



Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District

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APRIL 12, 2011

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The April Board meeting of the Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District was convened at the North Branch Ag Service Center, North Branch, MN on April 12, 2011. Chair Jim Birkholz called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board members present: Jim Birkholz, Roland Cleveland, David Tollberg, and Justin Wilson

Board members absent: Craig Mold

Staff present: Craig Mell, Susan Humble, and Casey Thiel

Others present: Deb Hermel (NRCS)

AGENDA

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Wilson to approve the agenda as printed after removing the Bills to be Paid and Financial Reports from the Consent Agenda for full Board review. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Tollberg to approve the Consent Agenda items. Motion carried.

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Cleveland to approve the Bills to be Paid and accept the Financial Reports as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed recently received correspondence, including a calendar of upcoming meetings.

STAFF REPORTS

Deb Hermel distributed and reviewed a written report of the past months NRCS activities (*see attached).

Craig Mell distributed and reviewed a written report of the past months SWCD activities (*see attached).

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Tollberg to request a 60 day extension (our current agreement states projects must be started by May 31st, 2011) from the Anoka Conservation District (ACD) to initiate installation of the following projects that are utilizing ACD Clean Water Fund grant dollars:

- Linden Street Reconstruction Project (John Olinger, City Administrator, City of Lindstrom)
- Olinda Greens Townhome Association Project (Mary Aadland, President, Olinda Greens Townhome Association)

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The Chisago SWCD received a \$230,000 Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources to install urban best management practices (BMPs) identified in the Stormwater Retrofit Assessments (SRA) that have been completed in the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes region. Craig Mell and Casey Thiel met with staff from Center City, Lindstrom, Chisago City and the Chisago County Public Works Department to review the CWF grant program and to discuss local priorities.

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Tollberg to designate the following areas as priorities for 2011:

- Center City - County Road 9 project, downtown Center City, Chisago Lake Church and Dew Drop Lane;
- Lindstrom - Maple/3rd Street, Peninsula Ave, Beach Park, Newlander Ave, and Lakes Free Church;
- Chisago City - Fairview Chisago Lakes Area Clinic

Motion carried.

In 2011 the Chisago SWCD received four Clean Water Fund (CWF) grants totaling approximately \$390,000. As of March 2011, the Chisago SWCD has received 90% of this funding. As a result of the CWF grants the SWCD currently has approximately \$550,000 in two bank locations. This exceeds the FDIC insured limits. The SWCD Finance Committee along with Craig Mell and Susan Humble met on April 4th to discuss banking options. Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Wilson to:

- designate Associated Bank, Stearns Bank and Peoples National Bank all of North Branch as the SWCD official depositories for 2011,
- maintain the SWCD's primary checking account at Associated Bank with a beginning balance of \$100,000 and deposit the remaining balance into money market accounts at both Stearns Bank and Peoples National Bank in North Branch. All accounts will have less than the \$250,000 FDIC insured limit.

Motion carried.

The District Board briefly discussed the SWCD/County Draft MOA. District Administrator Mell recently met with County Administrator John Moosey regarding the SWCD/County Draft MOA. The agreement is currently being reviewed by County staff. No action was taken by the District Board at this time.

On March 28th the Chisago SWCD and NRCS held a Local Farmers Focus Group meeting at the North Branch Public Library. Minutes from the meeting were distributed and discussed. Overall staff and supervisors agreed the meeting was a success (*see attached).

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Tollberg to approve the Discovery Farms Local Partner Contract with the Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition (MAWRC) for services provided by the SWCD to maintain and operate the Discovery Farms project on the John Peterson Farm near Almelund (*see attached). Motion carried.

Motion by Tollberg and seconded by Cleveland to authorize District Administrator Mell to sign Amendment # 1 to CFMS Contract # B46201 with the MN Pollution Control Agency regarding the Chisago Lakes LID "Five Lakes" Total Maximum Daily Load Study (*see attached). Motion carried.

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Cleveland to submit an FY 2012 Farm Bill Assistance Grant in the amount of \$7,875.00 to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources. Motion carried.

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Tollberg to authorize staff to finalize a contact with CPA James Maiser to complete the FY 2010 financial audit for the SWCD. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

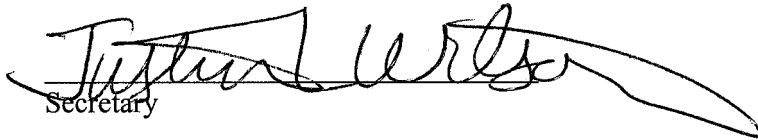
Brief committee reports were given.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. at the North Branch Ag Service Center, North Branch, MN.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, Chair Birkholz adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.


Secretary

5-10-11
Date

*Attachments available at SWCD office.