

**Benton SWCD
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
USDA Service Center Foley, MN
April 21st, 2010**

Attendance: Supervisors - Wade Bastian, Bernie Thole and Chuck Rau. Others: Gerry Maciej (Benton SWCD Manager), Pat Gehling (NRCS District Conservationist)

I. Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order by Bastian at 8:39 A.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance - Recited

III. Approve Agenda

Maciej asked to add the following item: VI. Conservation Plans, E. Jack Happe / Tom Hofmann WHIP conservation plan. Motion by Thole second by Rau to approve the agenda with the addition. All were in favor. The motion passed.

IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion by Rau, second by Thole to approve the minutes from the March 17th, 2010 regular board meeting as presented. All were in favor. The motion passed.

V. Treasurers' Report

Maciej presented the Money Market Account Report, Account Quick Report and March Program Summary Report. Motion by Rau, second by Thole to approve the reports. All were in favor. The motion passed. Maciej presented the Accounts Payable report. Motion by Thole, second by Rau to approve the accounts payable report and pay bills. All were in favor. The motion passed.

VI. Conservation Plans

- A.** Daine Billmark – CRP SAFE conservation plan – Gehling reviewed the conservation plan that was signed by Maciej between board meetings.
- B.** Tom and Jan Rothanburg – FY09-03 – State Cost Share program application - Motion by Thole, second by Rau to approve contract FY09-03 in the amount of \$250.00. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- C.** Richard Kampa – FY09-04 – State Cost Share program application - Motion by Thole, second by Rau to approve contract FY09-04 in the amount of \$312.50. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- D.** 14 EQIP conservation plans – Gehling reviewed the practices being installed through the EQIP program.
- E.** Jack Happe / Tom Hofmann WHIP conservation plan – Gehling reviewed the conservation plan. Motion by Thole, second by Rau to approve all 14 EQIP conservation plans and the WHIP conservation plan. All were in favor. The motion passed.

VII. Action Items

A. New Business

- 1) Poster, Essay, Mural and Coloring contest winners – Bastian indicated his intent to present awards to the students placing in the county poster, mural, essay and coloring contests during the week of May 17th. Motion by Thole, second by Rau to approve the results of the voting for the contests. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- 2) Consider prices for birdhouses – Motion by Rau, second by Thole to keep the same prices for birdhouses and other wood products (Bat house and butterfly house at \$15.00 each plus tax and \$10.00 each plus tax for all other houses). All were in favor. The motion passed.

VIII. Progress Reports

- A.** Staff reports – The Determan report was reviewed.

- B. NRCS reports – The Gehling report was reviewed.
- C. U of M Extension Service report – Martens reported on a summer dairy tour scheduled for August 17th at a farm located near St. Stevens in Stearns County, the latest hay market and the alfalfa scissor cutting program that will be underway soon for 2010. There was also discussion about the current field conditions and spring planting.

IX. **Information Items**

A. Committee Reports

- 1) MASWCD Area 2 meeting - March 18 (Bernie and Gerry) – Maciej and Thole reported on the meeting, including the West Central Technical Service Area meeting that was held immediately after the Area 2 meeting.
- 2) WRAC meeting - March 23 (Chuck and Annie) – Water Plan Technician Felix joined the meeting and presented a summary of the discussion that occurred during the WRAC meeting.
- 3) Annual report presentation to Benton County – April 6 (Wade, Annie and Gerry) – Bastian and Maciej reported on the presentation of the annual plan. Maciej distributed copies of the annual plan to supervisors.
- 4) ERWA board meeting – April 19 (Joe and Gerry) – Maciej presented the 2009 ERWA annual report and information from the preliminary modeling that has been completed for the Elk River total maximum daily load studies.

B. New Business

- 1) Benton SWCD 2009 financial report – Maciej highlighted discussion areas in the financial report.
- 2) Consider possible dates for commissioner luncheon – potential dates for the annual meeting with the Benton County commissioners were discussed.
- 3) State legislation impacts to SWCD's – Maciej shared a spreadsheet showing the financial impacts to SWCD's and SWCD programs as a result of the ongoing 2010 legislative session.
- 4) Progress report on filling vacant positions – Maciej shared that the positions of District Technician and Water Plan Technician have been posted and that interviews are anticipated for the second week in May.

C. Old Business

- 1) Soil and Water Stewardship week tree delivery assignments – District Technician Mike McMillin distributed delivery assignments to supervisors for soil and water stewardship week trees.
- 2) Sherburne SWCD administrative assistance agreement – Maciej distributed copies of an Agreement for Services that had been reviewed by the Benton County Assistant Attorney. The agreement needs to be reviewed and signed by both SWCD boards to become effective. Motion by Rau, second by Thole to sign the Agreement for Services and forward to Sherburne SWCD for consideration. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- 3) MASWCD resolutions – The board discussed a few potential topics for the state association to consider this fall. No resolutions were drafted.
- 4) Supervisor claim forms – Supervisors handed in claim forms for the first quarter.
- 5) Clean Water Amendment Funds progress report – Maciej reported that the work plans for the Clean Water Amendment funds have been completed. Grant agreements are expected from BWSR soon.

X. **Adjourn**

Motion by Rau, second by Thole to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:32 A.M.

<u>Secretary, Board of Supervisors</u>	<u>Date</u>
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Calendar of Future Events:

- May 3-7, Tree week – Pick up on May 6 and 7
- May 17, Elk River Watershed Association board meeting
- May 19, Benton SWCD board meeting