

MINUTES OF THE BENTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
USDA SERVICE CENTER
FOLEY, MINNESOTA
April 16, 2008

I. Meeting was called to order by Chair Joe Jordan at 8:31 A.M.

Attendance:

Chairperson:	Joe Jordan	Other:	Gerry Maciej, District Manager
Vice Chair:	Rod Bemboom - Absent	Other:	Annie Felix, Water Plan Technician
Secretary:	Duane Tadych	Other:	Pat Gehling
Treasurer:	Mike Gans – Arrived at 10:05 am	Other:	Tim Wilson
Member:	Phil Grosland	Other:	Jason Weirnerman – Arrived at 8:55 am
		Other:	Chuck Rau - Left meeting at 11:17 am.

II. Approve Agenda

Gerry Maciej requested the following additions: Add **IV.** WCA Recognition for Annie Felix; **VIII. B. 8.** FY2002 Feedlot Water Quality Grant Final Financial Report Revision; **X. C. 9.** Supervisor Solicitation Qualities. Tadych made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions. Grosland seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

III. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Tadych made a motion to approve the March 19, 2008 board meeting minutes. Grosland seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

IV. WCA Recognition for Annie Felix – Julie Olson

Julie was not present for this item. Postponed until she arrived.

V. Treasurers' Report

Gerry reviewed the Money Market Account, Account Quick Report, and March Treasurer's Report Program Summary with the board. Grosland made a motion to approve the Money Market Account, Account Quick Report, and the March Treasurer's report. Tadych seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.** Grosland signed Treasurers' Report.

Gerry reviewed Accounts Payable report with the board. Tadych made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable report. Grosland seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

Gerry reviewed the 2008 1st Quarter Operating Budget with the Board.

VI. Conservation Plans

Mike McMillin and Katie Evns entered the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

- A. Rod Bemboom, Clean Water Legacy CWL-04, Request for Payment** - Mike informed Board that Rod's 2007 test plots did not yield results due to drought. Rod is requesting an incentive payment in the amount of \$150.00. Grosland made a motion to approve payment for incentive payment on CWL-04 in the amount of \$150.00. Tadych seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**
- B. Ben Novak, Clean Water Legacy CWL-02, Request for Payment** – Mike informed Board that Ben's 2007 plot also had drought stress. Ben is requesting an incentive payment in the amount of \$150.00. Grosland made a motion to

approve payment for incentive payment on CWL-02 in the amount of \$150.00. Tadych seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

- C. **Richard Brand, Clean Water Legacy CWL-24, New Contract and Request for Payment** – Mike informed the Board that a FLEval has been completed on Richard's feedlot, currently being rented by his brother Dennis. Richard is requesting a FLEval contract and incentive payment in the amount of \$150.00. Grosland made a motion to approve cost share contract CWL-24 in the amount of \$150.00. Tadych seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

Tadych made a motion to approve payment for incentive CWL-24 in the amount of \$150.00. Grosland seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

Gerry discussed with the Board that the following State Cost Share contracts and funding requests are more than the District currently has in their State Cost Share account. Available SCS through June 30, 2008 FY07 \$12,811.26. Available SCS through June 30, 2009 FY08 \$15,895.20. Total \$28,706.46. Gerry suggested that the Board review the following three cost share requests, then decide how to award cost share. The Board agreed. Discussion about all three projects followed. Regarding the Mastey project Gerry reported that the District can apply for additional funding for this project because it is in an impaired watershed. The funding would come from the Feedlot Water Quality Grant program with BWSR. Pat explained the engineering design for the proposed feedlot improvements. The problem is that manure and runoff from his feedlot is crossing over his property line and running out into a nearby creek. Most of current east feedlot is going to be abandoned and move the lot up the hill off of the property line. The east lot will be 250' x 75' with a 50' x 90' stacking slab (2-3 months storage) to hold solid manure with the liquids draining to a sediment basin and filter strip. The west lot will be moved off of the property line 75' with another 60' x 60' stacking slab (2 months storage) with the liquids draining to a filter strip. George submitted two bids for the project, including himself and Lloyd Erdman. The filter strip part is not an eligible to cost share practice through State Cost Share. George is requesting cost share for installing the stacking slab, diversion, fencing components of the design. The lowest bid to complete the work is \$156,348.00. The out of pocket costs are approximately \$110,000. The Feedlot Water Quality grant is an opportunity to help to garner additional cost share for this project.

There was discussion about the general need to retain some cost share dollars for projects anticipated to occur over the next several months.

- D. **Steve Pekarek, State Cost Share FY07-10, New Contract** – Katie informed the Board that Steve's contract and cost share request is to plant a three row field windbreak in his property. Steve is requesting \$1,372.03 in cost share to install the windbreak. Tadych made a motion to approve State Cost Share Contract (FY07-10) in the amount of \$1,372.03. Grosland seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**
- E. **Mike Lewandowski, State Cost Share FY07-11, New Contract** – Katie informed Board of Mike's request to seal an abandoned dug well on his site because it is a hazard to people and animals. Mike is requesting \$600.00 or 50% of the total eligible cost, which ever is less, in cost share to seal the well. Grosland made a motion to approve State Cost Share Contract (FY07-11) in the amount of \$600.00. Duane seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**
- F. **George Mastey, State Cost Share FY07-12, New Contract** – Grosland made a motion to approve State Cost Share Contract (FY07-12) in the amount of \$11,182.25 and to apply for the Feedlot Water Quality grant to supplement costs on this project. Duane seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.** It was noted that if the grant application was unsuccessful, the board would consider additional state cost share funding for this project.

VII. WCA Recognition for Annie Felix – Julie Olson present

In 2006 the DNR carried out a new project called "Operation Bird's Eye View", which dedicated flight time for the sole purpose of detection of wetland impacts throughout Minnesota. Benton County was included in this fly-over. At the same time, Annie took over Mark Hauck's WCA responsibilities. Annie had no WCA training and very little prior experience, but she completed the work as if she had been a seasoned veteran. Julie presented a plaque to Annie and commended her hard work and dedication to this project.

- VIII. **Lonnie Greener, Low Interest Loan Application** – Lonnie is applying for low interest loan dollars to purchase manure spreading equipment. He is interested in purchasing a tank to haul liquid manure. Gerry checked with MDA to see if this would be eligible for loan interest loan dollars – their response was that it is a local decision, based on whether the project will improve water quality. A letter was reviewed from Lonnie. There was consensus that purchasing this equipment will improve/protect water quality. Grosland made a motion to approve Lonnie Greener's application to

purchase the manure spreading equipment with the low interest loan program. Duane Tadych seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

- IX. WHIP and CCRP plans approved by SWCD staff** - Pat briefed the Board about WHIP and CRP SAFE plans that have been approved by SWCD staff. WHIP contracts: 1) Leroy Tresco, 23.1 acres of oak savanna and tall grass prairie. The contract is to establish cover and perform 2 controlled burns. 2) Franciscan Sisters – 60.2 acres tallgrass prairie. 3) Leander Star – 5.1 acres of tree planting. CRP SAFE Program has 23,100 acres approved in Minnesota – goal is to establish grasses in at least 10 acres up to 40 acres. Sign up started 4/14/08. Our office is working with PF to donate seed for the food plots. Current CRP SAFE contracts: 1) Don Miller 14.7 acres CP-25, 2) John Wollak 29.9 acres native grasses and 9.4 acres cool season grasses, 3) Brian Popp 10.8 acres native grasses and 3.0 acres cool season grasses and legumes.

Mike and Katie left meeting at 9:40 am

X. Permits, Applications, Certificates of Compliance

- A. None to date.

XI. Action Items

A. Old Business

- 1) None to Date

B. New Business

- 1) **Review of Recent Cost-share Closeouts** - Jason Weinerman stated that most of the recent cost share close outs had similar errors to the FY2002 close out. The 2005 emergency drought assistance contracts were done very well. Jason commended the Board about how they have changed positively with respect to the state cost share program. He saw this today when the Board was asking specific questions to the staff about the cost share proposals.
- 2) **Resolution to adopt the county water plan as the SWCD comprehensive plan** – Gerry read Resolution 2008-01 adopting the Benton County Comprehensive Local Water Plan as the Comprehensive Plan of the Benton SWCD. Tadych made a motion to adopt Resolution 2008-01 with the revision that the resolution will be in effect until 2012. Grosland seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

The Board recessed for break at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 10:12 a.m. Mike Gans entered the meeting at 10:05 am.

Tim Wilson presented a non-monetary award to Katie Evans in recognition of her efforts in assisting NRCS with the 2008 WHIP and EQIP sign-up.

- 3) **Purchase Certificate of Deposit** – Benton SWCD has two \$50,000 CD's that will mature on 4/21/08. Pam checked the current CD rates at Falcon National Bank and Frandsen Bank & Trust, both banks had the same 12 month CD rates of 3.02, yield 3.05. Gerry recommends selecting Frandsen Bank because the CDs are currently held there. It requires a lot of work to transfer banks. Tadych made a motion to purchase a 12 month \$100,000 CD from Frandsen Bank. Gans seconded the motion. Grosland abstained. All others were in favor. **The motion passed.**
- 4) **Resolution to authorize the District Manager to sign the Little Rock Lake TMDL contract** – The Little Rock Lake TMDL work plan is currently being reviewed by the St Paul MPCA contracting department. When the contract is complete, MPCA will send it to Benton SWCD for signature. Gerry and Annie reviewed changes that were made to the work plan since the board had last reviewed it. The monitoring design has changed and much of the outreach had to be cut in order to fit the project into the available budget. Gerry read Resolution 2008-02 to authorize the District Manager to sign the Little Rock Lake TMDL contract. Tadych made a motion to approve Resolution 2008-02. Grosland seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

Chuck Rau suggested that the Little Rock Lake Association and Sportsmen's Clubs are very interested in supporting any outreach funding needs for the project. The Little Rock Lake Association has its Annual Picnic on June 28 at which a presentation about the study could be made.

- 5) **Consider Conducting a FY 2007 Financial Audit** – According to BWSR we are not required to have an audit completed for 2007. Gerry recommended that an audit be done because it has been one complete year with the new accounting system. An audit has been budgeted for in 2008. We did receive about \$500,000 in 2007, and we can make mistakes. It is easier to try and catch it now and it is piece of mind. Gerry is recommending that we use the same auditor as last time. An audit costs about \$3,500. Gans made a motion to conduct an audit for fiscal year 2007 and to use Beinhorn as the firm. Grosland seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- 6) **FY2002 Feedlot Water Quality Grant Final Financial Report Revision.** Due to dollars being sent back to the BWSR the financial report needs to be revised. Tadych made a motion to approve the revised FY2002 Feedlot Water Quality grant report. Grosland seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- 7) Poster/Essay Contest Voting – Supervisors voted on posters and murals and submitted judging sheets to Annie.
- 8) Soil and Water Stewardship Week Tree Seedling Delivery – Pam briefed Board that 1,882 seedlings were ordered in 2008. She has a list of Supervisors deliveries.

Chuck Rau left meeting at 11:17 am.

XII. Progress Reports

- A. SWCD/NRCS Project List – The active ERWA Pasture Project list and CRP SAFE project list are new.
- B. Gerry Maciej – Manager
- C. Pam Kuhn – Program Assistant
- D. Annie Felix – Water Plan Technician
- E. Katie Evans – Technician
- F. Mike McMillin - Technician
- G. Dan Martens – U of M Extension

Dan passed out Hay Auction Market Report, which contained graphs and data about medium square bales and relative feed value.

February and March yield data was made available on MN Ag Statistics website. 2007 Benton County averages. Corn - 67 bushels per acre. Beans – 18 bushels/acre.

Farm Business Management Programs of MN have finished their 2007 Annual Reports. Summaries of county data are part of these reports. Posted on the website.

Summer activities – Central MN Forage Council Board plans on having forage tour August 19 on John Traut's farm in Stearns County. Dairy tour – working on finding sites in each of the counties, no sites or dates selected (milk quality, calf raising, facility improvements, possibly manure digester site visit).

Gerry requested that Dan keep him updated about the dates of the tours so Mike and Katie may have the opportunity to attend.

Jason left meeting at 11:02 am.

- H. Pat Gehling – District Conservationist, NRCS
- I. Barb Zeroth – Soil Conservation Technician. NRCS

II. Information Items

A. Committee Reports

- 1) WRAC (Joe) - May 6 will be a public hearing to gather public comment on Water Plan draft.

B. Old Business

- 1) Update on Elk River Watershed Projects – MPCA has made significant cuts to the Elk River TMDL work plan, including the Mayhew Creek impairments, Elk River biotic impairment, Rice Creek. Elk River Watershed Coordinator position: They have finished first and second interviews. Tiffany Babich was selected by the Sherburne SWCD Board and she accepted the position. She starts May 2.

- 2) Tree Week Update – Tree week is April 21 – 25. Gerry reviewed with the Board the schedule for tree week.

C. New Business

- 1) **2007 Annual Report** – The Board commented that the report looked good, pictures are great – really draw you into it, document length is good. Gerry asked for volunteers to present the Annual Report to Commissioners at one of their upcoming Board meetings. Board asked Gerry to schedule a meeting date and let them know so they can try to attend. May 20th or June 3rd meeting are possible dates.
- 2) **CTIC Conservation Tillage Report** – Gerry distributed Conservation Tillage and No-Till Acres 1996-2007 graph and reviewed it with the Board. 2007 conservation tillage acreage can be greatly attributed to EQIP sign-ups.
- 3) **Computer/IT Services Update** – NACD has a subcommittee working on this issue and sent out an email. Gerry reviewed the email with the Board. The subcommittee found that \$3,200 is the industry average for the type of services provided. NRCS will charge around \$3,000 annual fee per computer which includes a new computer every 3-5 years, also software and technical support. During the transition period, for computers that are less than 5 years old, the fees will be less than \$3,000/year. NRCS is indicating that they will pay for two computers for the District. The District will need to pay for 3 computers.
- 4) **Benton County Field Windbreak Ordinance** – Gerry passed out a copy of the final ordinance. The revised ordinance references Wind Erodability Index groups, which clarifies that it only pertains to soils susceptible to wind erosion. Citizens no longer come to our office to obtain an erosion control plan. Instead the applicant shall specify the BMP's that will be utilized on the site, a process that will occur at the Department of Development office during the application process. No penalty is in place for non-compliance.
- 5) **2008 Wetlands Conservation Act Flyover** – Annie stated that Julie Olson is working with her to set up a date to participate in a flight for Benton County. Annie will be able to document other water quality concerns during the flight.
- 6) **Tree Planting Bars** – Gerry notified the Board that Joe Jordan and his family have again offered to build tree planting bars for the districts program and thanked the Jordan family for their contribution. Additionally, the Milaca high school has a forest that the school is managing as part of an education program. They have a need for tree planting bars for April 28. We have offered them the use of any planting bars we have available on that day.
- 7) **E-mail news alerts** – Gerry sent out our first email alert announcing the CRP SAFE sign-up.
- 8) **Color Laser Printer** – Gerry notified the Board that Benton County is borrowing a color laser printer to the District. Gerry had to purchase a new fan for the printer.
- 9) **Supervisor Solicitation Qualities** - Gerry handed out the staff voting response summary. Gerry asked the supervisors to add their comments to the summary for next month's meeting. Joe requested that the copy of the summary be added to the packet for next month's meeting.

III. Correspondence

A. WRAC February 26th Meeting Minutes

- IV. Adjourn – Gans made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tadych seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Annie Felix and Pat Gehling.

Secretary, Board of Supervisors

Date

Calendar of Future Events:

- April 17th, MMM RC&D Meeting
- April 28th, Elk River Watershed Association Meeting

May 6th, Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Public Hearing
May 19th, Elk River Watershed Association Meeting
May 21st, Benton SWCD Board Meeting