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Approved Minutes

The meeting of the Waseca County SWCD Board of Supervisors was held at the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District's meeting room on July 10, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Bob Drager, Chairman.

Members Present

Bob Drager, Chairman
Wayne Cords, Vice Chair
Larry Hagen, Treasurer
Scott Hildebrandt, Secretary
Jessie Shaffer

Staff Present

Dan Arndt, Manager
Darlene Kukuczka, Office Assistant

NRCS

Noel Frank

Others: Chris Hughes of BWSR

Motion by Wayne, second by Larry to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion carried.
Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Motion by Larry, second by Jessie to approve the minutes of June 12, 2014.
Motion carried. Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Cash flow worksheet was reviewed. The treasurer's report dated June, 2014 was presented to the Board for review. Motion by Wayne, second by Larry to approve the Treasurer Reports and file for audit.
Motion carried. Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Bills: Motion by Wayne, second by Larry to approve the payment for the presented invoices for a total of \$2307.75. Motion carried. Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Old Business

Agreement with Steele County SWCD: Contracted services became effective as of June 12, 2014. Management hours will average 15 hours per week each Tuesday and the other day would be flexible. Technical assistance days would remain flexible. Consensus by board members to send news releases to local papers about the agreement with Steele SWCD.

CWMA Project with GBERBA: Jessie reported that the sportsman club did not want to pursue this project and it was also at the deadline for the grant. Motion by Wayne, second by Scott to cancel the Cooperative Weed Management Assistance cost share project with the New Richland Sportsman Club in the amount of \$ 3865.00 and forward to GBERBA to finalize the cancellation.
Motion carried. Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Pending invoice, Conservation Landscapes – Mike Cahill – Restoration Plan \$2200.00:

Discussion was held. Payment request was tabled.

Meetings Attended: Bob and Scott attended the June 17th commissioner's meeting updating them on the district activities. Scott gave the county a 2015 budget and a copy of the Staffing services agreement made with Steele SWCD. Bob discussed the feedlot site team with Mark Leiferman. Jessie attended the New Richland Sportsman Club meeting and discussed the CWMA project.

New Business

EQIP Local Work Group Meeting: Noel started the meeting with information about the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). In the CSP program some of the expiring five year contracts can be renewed on a noncompetitive basis if they do something new. All new signups will be funded on a competitive basis. Under EQIP this year no projects have been approved for cropland practices so far and the program remain competitive. All participants discussed the need to keep soil covered and reduce streambank erosion. Recommendations included providing more incentives for cover crops, fund controlled drainage and two stage ditch systems and make the application period more timely and streamlined process.

Supervisors Compensation and expense payments: Wayne reported that the county would charge \$75.00 per quarter to get the supervisors set up on the electronic payroll system. Other details of the process were discussed.

Motion by Jessie, second by Larry to approve including the supervisors on the payroll system and have Wayne complete the process with the county. Motion carried. Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Approve official SWCD, WCA Technical Evaluation Panel member: Motion by Larry, second by Wayne to appoint Dan Arndt to represent Waseca SWCD as the Wetland Conservation Act technical panel member. Motion carried. Affirmative: All Opposed: None

Waseca SWCD – CRP Plan Technical Approval Representative: Motion by Wayne, second by Larry to authorize Dan Arndt as the Districts representative for technical approval of CRP plans. Motion carried. All yes.

Schedule Budget and Planning committee meeting: Dan informed the board that a plan of work for 2014 and a five year budget is due for completion in August. Wayne and Larry are on the committee and plan to meet with Dan on August 5th at 3:00 at the district office.

2014 Outstanding Conservation Farmer: Members need to present some candidates for this year's outstanding conservationist at the August meeting.

MASWCD Officer Prospectus: It was noted that letters of interest for the open officer positions must be sent by August 1st.

Other: Jessie commented on our county signs she had seen. She volunteered to trim some brush that is starting to cover one of them.

June flooding: Chris Hughes recommended Waseca contact the County emergency manager with information on flood damage in case the county is declared a federal disaster area. Projects, pictures and cost estimates should also be sent to the state for disaster purposes.

Agency Reports

BWSR- Chris Hughes reported on some legislative actions including the introduction of a SWCD funding initiative and the approved referendum that allows SWCD's merge in a less costly manner.

Five pilot areas were funded for the One watershed One plan grant program. Three areas received targeted watershed demonstration grants. There is another application time through August 29th.

The Clean Water Funds applications begin Aug 18th and end Sept 26th. There is a new CREP program for 100,000 acres that state agencies have agreed to and has sent a letter to USDA-FSA about the joint effort. The summary of all the Biennial Budget Requests (the substitute for annual plans) is available for review.

Staff reports:

Dan Arndt reported that he is looking forward to working with the Waseca SWCD and the Board of Supervisors. He stated that he plans to be in the Waseca office two days a week including every Tuesday.

Darlene reported on the GBERBA Executive meeting and the July tour was changed to September. GBERBA will get over \$300,000 for a FY14 grant that was funded as part of a \$900,000 supplement fund. District work included RIM inquiries, customers, finances and work with Dan. The tree planter needed to be moved for the fair. Tom Bauman offered to store it temporarily and return to fairgrounds later.

Motion by Scott, second by Larry to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. All yes

Adjourn: The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:15 pm by Bob Drager, Chairman.

Next Board Meeting August 14, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m. at Waseca SWCD office.