

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am February 19, 2013  
Meeting site: USDA Service Center,  
1680 N. Franklin Avenue  
Glenwood, MN 56334**

**Supervisors:** Mike Billehus, Keith Nygaard, Gary Reents, Randy Pederson, Absent: Tom Talle,  
**SWCD Staff:** Kelly Erickson, Matt Fischer, Luan Johnsrud, Justin Stangler  
**Guests:** Paul Gerde, Commissioner, Justin Lindner, NRCS, Melissa Behrens, NRCS  
Guest: Rich Olson

1. Chair Nygaard called the meeting to order at 7:05 a.m.
2. Motion by Pederson, second by Reents to approve the current agenda. Carried
3. Motion by Reents, second by Pederson to approve the January 15, 2013 meeting minutes as sent. Carried.
4. Motion by Pederson second by Billehus to approve the Financial Report-Current Bills January 2013-February 2013 as presented. Carried. Discussed income generating activities for 2013.
5. Old Business
  - o West Central Technical Service Area Agreement update. We will hear more about this at the Area 2 meeting March 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - o Pederson, Fischer and Johnsrud will attend Day at the Legislature, February 25-26<sup>th</sup> and report at the March board meeting.
  - o Area 2 meeting, Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, Litchfield. Registrations are due March 5<sup>th</sup>; Johnsrud will contact Supervisors closer to that date to confirm attendance.
6. Reports-
  - o Paul Gerde, County Commissioner  
DNR is purchasing a site in Lake Johanna TWP. Gerde advised DNR staff to contact the County Commissioner in the area of the purchase so that the County is aware of what is happening. Discussed how the DNR is tracking ground water quality and quantity.  
Chippewa River Watershed Project is moving toward a Joint Power Entity-MCIT insurance is in place. They have a private accountant for bookkeeping and have been awarded 2 new grants. They will be conducting additional testing in Swift County and tile outlets.  
Discussions are underway as to completing construction/surfacing of the parking lot by Family Services.  
Michael Walker has been hired as the new County Auditor. The County has not filled the Human Resource Director position. Reported that 99% of the United Way donations generated in Pope County stay in Pope County.  
The County Commissioners will discuss Capital Bonding today for buildings and equipment throughout the County.
  - o Kelly Erickson, Technician  
Presented WCA activity report. The 2012 WCA annual report has been submitted to BWSR; 4 landowner contacts in the past month and Mr. Modlin writ of Mandamus hearing has been rescheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.  
Twenty-three grass plans totaling 600 acres are confirmed; more pending; 14 potential tree plans for 2013 to date.  
Contacted Dakota Storage for a 10'X12' storage shed on site. Estimate excluding site prep was \$3,000.00. We don't need a building permit for this size building. The board directed Erickson to check on larger sized units with vinyl siding with overhead door from that company and landlord.  
Motion by Reents, second by Billehus to spend up to \$5,000 in replacement parts and labor for the drills. Carried. Pope SWCD staff will provide the labor.  
Rosholt Farm partner meeting scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact with Prairie Lakes Coop ends October 2013; the contract includes an option for a 5 year extension. Erickson has made inquiries for operating and managing the irrigation equipment more efficiently. Will continue to work with Partners and share information with the Board.

- Matt Fischer, District Technician  
Participated in Land Stewardship East Branch target area meeting; Walk-In access webinar, LiDAR tools Webinar and Water Plan Work Group meeting. Walk In Access grant agreement signed and returned for processing.  
General CRP signup sign up target date; May 20<sup>th</sup>. CRP rates by increase and estimated 22%. Working on modifications for CRP mid-contract activities.  
Prepared request for shrub planting on Allen Braaten's RIM/WRP.  
Completed design for the Visitor Guide and PCPR placemats.  
Presented USDA-NRCS form MN-ENG-013 (3/04) Conservation Practice Technical Approval Authority for Engineering Practices Assignment and Acceptance form to the Board. This authority will allow for continued training and authority to evaluate, design and approve specific conservation construction practices. Motion by Pederson, second by Reents to approve Technical Authority as outlined in said form dated December 1, 2012. Carried.
- Justin Stangler, Land & Lake Specialist  
Attended the Land Stewardship East Branch target area meeting, Chippewa River Watershed Civic Engagement workshop, Water Plan meeting and coordinated the 8 Lake TMDL monthly meeting.  
Completed the work plan for the SSTS-BWSR grant. Contacted landowners interested in alternative tile intakes.  
Motion by Reents, second by Pederson to sign the Resolution for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to conduct Phase II-Pope County BMP Implementation dated February 19, 2013. Carried. The grant will provide \$88,250 to landowners for assistance.  
Working on a MPCA grant to conduct resource investigations for Lake Minnewaska and staff his position once the current grant is completed. Discussed the condition of Glacial Lake at Glacial Lakes State Park.
- Luan Johnsrud, District Manager  
Participated in the Water Plan Work Group meeting, 8 Lake TMDL Implementation Planning Committee monthly meeting, CRWP civic engagement meeting and MCIT property & liability webinar.  
Prepared 2012 yearend financial reports and documentation for Michael Peterson, CPA and reviewed draft financial statement presented  
Updated website articles per BWSR guidelines.
- Justin Lindner, Acting NRCS DC  
Jeff Hellermann will begin as the Pope County NRCS District Conservationist February 25<sup>th</sup>.  
EQIP signup round 2 ends this week; next signup end March 15<sup>th</sup>.  
NRCS Soil Health workshop webinar today, 10-noon.  
Processing requests for wetland issues.

Paul Gerde left at 8:40 a.m.

Guest: Rich Olson, presented information on Soil Health and Long Term Planning. Rich has participated in workshops hosted by the Burleigh SWCD, Bismarck, ND. Information presented included how to incorporate cover crops into the traditional crop rotation.

## 7. New Business

- Motion by Reents, second by Pederson to authorize the District Manager to sign the 2013 Accelerated Implementation Plan grant agreement funded through the BWSR Clean Water Fund RFP. Carried
  - Motion by Billehus, second by Pederson to donate \$150.00 to the 2013 Area 2 Envirothon. Carried.
  - Motion by Reents, second by Pederson to renew 2013 Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce membership @ \$100.00/year. Carried
  - Reents and Pederson volunteered to serve on the Personnel Committee.
  - Review and approve 2012 Financial Statement as prepared by Michael Peterson, CPA. Tabled until the March 19, 2013 meeting.
  - Meeting with Darrin Newville, E. Ottertail/Wadena SWCD District Manager, to review PRAP Scope of Work and Action Plan Schedule is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. All supervisors are encouraged to attend.
8. Motion by Pederson, second by Billehus to adjourn at 10:00 a.m.

