



Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District

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July 12, 2011

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The July Board meeting of the Chisago SWCD was convened at the USDA Service Center, North Branch, MN on July 12, 2011. Vice-Chair Roland Cleveland called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Board members absent: None

Staff present: Craig Mell and Susan Humble

Others present: Deb Hermel (NRCS)

AGENDA

Motion by Mold and seconded by Wilson to approve the agenda as printed after pulling the Financial Reports off the Consent Agenda for quarterly review by the full Board. Motion carried.

Chair Birkholz arrived and assumed control of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Tollberg and seconded by Mold to approve the following Consent Agenda items as presented: June 2011 Board minutes & the monthly bills to be paid. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the financial reports as presented. Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Tollberg to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed a calendar of upcoming meetings.

STAFF REPORTS

Deb Hermel distributed and reviewed a written report of the past months NRCS activities (*see attached). She also reviewed with the Board the following compensation process for claims of decimation against: Hispanic or Women farmers, African Americans, and Native Americans farmers.

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 approve the following cost share assistance contracts amendments:

Contract #: MCD11-01

Applicant: City of Lindstrom, John Olinger (City Administrator)

Project: Linden Street project

Amend the project completion date from July 31, 2011 to September 30, 2011.

Contract #: MCD11-02

Applicant: Olinda Greens Townhome Association, Mary Aadland (President)

Project: Mulligan Court/Mulligan Lane project

Amend the project completion date from July 31, 2011 to September 30, 2011.

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

District Administrator Mell updated the Board on the impacts to the SWCD as a result of the State Government shut down. Currently staff is unable to work on the following projects:

- MPCA – North Branch of the Sunrise River TMDL implementation plan
- MPCA – Sunrise River TMDL study
- MPCA – Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes TMDL study
- DNR – Terrestrial Invasive Species Inventory and Management Grant Project
- DNR – Four Corners Forestry Project

During the State Government shut down SWCD staff has been focusing their time on the four BWSR Clean Water Fund grant programs that the District received in 2011.

District Administrator Mell gave the Board an update on the four FY11 Clean Water Fund Grants:

- Chain of Lakes Stormwater Retrofit Assessment Best Management Practices
- Implementation of Water-Smart Best Management Practices at Schools and Libraries
- St. Croix River escarpment gully stabilization inventory and outreach program
- Stabilization of erosion concerns adjacent to public roads and rivers

No Board action was taken at this time.

The SWCD Board discussed numerous candidates for the 2011 Outstanding Conservationist for Chisago County. Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Wilson to name the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (CLLID) as the 2011 Chisago County Outstanding Conservationist. Motion carried.

2011 SWCD Tour Date: The Board discussed holding a tour of recent conservation projects and resource concerns. The Board expressed an interest in viewing projects and resource concerns in the northern portion of Chisago County. Due to scheduling conflicts the Board postponed discussions on a tour date until a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

NRCS District Conservationist Hermel updated the Board that USDA NRCS Contribution Agreements for services provided by the SWCD may soon be available to the Chisago SWCD. Motion by Mold and seconded by Cleveland to authorize District Administrator Craig Mell to sign the USDA NRCS Contribution Agreement upon receipt, review and approval by Hermel and Mell. Motion carried.

The Board held a local workgroup meeting to discuss 2012 conservation priorities for Chisago County. Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Mold to adopt the resource concerns addressed in the Chisago County Local Water Management Plan as the 2012 conservation priorities for Chisago County. Motion carried.

District Administrator Mell shared with the Board a letter received from Interim County Administrator Kristine Nelson Fuge stating that Chisago County is anticipating cutting all funding for our organization in 2012. The Board had a lengthy discussion on our next steps. It was determined through conversations between District Administrator Mell and Interim County Administrator Kristine Nelson Fuge that the SWCD Board of Supervisors should attend an upcoming County Board meeting to discuss our 2012

budget needs. It was decided that a majority of SWCD Board members along with Administrator Mell would be available to attend the July 20, 2011 County Board meeting. Administrator Mell will compile a fact sheet to present to the County Board regarding the importance of the County base allocation.

The Finance committee presented the 2012 preliminary budget for review by the full board. Motion by Mold and seconded by Cleveland to accept the 2012 preliminary budget as presented (*see attached). Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

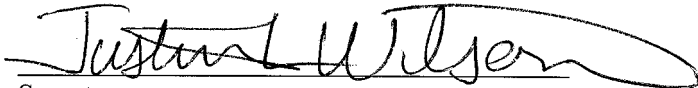
No committee reports were given.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. at the North Branch Ag Service Center, North Branch, MN.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Mold to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Motion carried.


Secretary

8-9-11
Date

*Attachments available at SWCD office.