

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am June 18, 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, Melissa Gearman, Conservation Corps Apprentice; Alex Nemmers, Cooperative Weed Management Area Intern; David Langer, Rosholt Hydrology Intern
Guests: Paul Gerde, Commissioner

Meeting Agenda:

1. Chair Nygaard called the meeting to order at 7:03 a.m.
2. Motion by Talle, second by Pederson to accept the agenda as presented. Carried.
3. Motion by Reents, second by Talle to approve the May 21, 2013 meeting minutes as sent. Carried. Motion by Pederson, second by Talle to approve the June 10, 2013 Special meeting minutes as printed. Carried.
4. Motion by Talle, second by Pederson to accept the Financial Report as presented. Carried.
5. Old Business
 - Motion by Reents, second by Pederson to sign the Conservation Corps Minnesota Host Agreement. Carried.
 - Motion by Pederson, second by Billehus to enter into the 2 year office space lease agreement with Valness Rentals, Inc. Carried.
 - MASWCD Leadership Institute training program participants will be Nygaard, Pederson, Talle, Reents, and Fischer.
 - Dr. Bruce Brown was selected as the 2013 Conservationist of the Year. Johnsrud will contact Dr. Brown to see if he will accept the offer.
6. Reports-
 - **Paul Gerde, County Commissioner**

Thank you to Pope SWCD staff for their work on the Water Plan. Once the full BWSR Board approves the Pope County Water Plan at their June 2013 meeting, the County will have 120 days to approve the plan.

MLCC reported that the revised Vulnerable Children and Adults assistance formula that would hurt rural counties was stopped after the 1st year. Lessard-Sams funds will be split 40% parks and Trails, 40% DNR and 20% rural Minnesota. PILT payments will increase from \$0.60/acre to \$1.50/acre. The Legislature passed an optional wheelage tax @\$10/per vehicle that can be assessed per County. The money would be used for specific projects.

MCIT reported that Workmen's Compensation Insurance rates are expected to increase in 2014.

Discussed outcome from County and 2 township Equalization meetings.

Commissioners will be opening bids for the Storage shed today; the bid for the three (3) County garages has been awarded and construction is expected to be completed by fall 2013
 - **Kelly Erickson, Technician**

We have received several Ag drainage inquiries this month. The appeal for the Modlin v. Pope Soil and Water Conservation District is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19th at 1:30 p.m.

Motion by Pederson, second by Billehus to sign the Addendum to the Lease Agreement with Prairie Lakes Coop for Rosholt Farm as presented. Carried.

Contacted West Central Irrigation for a new pump in the irrigation well and purchase a tracker system for the irrigator. The costs for the new equipment will be paid through the MDA grant agreement.

Sales program hampered by weather; plan to complete projects today. Drill rentals and CRP seeding continue.

Motion by Reents, second by Pederson to enter into the DNR contract to continue the Observation Wells Program @ \$15.00 per well. Carried.

Storage shed is under construction.

- **David Langer, Rosholt Water Quality Intern**

Has completed 6 water sample sets. Pulling samples again today and will run tests on the samples. Not all of the lysimeters have water in them; however some have more than enough to sample. Prairie Lakes Coop has dug the trench for the irrigator and completed one equipment test run.

Langer left at 8:00 a.m.

- **Matt Fischer, District Technician**

General CRP signup ended June 14th; we had 22 offers. Completed 7 conservation plans for continuous CRP signup for 235.6 acres.

Completed one (1) RIM/WRP conservation plan; another landowner interested in new RIM easement (est. 6 acres).

Motion by Billehus, second by Pederson to approve LWP13-01, cost share assistance of \$250.00 for well sealing for Keith Bentler. Carried.

Motion by Reents, second by Talle to encumber funds for FY12-05, cost share of \$8006.25 for a grass waterway for Rick Davidson. Carried.

Motion by Pederson, second by Talle, to approve final payment for a water and sediment basin project of \$2540.25 for FY11-01, Alan Bryce. Carried.

Motion by Talle, second by Reents, to approve final payment for a water and sediment control basin for Fy13-01, Jarcho/Strom. Carried.

Motion by Billehus, second by Pederson to approve submitting Phase XIII Farm Bill Assistance Application. Carried.

- **Melissa Gearman, Conservation Corps Apprentice**

Received chemical applicator's license Friday

Went to Swift County and mapped wild parsnip sites

Assisted with planting trees

Apprenticeship program allows 450 hours for the summer

- **Alex Nemmers, Cooperative Weed Management Intern**

Received chemical applicator's license; Assisting with planting trees

Working with Ag Inspector, Barry Bouwman to identify and treat leafy spurge along HWY 55

Main office area will be at the Courthouse in in the Land Management office.

Paul Gerde left at 8:47 a.m.

- **Luan Johnsrud, District Manager**

Discussed QuickBooks annual payroll renewal fee. Due to small number of employees, Pope SWCD will not renew the payroll support agreement; payroll will be updated manually.

Motion by Pederson, second by Reents to sign the Walk In Access Grant Agreement Amendment to revise expiration date to June 30, 2014. Carried.

Motion by Talle, second by Reents to include Pope SWCD in the Pope County Business directory-cost \$30.00. Carried.

Motion the Talle, second by Pederson to enter into the U of M-Scope of Work Agreement for Rosholt Farm. Carried. Note: This agreement coincides with the MDA Rosholt Farm Agreement.

Motion by Reents, second by Pederson to approve the cost share agreement for D. DeBoer PSCWMA request. Carried.

Motion by Reents, second by Talle to approve the cost share agreement for Cooley/Blair OSCWMA request. Carried.

Handed out draft 2014 Budget to Supervisors for review.

7. New Business

- Motion by Pederson, second by Billehus to sign the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Joint Powers Agreement for Rosholt Research Farm. Carried.
- Office Sign-replace posts-Staff will replace sign posts.
- Rosholt Research Farm Field Day-August 29th with Answer Plot and Prairie Lakes Coop

8. Motion by Pederson, second by Reents to close meeting at 8:55 a.m. to discuss PRAP recommendations. Carried.

9. Motion by Talle, second by Pederson to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. Carried.