



Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District

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May 10, 2011

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The May Board meeting of the Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District was convened at the USDA Service Center, North Branch, MN on May 10, 2011. Chair Jim Birkholz 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 Cleveland and seconded by Mold to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mold and seconded by Cleveland to approve the Consent Agenda as listed. Motion carried.

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Tollberg to approve paying the following bills related to the Spring 2011 tree and shrub sale program: Schumacher Nursery (\$8,365.75) and DNR Nursery (\$360.00).
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 Cleveland and seconded by Mold to encumber Implementation of Water-Smart Best Management Practices at Schools and Libraries Clean Water Fund Grant dollars to the following project:

Contract#	Name	Practice	Rate/NTE Amount
WSBMP11-1	Wyoming Area	Bioretention Basin	75%/\$7,000
	Library Society	Vegetative Swale	

and to designate Shawn Tracy, MCD Landscape Restoration Specialist, as the technical representative for this project, this project is to begin no later than September 31, 2011 and be completed no later than December 31, 2011. Motion carried.

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Tollberg to accept the bid from Water and Land Consultants for \$4,950.00 for survey, design, and construction inspection of the Pam Foshay Feedlot project in South Chisago Lakes Township, and to submit this project to the Metro Conservation Districts Non Point Engineering Assistance Program (NPEAP) for full funding. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

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.

Rural Preserves Property Tax Program: Over the past couple years the Minnesota State Legislature has made numerous changes to the Green Acres Tax law. A major change was the development of a new tax classification called the Rural Preserves Property Tax Program (RPPTP). One of the requirements for a landowner to be eligible for the RPPTP was to have a Conservation Assessment Plan approved by their local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). In most cases, the Conservation Assessment Plans were also written by the local SWCD for a fee.

In September of 2010, it was determined through conversations with the Chisago County Assessor's office that as many as 750 County landowners would need a SWCD approved Conservation Assessment Plan to be eligible for the RPPTP. As a result of the potential high demand by County residents to have Conservation Assessment Plans written, the Chisago SWCD began writing and approving Conservation Assessment Plans in the fall of 2010. During the fall of 2010, staff from the Chisago SWCD wrote and approved, at the request of County landowners, 20 Conservation Assessment Plans. A total of \$4,141.50 was collected by the Chisago SWCD for fees associated with writing and approving the Conservation Assessment Plans. On April 15th, 2011 Governor Dayton signed into law changes to the RPPTP which no longer requires landowners to have a SWCD approved Conservation Assessment Plan to be eligible for the RPPTP.

Motion by Mold and seconded by Cleveland to return the funds collected from Chisago County landowners for RPPTP Conservation Assessment Plans written and approved by Chisago SWCD staff in the fall of 2010, the amount to be returned to land owners totals \$4,141.50. Motion carried.

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Tollberg to authorize District Administrator Mell to draft a letter to Senator Sean Nienow, Representative Bob Barrett, and Representative Kurt Daudt requesting that the State of Minnesota reimburse the Chisago SWCD, either through separate legislation or through the state claims bill, the amount of \$4,141.50 for fees reimbursed to Chisago County landowners as a result of the 2011 Legislative changes to the RPPTP. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Mold and seconded by Wilson to appoint Roland Cleveland and Susan Humble to the 2011 MASWCD State Convention Planning Committee. Motion carried.

The District Board discussed the 2012 Budget. District Administrator Mell will work with the District Budget Committee to draft a budget to be reviewed and discussed at an upcoming SWCD meeting. No action was taken at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Brief committee reports were given.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. at the North Branch Ag Service Center, North Branch, MN.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Wilson and seconded by Mold to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. Motion carried.



Secretary

6-14-11

Date

*Attachments available at SWCD office.