



Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District

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APRIL 13, 2010

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 13, 2010. Chair Jim Birkholz called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board members present: Jim Birkholz, Roland Cleveland, Craig Mold, and Justin Wilson
Board members absent: David Tollberg
Staff present: Craig Mell, Susan Humble, and Deb Hermel (NRCS)
Others: Melissa Lewis, BWSR Board Conservationist

AGENDA

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Mold to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mold and seconded by Wilson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Cleveland to approve the first quarter financial reports as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed recently received correspondence.

BWSR UPDATE

Melissa Lewis, BWSR Board Conservationist updated the Board on current and future budget concerns facing Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Wilson to approve submitting an NPEAP (Non Point Engineering Assistance Program) Funding Application in the amount of \$320 to the Association of Metro Conservation Districts for WinSLAMM software to assist the District with the subwatershed assessment program. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

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

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

Motion by Mold and seconded by Cleveland to authorize the District Administrator to approve all employee trainings cost up to \$100.00 without prior board action. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The Chisago SWCD, in partnership with the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District, DNR Division of Waters, Chisago County, and the University of MN will be hosting a series of NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) workshops in 2010. The workshops will be focused around the communities in the Chisago Lakes region. The first workshop will be held on May 12, 2010, invitations were handed out to all Supervisors.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chisago SWCD will be hosting the Area IV Summer Tour and Meeting, a tentative date of June 10 was set. Tentative tour stops include the Chisago Lakes Lakeside Middle School, Ron and Sue Johnsons dairy farm and Jim Birkholz wetland restorations, native grass planting and invasive species control projects. Staff will finalize the tour and send out information in the next couple of weeks.

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Cleveland to approve the hiring of Mary Jo Youngbauer for the six (6) month temporary Water Resource Technician position at a rate of \$14.50/hour with no benefits. Motion carried.

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Mold to approve the updated District Personnel Handbook after incorporating Chisago County Assistant Attorney Kristine Nelson-Fuge's suggested changes and updates. Motion carried.

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy team has begun the process of amending the current County Water Plan. The District board and staff discussed the importance of the Water Plan as it pertains to state and federal funding opportunities. It was agreed upon by board and staff to devote significant time during future Board meetings to discuss and review SWCD priorities that should be listed in the revised Chisago County Water Plan.

A draft memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the SWCD and Chisago County has been completed by staff. The Board reviewed the MOA and gave suggestions to modify the agreement. Board Chair Birkholz will assist staff in the completion of the MOA. A revised MOA will be brought back to the board during a future Board meeting for discussion and approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Brief committee reports were given.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. at the North Branch Ag Service Building.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mold and seconded by Cleveland to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Secretary

Date

*Attachments available at SWCD office.