

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am April 16, 2013  
Meeting site: USDA Service Center,  
1680 N. Franklin Avenue  
Glenwood, MN 56334**

**Supervisors:** Mike Billehus, Keith Nygaard, Gary Reents, Randy Pederson, Tom Talle  
**SWCD Staff:** Kelly Erickson, Matt Fischer, Luan Johnsrud  
**Guests:** Paul Gerde, Commissioner, Jeff Hellermann, NRCS-DC

1. Chair Nygaard called the meeting to order at 7:02 a.m.
2. Motion by Reents, second by Talle to approve the revised agenda. Carried.
3. Motion by Pederson, second by Talle to approve the March 26, 2013 meeting minutes as corrected. Carried.
4. Motion by Talley second by Pederson to accept the Financial Report for March-April 2013 as presented. Carried.
5. Old Business  
Next PRAP meeting with Darren Newville to meet with Supervisors and Staff set for Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.
6. Reports-  
*Paul Gerde, County Commissioner*  
Chippewa River Watershed Project will host their annual meeting Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Starbuck Community Center.  
Commissioner Gerde had completed some research on adding an amount to recording fees for conservation. The administration fees for recording are set by the legislature, so passage to fund conservation activities is unlikely at this time.  
Rainbow Rider has ordered thee (3) new busses. New Commissioners on the Rainbow Rider Advisory Board were not aware that the service was for anyone regardless of income.  
Discussion has started regarding sharing dispatch services for the Morris Bus.  
*Kelly Erickson, Technician*  
The Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff for the WACA writ of Mandamus. TEP meeting will take place April 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss how to proceed with this project and other WCA requests.  
Prairie Lakes Coop corporate headquarters is working and an addendum to the current lease for another five (5) year period.  
Contacted West Central irrigation to order the new pump on the irrigation well and purchase a tracker system. These improvements are part of the current MDA Lysimeter research at Rosholt Research Farm.  
Repairs have been completed on the 3010. In addition to the steering, the ignition system was repaired and the battery boxes replaced. These items are safety issues. Motion by Reents second by Billehus to approve payment of additional repairs on the 3010. Carried.  
Additional repairs will be needed on the drills, so the cost may be more than the \$5,000 previously approved.  
Tree delivery is April 23<sup>rd</sup>, tree sale April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Observation well monitoring completed for the month of April, 2013. Levels are down a little, however, they usually recover.  
Submitted an application for a building permit to the City of Glenwood for the storage shed to be placed on the north side of the USDA Service Center building this week; waiting for

approval. Morris Lumber & Millwork has been awarded the bid to build on site. Pope SWCD will be responsible for site prep.

*Matt Fischer, District Technician*

Attended meetings/trainings for Soil Health Phase II, TMDL Implementation Planning Committee, Water Plan Work Group, and NWTF Banquet.

New date set for CRP signup; still contacting landowners with expiring CRP contracts to generate interest. Beginning paperwork for landowners interesting in re-enrolling in CRP.

Working on CRP mid-contract maintenance activities.

Completed one conservation plan amendment and cost-share request for a RIM/WRP project to update cover to natives. One RIM easement in processing-Commitment for Title Insurance has been submitted to BWSR.

Submitted an article for the Newsletter; 3 WCA contacts.

*Luan Johnsrud, District Manager*

Presented Water Plan at the Public meeting April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ron Shelito, BWSR, has notified state review agencies that the Water Plan is posted on the pope SWCD website for review by May 15, 2013.

Met with representatives from Sauk River Watershed & Land and Resource Management to discuss potential projects in the watershed. Set up and promoted Pope SWCD activities at the Pope County Expo April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Completed 2013 poster contest presentation, "Where Does Your Water Shed?" And gathered posters from schools. Prepared newsletter articles and Stewardship articles for the Tribune & Times. Sent rain monitoring packets to 19 volunteers and wrote a thank you article for the newspapers.

Completed state and federal payroll quarterly reports.

Presented a draft of the Joint Powers Agreement with MDA for the Rosholt Project to review.

Expect the final Agreement in May.

*Jeff Hellermann, NRCS DC*

Behrens, NRCS, is working on a spreadsheet to document wetland compliance backlogged 1026's and mitigation requests. Upon completion, a request for Area Office assistance will be submitted.

Sixteen CRP applications submitted for review and approval; a majority is for mid-contract management.

CStP signup was recently announced, however, no dates have been sent.

Dave Jungst is receiving WRP bids for seed, seeding and prescribed burns for 2013.

Six EQIP applications will be submitted to the state poll; processing three applications for the Gilchrist Watershed National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) funding pool. EQIP application deadlines are signup #5; May 17<sup>th</sup>, Ranking May 24<sup>th</sup>; List of Approval; May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Completed Administrative Assistance interviews; this is a contract position.

Field Office review is scheduled for May 14-16<sup>th</sup>. Administrative leave April 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. New Business

Motion by Talle, second by Pederson to sign the Conservation Corps Minnesota grants agreement. Carried.

Motion by Reents, second by Pederson to submit an application to Minnesota GreenCorps to fund staff for 12 months. Carried.

Motion by Pederson, second by Talle authorizing registration and payment for Johnsrud to attend MCIT Human Resource training; May 29-30<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud. St. Cloud. Carried.

Request for ditch abandonment petition moved to May Board meeting to give Pope SWCD staff additional time to review the project.

Glenwood & Beyond request to use city of Glenwood WesMin RC&D grant funds for rain gardens at the node at the intersection of S. Lakeshore Drive and HWY 104 instead of City Beach was discussed. A letter from the City of Glenwood authorizing the project location transfer will be required. Johnsrud will contact both entities for the letter(s).

Discussed appointing someone to serve on the Glacial Ridge Trail Board. Johnsrud will make additional inquiries and update the Board at the May meeting.

8. Motion by Reents, second by Talle to adjourn the meeting and judge poster contest entries. Carried.