



Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District

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May 12, 2009

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The May Board meeting of the Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District was convened in the AG Service Center, North Branch, MN on May 12, 2009. SWCD 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: Mary Ann Jay

Staff present: Craig Mell, Susan Humble, and Deb Hermel (NRCS).

Other: None

AGENDA

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Mold to add Termination of the IMPACK 6 Joint Powers Board to New Business. Motion carried.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed recently received correspondence.

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Mold to pay the registration fee of \$100.00 to the Chisago County Agriculture Society for booth space at the 2009 Chisago County Fair, July 16-19, 2009. Motion carried.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

The District board continued discussion from the April Board meeting regarding the prioritization of State Cost Share Funds. A map of Chisago County was distributed showing the current cost share programs that are available to County residents. Overall the board discussed the importance of partnering with local groups, such as the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District and local Lake Associations, to fund projects. Projects that were discussed included, rain gardens and lakeshore restoration projects, wetland restorations, critical area plantings, native grass establishment for future biofuels production and projects protecting the escarpment along the St. Croix River. No action was taken at this time.

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*).

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion was had regarding the USDA Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements. NRCS is requesting all District Board members to sign an Attachment C ensuring they understand and follow the FOIA requirements (*see attached). District Staff has contacted MN Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) to clarify the insurance coverage provided by MCIT as it relates to the Attachment C and the FOIA. The District Board has requested staff to contact the Chisago County Attorney for their input regarding this topic. This item will be added to the June Board Meeting Agenda.

FY08 audit bids were discussed. Currently, only one auditor submitted a bid to the District, the Board felt the bid was too high (\$2,200.00, representing an increase of \$800.00 since the FY06 audit) and they did not accept the bid at this time. The District Board directed staff to contact the auditor who submitted the current bid requesting a new bid and to contact other SWCD's for a list of auditors they have used to try and obtain additional bids. This information will be brought to the June SWCD Board Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Wilson to approve and sign the Metro Soil and Water Conservation Districts Technical Service Area Joint Powers Board agreement. Motion carried.

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Wilson to support the resolution to terminate the IMPACK 6 Joint Powers Board (see attached). Discussion followed regarding the ending fund balance of the IMPACK 6 JPB. The current BWSR policy states that all remaining equipment and fund balances stay with the new Technical Service Area (TSA) where the current Host SWCD is located. During discussion the motion maker withdrew the motion with consent of the second.

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Mold to request that prior to termination of the IMPACK 6 JPB the JPB reimburse the partner SWCD's their cash contribution amount that was contributed to IMPACK 6 in 2006. The request by IMPACK 6 at that time was that each partner SWCD provide the IMPACK 6 JPB with funding equivalent to 20% of our Base State Cost Share plus \$1,000, this amount came to \$4,304.80 that was paid by the Chisago SWCD to IMPACK 6 on November 16, 2006 as a good faith effort to the long term support of the IMPACK 6 JPB. The board also requested that all remaining fund balance amounts (after each partner SWCD was reimbursed for their 2006 contribution) as of June 30, 2009 be evenly distributed to the six IMPACK 6 SWCD's and then forwarded to their new TSA's, this would be equivalent to 2/3 (representing Pine, Aitkin, Mille Lacs and Kanabec) going to TSA 3 and 1/3 (representing Isanti and Chisago) going to the Metro TSA. Motion carried.

The District Board discussed the preliminary FY 2010 Budget and potential cuts from the State and County.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Brief committee reports were given.

The Board discussed the Ag BMP Loan Program and how the program will be affected by the termination of the IMPACK 6 Joint Powers Board. Currently, the AgBMP loan program is routed through the Kanabec SWCD, but with the pending termination on the IMPACK 6 JPB changes will be needed. Two options that exist are to continue a joint powers agreement with the Kanabec SWCD to continue to provide the Ag BMP Loan Program services to Chisago County or for the Chisago SWCD to assume the administrative services of the program for Chisago County. The District Board requested staff to research the roles and responsibilities of administering the AgBMP loan program locally versus partnering with the Kanabec SWCD and bring to a future Board meeting for discussion.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. at the North Branch Ag Service Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Cleveland and seconded by Mold to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Motion carried.

Secretary

Date

*Attachments available at SWCD office.