

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

September 21, 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 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; Sue Glende, NRCS; Brian Watson; and Natalie Siderius, WWJPB.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Lonny made a motion to approve the September 21, 2011 Agenda adding FL-11A, #01 final payment, FL-11B, #01 final payment, Greden Native Buffer application, FY-10, #04 amendment, and Feedlot FY-10, #11 final payment to Cost-Share; James Maiser, CPA (\$2,400) and Digicom (\$39.40) to Bill's Payable; CWF Press Release and Utica Wellhead Protection letter to New Business; and add 2011 MASWCD Resolutions to Miscellaneous. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

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

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT – Commissioner Kaehler updated the Board on current County happenings; including the preliminary levy, frac sand mining in Winona County (meeting scheduled on September 26), and Stockton Rollingstone Minnesota City Watershed supervisor resignation. She encouraged the district to pass on the information to anyone who might be interested.

D.C. REPORT – Sue handed out a report on NRCS program updates; including updates on MRBI, CRP, and EQIP. She updated the Board on filling of the open technician position. She informed the Board of upcoming meetings. She attended a Winona County Emergency Management workshop.

WHITEWATER JPB REPORT – Natalie updated the Board on current Whitewater JPB work; including continuing outreach efforts and the Farmer Led grant. She updated the Board on the Citizen Stream Monitoring Program and bacteria reduction monitoring. She is working on new grant opportunities for civic engagement with Stockton Rollingstone Minnesota City Watershed and discussions of working with the Rush-Pine Watershed Council doing outreach.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Eric updated the Board on the Governance 101 Training and the Area 7 Fall meeting.

Arlene updated the Board on the WWJPB meeting and the Area 7 Fall meeting.

Lonny updated the Board on the Hiawatha RC&D, Governance 101 Training, and the Area 7 Fall meeting.

Jim updated the Board on Area 7 Fall meeting.

BRIAN WATSON REPORT – Brian updated the Board on his work; including an activity report. His work is done at Winona County SWCD and has been working on forwarding all the information he has to the District.

COST SHARE

1. The staff updated the Board on the final submitted application for Clean Water Funding. The total request made was for 5 feedlot fixes for a total of \$310,374 in Cost-Share, administration, project development, and technical/engineering assistance.
2. Arlene made a motion to cancel FL-08B, #52 – Patrick Ellringer at the landowner's request. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. Arlene made a motion to approve the Return of State Grant Funds for the 2008 Flood B Cost-Share in the amount of \$3,936.62. The encumbrance period for these funds has expired. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
4. Lonny made a motion to approve the amendment request for FY-10, #02 – Bruce Speltz to increase his Cost-Share by \$163.40 due to having to use fill from a further location than expected. This encumbrance will be from the FY-11 Cost-Share fund. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
5. Lonny made a motion to approve the final payment request for FY-10, #02 – Bruce Speltz for a new grade stabilization construction. The total cost of the project is \$37,157.20. This project is eligible for up to 75% Cost-Share. Other funding is \$25,679.50. Payment approved is \$2,188.00 (FY-10, \$2025.00; FY-11, \$163.40). Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
6. Arlene made a motion to approve the final payment request for FL-11A, #01 – Scott Seinola for grade stabilization repair. This project is eligible for 100% Cost-Share. The total cost of the project is \$23,209.52. Other funding is \$11,383.00. Payment approved is \$8,275.00. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
7. Arlene made a motion to approve the final payment request for FL-11B, #01 – Lloyd Kreidermacher for grade stabilization repair. This project is eligible for 100% Cost-Share. The total cost of the project is \$13,746.00. Other funding is \$10,959.00. Payment approved is \$2,787.00. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
8. Eric made a motion to approve the Native Buffer Cost-Share application for Larry Greden. The total cost estimate is \$1,161.00 and is eligible for up to 75% Cost-Share. The total Cost-Share approved is \$870.75. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
9. Lonny made a motion to approve the amendment request for FY-10, #04 – Fran Runkel to increase his Cost-Share \$521.82 due to having to use fill from a further location than expected. This encumbrance will be from the FY-11 Cost-Share fund. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
10. Lonny made a motion to approve the final payment request for Feedlot FY-10, #11 – Dan Duncanson. The total cost of the project is \$45,107.30. This project is eligible for up to 75% Cost-Share. Payment approved is \$33,830.48. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Lonny made a motion to approve the attendance of Daryl, Brein, and Amanda to the 2011 BWSR Academy being held October 25-27, 2011 at Breezy Point Convention Center. Approval for staying overnight on October 24th is granted. Arlene seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
2. Arlene made a motion to approve the bid from Graphic Designs for Outstanding Conservationist of the Year signs (purchasing 5 years at this time) for \$50.00 per sign. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. Daryl updated the Board on the RIM inspections and a couple of potential violations. The District was required to do 60 predetermined sites.

4. All (new) Board members need to read the FOIA PowerPoint as requested by NRCS. (Copies were distributed.)
5. Eric made a motion to release the extra desk. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
6. The Board discussed using more News Release Templates from MASWCD as media information locally. One idea was to use the Clean Water Fund Release for next year's ideas to develop Partner's Applications.
7. The Board will revisit the Utica Wellhead Protection notification letter at the October 12, 2011 Board meeting. There is a 60 day comment period.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Lonny made motion to request an NRCS computer for MRBI contract work from Kasey Taylor, Assistant State Conservationist. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
2. Arlene made a motion for the Chairman to sign The Nature Conservancy Contract contingent of the noted changes by Karin, Attorney's Office. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
3. Eric made a motion to approve the Letter to the Winona County Commissioners with the amended changes. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
4. Arlene made a motion to approve the drafted and amended Resource Specialist job description. Lonny seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.
5. Lonny made a motion to coordinate with the Winona County Personnel Department to post and advertise for the Resource Specialist position and do the initial applicant screening. The interview panel should include Daryl, George, and Jim. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes. No changes were made to the Resource Specialist wage scale.
6. Jim updated the Board on his work to bring "Green Fire" to the Frozen River Film Festival. Lonny made a motion for the District to sponsor "Green Fire" and contribute \$500 to the Festival for this film. Eric seconded it and carried by affirmative votes.

MISCELLANEOUS DISTRICT NEWS AND INFORMATION

1. Board members will be receiving copies of the 2011 MASWCD Resolutions in the mail soon. Board members should come to the next Board meeting prepared to discuss and vote.
2. Reminder that the next Regular Board meeting will be October 12, 2011. Kasey Taylor, Assistant State Conservationist for NRCS would like to attend the October 12, 2011 Board meeting.
3. Jason Gilman, Winona County will be invited to the October 12, 2011 Board meeting.
4. Daryl updated the Board on information and concerns he has been getting on the frac sand mining.
5. Supervisors were reminded to submit their third quarter per diems at the end of September.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT – Eric made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Arlen seconded it and carried by affirmative votes. Meeting adjourned at 12:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:



Arlene Nelson
Secretary of the Board