

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

Attendance: Supervisors - Wade Bastian, Bernie Thole, Phil Grosland and Joe Jordan. Others: Gerry Maciej (Benton SWCD Manager), Pat Gehling (NRCS District Conservationist), Tim Wilson (NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations), DeAnna Doran (Sherburne SWCD Manager).

I. Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order by Bastian at 8:34 A.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance - Recited

III. Approve Agenda

Maciej asked to correct the contract number for item VII. K. to "NB09-06" and add items VIII. A. 2) Native Buffer Final Financial Report, X. C. 3) Star Tribune Articles, 4) Laptop Computer for Francine Larson, 5) Benton SWCD Tour of Practices, X. D. 2) MASWCD Officer Vacancies. Motion by Grosland second by Thole to approve the agenda with the changes. All were in favor. The motion passed.

IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve the minutes from the June 16th, 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 June Program Summary Report. Motion by Grosland, second by Jordan to approve the reports. All were in favor. The motion passed. Maciej presented the Accounts Payable report. Motion by Thole, second by Grosland to approve the accounts payable report and pay bills. All were in favor. The motion passed.

VI. Mississippi River Renaissance Project Update

Mississippi River Renaissance Coordinator Kimberly Thielen Cremers provided an update to the SWCD board. The discussion included:

- 1) History of the project
- 2) Issues currently being worked on (shoreland zones, stormwater management, education, open space conservation design, Little Rock Lake water quality / TMDL)
- 3) LCCMR proposal and other funding initiatives
- 4) Urban planning process
- 5) Take a Day Off on the Mississippi River event

VII. Conservation Plans

A. Bob Schyma – CWF-1, New Contract - Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve Clean Water Fund contract CWF-1 in the amount of \$600.00. All were in favor. The motion passed.

B. Bunker Hill Creek Farm – CWF-2, New Contract - Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve Clean Water Fund contract CWF-2 in the amount of \$150.00. All were in favor. The motion passed.

C. Dave Zohrmeier – CWF-3, New Contract - Motion by Jordan, second by Grosland to approve Clean Water Fund contract CWF-3 in the amount of \$450.00. All were in favor. The motion passed.

D. Brian Kaschmitter – CWF-4, New Contract - Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve Clean Water Fund contract CWF-4 in the amount of \$150.00. All were in favor. The motion passed.

- E.** Lawrence Thell – CWF-5, New Contract - Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve Clean Water Fund contract CWF-5 in the amount of \$450.00. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- F.** Maury Ryberg – CWF-6, New Contract - Motion by Grosland, second by Jordan to approve Clean Water Fund contract CWF-6 in the amount of \$300.00. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- G.** Mark Kaschmitter – CWF-7, New Contract - Motion by Jordan, second by Grosland to approve Clean Water Fund contract CWF-7 in the amount of \$300.00. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- H.** Mark Skroch – CWF-10, New Contract - Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve Clean Water Fund contract CWF-10 in the amount of \$150.00. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- I.** Kevin Walcheski – CWF-13, New Contract - Motion by Thole, second by Jordan to approve Clean Water Fund contract CWF-13 in the amount of \$300.00. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- J.** Dandeken Holsteins – CWF-14, New Contract - - Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve Clean Water Fund Cost Share contract CWF-14 in the amount of \$20,494.05. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- K.** Richard Haliburton – NB09-06, New Contract - Motion by Jordan, second by Grosland to approve Native Buffer Cost Share contract NB09-06 in the amount of \$1,768.40. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- L.** Benton County – NB08-01, Payment Request - Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve Native Buffer Cost Share contract NB08-01 payment request in the amount of \$1,925.81. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- M.** Rau – NB09-02, Payment Request - Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve Native Buffer Cost Share contract NB09-02 payment request in the amount of \$321.52. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- N.** Garlock – NB09-03, Payment Request - Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve Native Buffer Cost Share contract NB09-03 payment request in the amount of \$811.67. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- O.** Tom and Jan Rothanburg – FY09-03, Payment Request - Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve State Cost Share contract FY09-03 payment request in the amount of \$250.00. All were in favor. The motion passed.

VIII. Action Items

A. New Business

- 1) Consider rural preserve conservation plan writing and reviewing approval for Nathan Sanoski – Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to approve District Technician Nathan Sanoski as a Benton SWCD Conservation Management Plan writer and reviewer. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- 2) Native Buffer Cost Share Final Financial Report – Motion by Thole, second by Grosland to approve the FY2008 Native Buffer Cost Share Final Financial Report. All were in favor. The motion passed.

B. Old Business

- 1) Outstanding Conservation Cooperator Contest winners – Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to acknowledge the results of the Outstanding Conservation Cooperator contest and recognize Greener Farms as the 2010 Benton County Outstanding Conservation Cooperators. All were in favor. The motion passed.

- 2) Buffer projects signs – Maciej presented some designs and costs for signage. Motion by Jordan, second by Thole to table this item until the August board meeting. All were in favor. The motion passed.

IX. Progress Reports

- A.** Staff reports – SWCD staff Winkelman, Sanoski and McMillin summarized their activities from the last month.
- B.** NRCS reports – Gehling reported on the CSP and EQIP programs and a possible CRP signup later this fall. Wilson reported on NRCS activities of area and statewide significance.
- C.** U of M Extension Service report – Maciej distributed information about some upcoming meetings that were provided to him by U of M Extension Educator Dan Martens.

X. Information Items

A. Supervisor Reports

- 1) ERWA board meeting – June 21 (Joe and Gerry) Jordan provided a summary of the meeting.
- 2) WRAC board meeting – June 22 (Gerry and Katie) Maciej reported that the geologic atlas was discussed during the June meeting and the July meeting will focus on identifying priority action items to move focus on in the near future.
- 3) Water Management Summit – July 12 (Bernie, Wade and Gerry) Bastian, Thole and Maciej reported that the meeting between Minnesota’s Watershed Districts, Counties and Soil and Water Conservation Districts was productive and well received by those attending. Future partnerships and new sharing opportunities are likely to develop through this process.
- 4) MMM RC&D meeting – July 15 (Phil and Gerry) Grosland, Maciej and Wilson provided a summary of the meeting.

B. Old Business

- 1) Vacation and sick leave policy discussion – Doran presented the recently adopted paid time off policy of the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District. The presentation included a history of how the policy was developed and details about how it is administered. Maciej was asked to continue to work with Capability Resources to develop options that would be available for the Benton SWCD.
- 2) Elk River TMDL’s update – Maciej provided a briefing on the TMDL stakeholder meetings scheduled for later in the afternoon, evening and the evening of July 22nd.

C. New Business

- 1) Star employee recognition program – Maciej provided a summary of a recognition program that recently began for supporters of the office. The first individual was recognized.
- 2) Geologic atlas – Maciej reported that phase 1 of the Benton County geologic atlas was completed and phase 2 is underway.
- 3) Star Tribune Articles - Maciej distributed copies of three articles about water quality and TMDL’s that were recently published.
- 4) Laptop Computer for Francine Larson – Maciej and Doran reported that in order to provide an acceptable level of efficiency, Francine Larson needs a laptop computer and docking station for each office. Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to pay for up to ½ the cost of a laptop computer and docking station for use by the Sherburne SWCD Administrative Assistant. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- 5) Benton SWCD Tour of Conservation Practices – Maciej reported on some potential sites for the tour that will be held on August 23rd.

D. Correspondence

- 1) Foley Board of Education thank you – Maciej routed a card from the Foley Board of Education that thanked the district for its commitment to the poster and coloring contest.
- 2) MASWCD officer vacancies – Maciej indicated the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts announced a call for nominations for the president and vice president positions and handed out Candidate Prospectus documents.

XI. Adjourn

Motion by Jordan, second by Grosland to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 P.M.

Secretary, Board of Supervisors

Date

Calendar of Future Events:

- July 21, Elk River TMDL public meetings (2 meetings in Mayhew)
- July 22, Elk River TMDL public meeting (Palmer)
- July 27, Little Rock stakeholder committee meeting
- July 27, Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting
- August 14, Take a Day Off on the Mississippi River
- August 16, Elk River Watershed Association board meeting
- August 18, Benton SWCD board meeting
- August 19, Benton SWCD budget presentation
- August 23, Benton SWCD Tour of Practices
- August 24, Sherburne SWCD Annual Tour for Elected Officials and Partners