winona County hosting of AMC feedlot officers meeting, preliminary approval of the district's allocation requested, and the county levy public hearing.

COUNTY PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT – Jason Gilman introduced himself to the board. He updated on current county happenings; including frac sand mining, review of the zoning code, comprehensive planning review, and the Enterprise license agreement for GIS.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT – Kasey Taylor, Assistant State Conservationist, introduced herself. She updated the board on current NRCS information; including the "Back to the Basics" concept being initiated, EQIP application period sign-up starts November 15th, hiring for Winona County NRCS technician, compliance concerns, and Area 7 becoming Area 6 as of October 24th.

D.C. REPORT – Sue handed out a report on NRCS program updates; including updates on MRBI, CRP, CSP payments, and EQIP. All programs have sign-ups going on.

WHITEWATER JPB REPORT – Natalie updated the board on current Whitewater JPB work; including continuing outreach efforts and the Farmer Led grant, corn stalk analysis's, nutrient management plans, and surveys done by landowners in the Middle and Logan Branch of the Whitewater on perspectives and views of conservation.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Arlene updated the board on a couple of educational news articles.

Lonny updated the board on the Hiawatha RC&D and information on incentives for alfalfa for biomass.

Jim updated the board on the Frozen Film Festival and contract is signed for The Nature Conservancy.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Daryl reported on the office rearranging and clean-up.

COST SHARE

1. Eric made a motion to approve the amendment request from FL-09C, #23 – Chad Miller to increase his Cost-Share by \$2,452.50 due to having to add additional lengths of waterways and diversion repairs. Cost-Share will be encumbered from the FL-09D Cost-Share fund. Arlene seconded and carried by affirmative votes.
2. Arlene made a motion to approve the final payment request from FL-09C, #23 – Chad Miller for waterway and diversion repairs. This project is eligible for up to 100% Cost-Share. The total cost of the project and payment requested is \$7,532.50. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes. (FL-09C - \$3,512.34, FL-09D - \$4,020.16)
3. Arlene made a motion to approve the final payment request from FL-09D, #12 – Chad Miller for sediment basin repair. The project is eligible for up to 100% Cost-Share. The total cost of the project and payment requested is \$11,488.20. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
4. Arlene made a motion to approve the amendment request from FL-09C, #06 – Carlus Dingfelder to increase his Cost-Share by \$2,985 due to having to install a pipe to make a stable outlet for the diversion. The project is eligible for up to 100% Cost-Share. Cost-Share will be encumbered from the FL-09D Cost-Share fund.
5. Arlene made a motion to approve the final payment request from FL-09C, #06 – Carlus Dingfelder for his diversion repairs. The project is eligible for up to 100% Cost-Share. The total cost of the project and payment requested is \$3,985.00. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes. (FL-09C - \$1000.00, FL-09D - \$2,985.00)
6. Lonny made a motion to cancel NB-11, #18 – Marlow Mielke at the landowner's request. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
7. The staff updated the Board on the proposed 2012 BWSR Grant agreements and allocations. No action taken.
8. Lonny made a motion to approve an amendment request to BWSR to extend the completion date of Grant Agreement PO# 17078 – CWF Feedlot Water Quality 2010 to October 31, 2012. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
9. Lonny made a motion to approve the Native Buffer Cost-Share application for Winona County. The Cost-Share requested is \$1,659.38 or up to 75% Cost-Share, whichever is less. Eric seconded and carried by affirmative votes.
10. Eric made a motion to approve the final payment request from Feedlot FY-11, #10 – Alfred Lehmkul. The total cost of the project is \$11,342.24. This project is eligible for up to 75% Cost-Share. Final payment requested is \$8506.68. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Board discussed and turned in their votes for the 2011 MASWCD Resolutions.
2. 2011 MASWCD Convention –
 - a. Lonny made a motion to approve the attendance, registration, and accommodations of all supervisors and staff who wish to attend the 2011 MASWCD Convention. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
 - b. Arlene made a motion to approve spending up to \$100.00 on an auction basket donation for the 2011 MASWCD Convention. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

- c. Lonny made a motion to approve the plaque purchase, travel allowance of \$100.00, and luncheon registration for the 2011 Winona County Outstanding Conservationist. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. The Board discussed adding supervisor and staff bios/photos to the district's websites by January 2012.
4. The Board tabled the discussion of reimbursement policies until the November 9, 2011 Board meeting. Staff will research other agency policies and send with Board packets for review in preparation of the Board meeting.
5. Lonny made a motion to approve the staff participation in the 3rd Annual Career and Technical Education College Night on Thursday, November 10, 2011 in Plainview. The Board authorizes spending up to \$50.00 on a door(s) prize for the event. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Partner's Committee – Nothing to report at this time.
2. Resource Specialist Position – Daryl updated the Board on his work with the Winona County Personnel Department.
 - a. Arlene made a motion to enter into a new professional agreement with Brian Watson for up to 20 hours at the previous hourly rate to do the ranking of applications for the Resource Specialist position. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
 - b. Lonny made a motion to approve the Resource Specialist position hiring process as presented. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
 - County will review position description and job announcement prior to advertising.
 - The district will ask to use the county's application forms as a template for applications, as well as their background check and Driver's License Check Authorization form.
 - The district will advertise the position.
 - The goal for a closing date is November 10, 2011.
 - The review and ranking of applications will be done by Brian Watson in accordance to the scoring criteria used by the county in previous applications.
 - The interview panel will include Jim, George, Daryl, and Brein. (In the event George is unavailable, a supervisor replacement will be made.)
3. The district continued to discuss Frac Sand Mining concerns in the county.
4. The contract has been signed with The Nature Conservancy. The District is still waiting for a signed NRCS – MRBI Contract.
5. Lonny made a motion to authorize a letter in response to the Utica Wellhead Protection to extend our assistance in their future work. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
6. Jim updated his work on the Frozen River Film Festival.

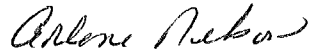
MISCELLANEOUS DISTRICT NEWS AND INFORMATION

1. Toby Dogwiler has been invited and confirmed to present at the November 9, 2011 Board meeting on the Southeastern Minnesota Soil Water Monitoring Network.
2. Lonny made a motion to approve the attendance of Amanda Gentry to the AMC Feedlot Officer's training October 19, 2011. Arlene seconded and carried by affirmative votes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT – Lonny made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes. Meeting adjourned at 1:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlene Nelson".

Arlene Nelson
Secretary of the Board