

MINUTES OF THE BENTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
USDA SERVICE CENTER
FOLEY, MINNESOTA
March 19, 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	Other: Katie Evans, District Technician
Secretary:	Duane Tadych	
Treasurer:	Mike Gans	
Member:	Phil Grosland	

II. Approve Agenda

Gerry Maciej requested the following additions: Add **C. (4) Non Point Engineering Assistance Program Alternatives**. Mike Gans made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition. Duane Tadych seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

III. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Gerry advised the Board that there were changes made to the February 20 Board Meeting Minutes after they were sent out to the Board members. Board members reviewed the revised minutes. A change was made to minutes to state that the MDA Low Interest Loan carryover was \$1,000.00 instead of \$10,764.00. Duane Tadych made a motion to approve the February 20, 2008 board meeting minutes including the revision to the amount of carryover from \$10,764.00 to \$1,000.00. Mike Gans seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

IV. Treasurers' Report

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

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

V. Conservation Plans

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

- A. George Mastey – Clean Water Legacy CWL-17, New Contract and Request for Payment** – Mike informed the Board that a FLEval has been completed on George Mastey's feedlot. George is requesting a FLEval incentive payment in the amount of \$150.00. Phil Grosland made a motion to approve the cost share contract CWL-17 in the amount of \$150.00. Mike Gans seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

Mike Gans made a motion to approve payment for incentive CWL-17 in the amount of \$150.00. Phil Grosland seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

- B. Dan Hennek – Clean Water Legacy CWL- 21 New Contract** – Mike informed the Board that Dan currently has a barn for dairy cows and heifer shed that has mono-sloped roofs in the open feedlot. All runoff water runs to the east of cow yard. Mike stated that Dan would like to seed the area into native

grasses that have deeper root systems to prevent nitrogen from filtering into the ground water. The Clean Water Legacy cost share contract would be for a total of \$444.38 (\$144.38 of cost share and \$300.00 in incentive payments). The total cost estimate was \$192.50. Mike Gans made a motion to approve the cost share contract CWL-21 in the amount of \$444.38. Duane Tadych seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

C. Allen and Dale Vannurden – Clean Water Legacy CWL- 22 New Contract and Request for Payment –

Mike stated a FLEval was completed in January 2008. Mike said there is currently no buffer from the edge of the feedlot to the drainage ditch. Mike said he presented the options of installing fence or filling in the drainage ditch but Allen and Dale are not interested in doing anything except completing the FLEval. Allen and Dale are requesting the \$150.00 incentive payment. Mike Gans made a motion to approve cost share contract CWL-22 in the amount of \$150.00. Duane Tadych seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

Phil Grosland made a motion to approve payment for incentive CWL-22 in the amount of \$150.00. Duane Tadych seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

D. Jeff Rahm – Clean Water Legacy CWL-28 New Contract and Request for Payment – Mike stated that Jeff is interested in installing gutters and that they completed FLEval to see if would he would use Clean Water Legacy or EQIP funding. Jeff is going to install gutters through EQIP. Jeff is requesting the \$150.00 incentive payment for the FLEval. Mike Gans made a motion to approve cost share contract CWL-28 in the amount of \$150.00. Duane Tadych seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

Duane Tadych made a motion to approve payment for incentive CWL-28 in the amount of \$150.00. Phil Grosland seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The motion passed.**

E. George Mastey (Clifford Mastey) – Clean Water Legacy CWL- 30 New Contract and – Gerry advised the Board that Clifford Mastey is the landowner, and that his son, George Mastey, is going to be doing the work for this program. Mike McMillin stated that George is leasing the feedlot from Clifford and has his cattle out there (approximately 250-300 steers ranging from 700lbs to market weight). The current feedlot wraps around barn with 2 different pens and water running off the feedlot drains to the west through current ditch and then into the adjacent wetland into the Elk River. Mike said that George would like to put in a concrete clean water diversion along the north side for roof water from the barn. Mike presented an updated cost estimate that includes a picket fence and a gravel spreader. Mike also stated that Clifford and George have an agreement between them that Clifford is not liable for any penalties or payments dealing with George's farm business or project (agreement attached). Mike said that he informed Clifford and George that this is only an agreement between them and that Clifford's name will appear on the contract since he is the landowner. Mike also stated that this is a 50% fix but that George would like to use EQIP in the future to complete the fix. Gerry stated that this is the first contract being presented to the Board without a 100% fix. Duane asked why they would approve the project now if they will have to tear it out to complete a 100% fix later. Mike stated that this project will be able to work with other project work in the future. Phil asked if there has to be to a FLEval score of zero to be eligible and Gerry stated that the FLEval score of zero is a standard for EQIP. Gerry stated that to be eligible for Clean Water Legacy, a landowner can install diversions with at least a 100 foot buffer, or they can complete practices to cut their FLEval rating in half (which George Mastey will be completing this with COD before = 2581 and after = 1200, and P before = 49 and after = 23). Mike Gans questioned how the FLEval rating could be so high. Mike stated that the runoff from the feedlot currently drains into a small ditch that drains into a wetland and the Elk River. Gerry stated that he didn't review plan but asked Mike McMillin for clarification about the planned picket fence. Mike explained that the picket fence will be 1 foot high and 16 feet wide to hold solids back and let liquid drain through. Mike stated that the plans and requirements for the practice have been given to Clifford and George. The total cost estimate is \$10,639.20 and the contract amount total is \$5,300.00 (\$5,000.00 in cost share and \$300.00 in incentive payments). Phil Grosland made a motion to approve cost share contract CWL-30 in the amount of \$5,300.00. Mike Gans seconded the motion. Phil Grosland and Mike Gans voted in favor of the motion. Duane Tadych voted against the motion. **The motion passed by majority.**

Mike McMillin left the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

VI. Permits, Applications, Certificates of Compliance –

A. None to date.

VII. Action Items

A. Old Business -

- 1) None to Date

B. New Business

- 1) **Consider Authorization for Pam and Gerry to Purchase CD's** – Gerry stated that in order for Pam and himself to purchase CDs, Frandsen Bank & Trust would like a resolution from the Benton SWCD Board that allows them to do so, otherwise the Secretary of the Board would have to complete the purchases. Mike Gans made a motion to approve the Corporate Authorization Resolution to certify that Gerry Maciej and Pam Kuhn have the approval to purchase CDs. Duane seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- 2) **FY 2002 Feedlot Water Quality Grant Closeout** – Gerry advised the Board that in the past, when the District received State Cost-Share, the District would take 20% off the top for technical assistance, but that in 2001-2002 BWSR stated that technical assistance funds should be taken after the projects are completed. In FY2002 the District took too much money for technical assistance and is now required to pay those funds back to BWSR. Gerry advised the Board that they can either pay the money up front or have our future State Cost-Share allocations reduced. Gerry stated that Jason Wienerman from BWSR will be attending the April 16th Board Meeting to discuss previous grant closeouts that have issues relating to them that he will be discussing with the Board. Gerry asked the Board if any of them would like copies of the BWSR reports, Board members declined. Phil Grosland made a motion to pay \$1,933.00 to BWSR for FY2002. Mike Gans seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

*The Board recessed for break at 9:21 a.m. and reconvened at 9:33 a.m.
Rod Bemboom entered the meeting at 9:31 a.m.*

VIII. Progress Reports

- A. SWCD/NRCS Project List
- B. Gerry Maciej – Manager
- C. Pam Kuhn – Program Assistant
- D. Annie Felix – Water Plan Technician
- E. Katie Evans – Technician
- F. Mike McMillin – District Technician
- G. Dan Martens – U of M Extension – not in attendance to present a report.
- H. Pat Gehling – NRCS District Conservationist
- I. Barb Zeroth – NRCS Soil Conservation Technician

IX. Information Items

A. Committee Reports

- 1) **Palmer Water Quality Data Summit (Gerry)** – Gerry stated that he attended and Mike presented at the Palmer Water Quality Data Summit. Gerry explained that it was a full day of data and that it was a very good summit. Gerry stated that it would be worthwhile to have our District have something similar in the future. He noted that Butch Bukowski, Benton County Commissioner, also attended and commented to Gerry on how an event like this would apply to Little Rock Lake. Leonard Popp from the ERWA also attended.
- 2) **Water Resources Advisory Committee – WRAC (Phil)** – Phil stated some changes were made on the water plan. He stated that at the meeting they listed out different areas to work on and everyone voted on their top three, a summary of this information should be at their next meeting. Gerry mentioned that a teleconference was also held. Joe said he took part in the teleconference and said they discussed water and how 75% of Minnesotans gets their water from private wells. Joe stated that the teleconference was put on by the Minnesota Department of Health and that they are working with well drillers to ensure they are compliant and that the wells they drill are certified. Joe said there were approximately 10-15 people there, including Benton County Commissioners, and that 33 other counties were also included.
- 3) **Elk River Watershed Association – ERWA (Gerry)** – Gerry stated that the ERWA met and discussed funds that are set aside for Ag BMP practices and that Gerry requested that the

ERWA move money from the Ag BMP fund to the monitoring account because Sherburne County is doing a lot of monitoring and currently not getting reimbursed for their efforts.

- 4) **MASWCD Area 4 Meeting (Duane)** – Duane and Gerry attended the MASWCD Area IV meeting. Gerry stated that MASWCD announced that June 26th will be the Area IV summer tour that will be held in Ramsey County. Gerry said they also discussed the golf tournament that will be put on this year and that MASWCD is hoping to raise up to \$5,000.00 to be used for environmental education activities in Area IV. MASWCD feels that environmental education activities within the Kindergarten – 4th grade is needed, and this will be the focus for funds raised from the golf tournament. The date is set for September 15th and MASWCD is looking at having 288 golfers attend. There are 11 counties in Area IV and MASWCD would like each SWCD to find people to participate. Gerry said the rate would be \$100.00 per golfer for the Bunker Hills Premier Golf Course. The event includes a meal, prizes, and awards. Gerry stated that he does not have time to find golfers but said it is a good for a good cause and that Benton County is also lacking in environmental education opportunities for the Kindergarten – 4th grade area, but he thinks MASWCD needs to be more organized for SWCDs to get involved. Gerry stated that they also discussed if Area IV should become a 501C3 nonprofit organization. The final motion was to investigate what the options would be to accept donations, no motion was made regarding becoming a 501C3. Gerry said that MASWCD LeAnn Buck gave an update including RIM Clean Energy as well as the supplemental budget and the Governor's proposal to balance this year's deficit. Leann stated that the Governor's budget cutting would not affect SWCD much this year but that it may affect SWCDs in 2010 and 2011. Gerry said that they also discussed election awareness and that the percent of SWCD elections that are unopposed is only 11% statewide. He said that there has been talk at the legislature to change nominating district areas so that are same as County Commissioners because elections are non-contested. SWCDs currently have the option to petition BWSR to change boundaries to match County Commissioner boundaries. MASWCD is telling SWCDs to promote Supervisor elections and if it doesn't happen, the legislature might step in and make changes. Tim Wilson spoke on the 2007 Farm Bill as well as computers. Gerry advised the Board that right now Mr. Bill Hunt states that for co-located districts NRCS would pay for one computer and an additional computer if the District stays hooked up to the NRCS network. Duane asked Gerry about a program that was announced at the Area IV Meeting. Gerry advised the Board that BWSR has grants available for cooperative weed management areas, but Gerry said he looked at it and decided he doesn't have time. Gerry said that for most areas it will be a County-wide opportunity to organize a group of local citizens and government entities for weed management. Counties can be very specific, such as Buckthorn, to develop a plan of how to address it in their area. Gerry said there is also going to be funds available to implement weed management plans and cost-share. He said that they also discussed the emerald ash borer and that groups can develop a plan in case the emerald ash borer ever comes into your County so that you are prepared to handle an infestation.

B. Old Business

- 1) **Little Rock Lake TMDL Work Plan and Contract with MPCA** – Gerry stated he spoke with MPCA to discuss the District's 1st proposal that was sent to them, however, MPCA said it didn't include enough information. Gerry said that Annie completed the proposal to included everything that was wanted and that MPCA will review it and determine what they can fund. MPCA staff and Brainerd are getting together to review work plans this week. Gerry said that there is some money left in Little Rock Creek to use for water testing until this work plan is approved and funding is available. Phil asked what happens if the work plan is not approved by the time we need to start taking samples. Gerry said that by next week we will need to get information from MPCA because there is money available to sample this spring but not for the whole season. If they don't approve funding, Gerry said we will need to work with them to find out what to do with this project.
- 2) **Update on Elk River Watershed Projects** – Gerry stated that the consultant is working with Gerry and Mark Basiletti on the Elk River TMDL work plan that was also submitted to MPCA. Gerry said the project is more expensive, around \$300,000.00, and that the consultant labor is expensive. Gerry stated that he is currently working with Mark Basiletti to fill the watershed coordinator position. He said there were seven people selected for interviews but one cancelled. Three interviews were done on March 18th and all were good applicants. Other interviews will be on March 20th and then they will move on to the second round of interviews.

- 3) **Supervisor Picture** – Will be taken after the meeting.
- 4) **2008 SWCD Supervisor Elections** – Gerry stated that this item was discussed last month. Gerry said that Duane Tadych and Phil Grosland stated that they will run in this year's election. Mike Gans will not be running but will be contacting some people himself. Gerry stated that the District discussed 2008 elections at the Sauk Rapids Sportsmen's Club, Rice Sportsmen's Club, and Pheasants Forever meetings recently. Gerry received a call from Chuck Rau who said he is interested in running, and that Bob Popp may also be interested in running. Rod Bemboom stated that he will not be running this year. Gerry opened the discussion to the Board to see if they had any possible people to promote the board openings with or ideas of how the District should promote Supervisor openings. Gerry stated that all Districts will be promoted for regardless if current Supervisors will be running or not. Mike stated that Gerry should contact the person who ran against him when he was elected. Gerry stated that Chuck Rau would like to talk to some of the current Supervisors to get more information. Gerry stated he talked to Bernie Peterson and he said that he may run but is not sure.

C. New Business

- 1) **FY08 Clean Water Legacy Grant Update** – Gerry stated that paperwork has been completed and that he talked to Jeff Hrubes and that BWSR should be sending a check for \$27,270.00
- 2) **2008 MDA Low Interest Loan Program Allocation** – Gerry stated that we received \$11,000.00 for our 2008 allocation. These funds are now available for the financial lenders in Benton County, including Falcon National Bank and Wells Fargo.
- 3) **FY 2007 Financial Report to BWSR** – Gerry reviewed the Management Discussion and Analysis Report and highlighted table 2 reflecting changes in net assets. Gerry explained that net assets include capital assets and cash. Gerry added that the District increased capital assets through purchasing two new computers, a copier, and by receiving the PLOTMASTER. Most of the District's net assets are cash. Gerry reviewed Figures A and B on page 5 and stated that the District financially is where it wants to be.
- 4) **Non Point Engineering Assistance Program Alternatives** – Gerry discussed with the Board that a committee has been formed to discuss current issues with Joint Powers. The committee reached a consensus to what they want to do. Gerry said that they are recommending moving from 11 Joint Powers areas down to 8. This will allow more money for each area but the areas will be larger. Gerry stated that the committee also wants MASWCD to change its boundaries to match Joint Powers areas. Gerry said that there is support for changing the MASWCD boundaries which would then exclude Benton County from the metro Districts. Gerry added that this is just the committee's recommendation that will go to MASWCD and then will be forwarded to BWSR to make a decision. Gerry said that he will be talking to Dennis Fuchs at Stearns SWCD to see if they would then move the engineers to a different location within the new boundary areas if this is approved.

X. Correspondence

- A. **2008 SWCD Guidebook** – Gerry said that the state legislature advised BWSR to develop a summary of all Minnesota SWCDs. Gerry presented the SWCD Guidebook to the Board. It is also available on the internet. The guidebook will be routed to Board members. Gerry also discussed the RIM Clean Energy Program information booklet that he received. Gerry said he will read and give a report to the Board on its contents at the April Board meeting. The RIM Clean Energy Program information is also available online at:
www.bwsr.state.mn.us/rim-ce/2008_rim-ce_report.pdf
- B. **Benton County Response to Little Rock Lake Petition** – Gerry presented the letter from Benton County in response to the Little Rock Lake Petition.
- C. **ERWA January 28th, Meeting Minutes**
- D. **WRAC January 22nd, Meeting Minutes**

XI. **Adjourn** Rod Bemboom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Duane Tadych seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Katie Evans also presented a Tree Program summary, which was completed by Pam Kuhn, to the Board.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Evans.

Secretary, Board of Supervisors

Date

Calendar of Future District Activities:

March 25, Water Resources Advisory Committee Meeting, Benton County Courthouse
April 16, Benton SWCD Board Meeting, USDA Service Center, Foley