

**Benton SWCD**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**USDA Service Center Foley, MN**  
**March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

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

**I. Call meeting to order**

The meeting was called to order by Bastian at 8:33 A.M.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance - Recited**

**III. Approve Agenda**

Maciej asked to add the following items: VII. Action Items, A. New Business, 5) Little Rock Creek TMDL Phase 3 Contracting, IX Information Items, B. New Business, 4. MCIT Training Opportunity, and IX Information Items, C Old Business, 3) Elk River Watershed Watershed Coordinator 2010 Budget. Motion by Grosland second by Rau to approve the agenda with the additions. All were in favor. The motion passed.

**IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Motion by Thole, second by Grosland to approve the minutes from the February 24, 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 February 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, noting that check number 7787 should be withheld until clarification on the applicability of sales tax can be made. Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve the accounts payable report and pay bills, withholding check number 7787. All were in favor. The motion passed.

**VI. Conservation Plans**

**A.** Brian and Glen Kaschmitter Inc. - Conservation Stewardship Program conservation plan – Gehling reviewed the practices scheduled for the Kaschmitter's. Motion by Thole, second by Grosland to approve the conservation plan. All were in favor. The motion passed.

**B.** Jim and Sandy Rau – Native Buffer program application – NB09-02 – Maciej indicated that the Little Rock Lake Association is partnering with the Benton SWCD on this project by providing cost share for up to 50% of the costs and labor during the installation. Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve contract NB09-02 in the amount of \$421.20. All were in favor. The motion passed.

**C.** Don and Carol Garluck – Native Buffer program application – NB09-03 – Maciej indicated that the Little Rock Lake Association is assisting with this project also. Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to approve contract NB09-03 in the amount of \$1,190.89. All were in favor. The motion passed.

**VII. Action Items**

**A. New Business**

- 1) District Technician position vacancy – There was discussion about the position that became vacant due to a technician taking another job. No action was necessary.
- 2) Consider an NRCS Contribution Working Agreement – Motion by Grosland, second by Thole to enter into a Contribution Working Agreement with the NRCS to be reimbursed for services up to \$1,480.50. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- 3) Sign new signature card – Supervisors present signed a new bank resolution form.

- 4) Poster, Essay, Mural and Coloring contest judging – At this time supervisors and staff cast ballots for the contests.
- 5) Little Rock Creek TMDL Phase 3 Contracting – District Water Plan Technician Annie Felix reported on changes to the schedules for the Little Rock Creek and Little Rock Lake TMDL's. Felix provided an update on the status of the contracting with phase 3 of the Little Rock Creek project. Motion by Grosland, second by Rau to authorize the District Manager to enter into contracts with the MPCA and Barr Engineering Company for Phase 3 of the Little Rock Creek TMDL project. All were in favor. The motion passed.

**VIII. Progress Reports**

- A.** Staff reports – These were reviewed.
- B.** NRCS reports – These were reviewed.
- C.** U of M Extension Service report – No report was available.

**IX. Information Items**

**A. Committee Reports**

- 1) Plant Materials Learning Center board meeting - March 4 (Joe and Gerry) – Maciej provided a brief summary of the meeting.
- 2) Elk River Watershed Association board meeting – March 15 (Joe and Gerry) – Maciej provided a brief summary of the meeting.

**B. New Business**

- 1) Plant Materials Learning Center Board MOU with the University of Minnesota – Maciej reviewed the existing MOU and need to update it. No changes were suggested.
- 2) 2010 Minnesota Department of Agriculture Low Interest Loan Program Application – Maciej informed the board that the Benton SWCD has applied for and will receive an additional \$115,000.00 in low interest loan funds from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to help fund new requests at participating banks.
- 3) Soil and Water Stewardship week tree delivery in April – Maciej reminded board members that they will be asked to deliver trees in recognition of Soil and Water Stewardship Week after the April board meeting.
- 4) Maciej shared information about an MCIT training opportunity with supervisors and encouraged their attendance.

**C. Old Business**

- 1) Sherburne SWCD administrative assistance – Maciej reported that the Sherburne SWCD accepted our request for administrative assistance at their March board meeting. A formal agreement is currently being worked on. Maciej reported that he is very satisfied with the service he has received to date from Sherburne SWCD staff.
- 2) Bird house update – Maciej reported that Larry VanHooser has constructed 59 birdhouses so far with the lumber that was supplied to him. VanHooser will be making additional bird houses later this year.
- 3) Elk River Watershed Coordinator 2010 budget – Maciej distributed a spreadsheet showing the 2010 budget and actual revenues and expenses from previous years.

**X. Adjourn**

Motion by Rau, second by Grosland to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 A.M.

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**Secretary, Board of Supervisors**

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**Date**

Calendar of Future Events:

March 18, Area 2 MASWCD meeting

March 23, Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting

April 19, Elk River Watershed Association board meeting

April 21, Benton SWCD board meeting