

POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am May 21, 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, Eric Larson, NRCS Engineer, Aaron Weinandt, DU engineer, Dave Jungst, DU Biologist

1. Chair Nygaard called the meeting to order at 7:05 a.m.
2. Motion by Pederson, second by Talle to approve revised agenda. Carried
3. Motion by Reents, second by Pederson to approve April 16, 2013 meeting minutes as sent. Carried.
4. Motion by Talle, second by Pederson to accept the April-May 2013 Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried.
5. Old Business
 - o Pederson volunteered to serve as the Pope SWCD Representative to the Glacial Ridge Trail Board.
 - o Melissa Gearman will begin Tuesday, May 28th as the Conservation Corps Minnesota representative. Ms. Gearman's work plan includes the PSCWMA project, people's garden, shoreline restoration as applicable, and education.
6. Reports-
 - o Paul Gerde, County Commissioner
Legislative session ended late last night. Rainbow Rider funding was part of the session, however, the outcome is not sure at this point.
Public Hearing held for Clearwater Bay last week. Each landowner will pay an estimated \$20,000 to connect to the service; this can be paid all at once or over a period of years. Estimated monthly fee is between \$33-35.00. Attended the Chippewa River Watershed Project annual meeting April 30th and May board meeting. Discussion continues regarding septic system inspections located close to open water.

Entered at 8:00 a.m.: Eric Larson, NRCS Engineer and Aaron Weinandt, DU Engineer, Fergus Falls office and Dave Jungst, DU Biologist presented information that includes impounding water on a county ditch as part of a 230 acre watershed WRP/RIM project on Gene Stark's property. A sheet pile weir structure outside of the road right-of-way would be constructed to hold water back and form a pool. The existing culvert would be replaced and properly aligned. The project will not affect the two drainage tiles that are up stream of the structure. Supervisors questioned if the surrounding landowners were aware of the project and if it would affect their land(s).
Motion by Reents, second by Talle to support the petition to waive the \$10,000 bond expense for the Landowner to create an impoundment on County Ditch 10. Carried.
 - o Kelly Erickson, Technician
Motion by Billehus, second by Reents to proceed with MCIT legal counsel for the Modlin project appeal. Carried.
Rosholt Farm update- Prairie Lakes Coop is updating the rental agreement. Rental rate remains the same; PLC will install a cement floor in the steel building. West Central Irrigation has been contacted to install a new pump in the irrigation well and purchase a tracker system for the irrigator. 2013 crops have been planted; however, the observation well was damaged during planting. Staff will check with MN Dept. of Ag to see if they want to repair or seal the observation well.
Sales program update: Drill repairs are complete and have been rented out. Three seasonal employees have been assisting with tree planting and seeding; Fischer is also assisting with tree planting as needed. Grass seed was delivered; 6-700 acres to seed this spring. The 3-point hitch on the 3010 isn't working correctly. Will repair 3010 once all of the tree plans have been installed.
Observation well have been measured for May 2013
Site prep is complete and the storage shed is under construction. The shed should be delivered within the next 2 weeks.

- Matt Fischer, District Technician
 Attended trainings or meetings for the following: WRP monitoring; WCA TEP with Kelly and BWSR staff; Pete Waller, BWSR, for the Water Plan presentation; Geologic Atlas presentation; CRP signup webinar. Continuous CRP sign-up started May 13; General CRP sign-up started May 20th. 23 Continuous Conservation plans totaling 306.8 acres have been completed.
 Cost share project completed except for seeding; Jarcho/Strom, Bryce and Nygaard.
 Motion by Talle, second by Pederson to change start date to June 15, 2014 and completion date to June 30, 2014 for Juanita Then (FY 112-03). Carried. Reents abstained.
 Motion by Talle, second by Pederson to change the start date to June 15, 2014 and completion date to June 30, 2014; amount of cost share revised to \$8,650.09 for Gary Reents (FY11-03). Carried. Reents abstained.
 Motion by Reents, second by Pederson to spend up to \$500.00 for GPS equipment using 2013 NRGB funds per grant work plan. Carried.
 Surveyed two (2) projects with JP2 engineer. Engineer will generate design and cost share estimate for contracts.
 - Luan Johnsrud, District Manager
 Participated in or arranged the following: Chippewa River Watershed Project Annual meeting-set up display, acted as recording secretary for Pope County COLA; Conservation Corps teleconference; Center for Non-Profits-'Build a Better Budget', TMDL Implementation Planning Committee monthly meeting.
 Assisted with tree sale; participated in the Area 2 and State Envirothon, coordinated People's Garden activities. Computer programs were updated building-wide April 23rd.
 Motion by Pederson, second by Talle for Johnsrud to attend 2013 Administrative Training Session June 19-20th. Carried. Area staff will carpool to the event.
 - Jeff Hellermann, NRCS DC
 Compliance: NRCS staff continues to review the Pope County 1026 ledger and gather a team to complete reviews. Reorganization of compliance files by section/township is almost complete.
 CStP-no dates given for 2013 sign up deadline(s).
 WRP: Work to be completed this spring included 5 seed and seeding, 4 prescribed burns and 2 seed orders(owners already have seeding set up).
 EQIP: Seven (7) applications have been approved for 2013 EQIP tech & financial assistance. Five (5) projects have been submitted to Mike Yrjo, Civil Engineering Technician to complete preliminary plans.
 EQIP Nation Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)-Lake Gilchrist watershed was selected for \$300,000 funding for water quality improvement projects. This is a rare opportunity, so spread the word. Deadline for applications have not been given.
 The Glenwood Office Appraisal was completed May 14-16th. Todd Kulaf was hired as NRCS Administrative Assistance.
7. New Business
- Supervisors Nygaard, Talle, Reents, and 3 staff will attend the Area 2 meeting, June 6, 2013 hosted by Kandiyohi SWCD, Willmar, MN.
 - Office Lease with Valness Rentals Properties, LLC tabled until additional information is presented.
 - MASWCD Leadership Institute training program-attendance tabled until June 18, 2013 meeting
 - Discussed potential recipients for the 2013 Conservationist of the Year award. Staff and Board are to narrow down choices by June 18th Board meeting.
 - Motion by Pederson, second by Talle to sign Resolution, May 21, 2013 Minnesota GreenCorps. Carried.
 - Motion by Reents, second by Talle to donate \$50.00 each to Take a Kid Fishing/Bike Rodeo, and Community Beautification Projects. Carried
 - Approved offer to house nitrate testing unit at the Pope SWCD office to share with area agencies. Johnsrud to contact MDA to make arrangements and advertise nitrate testing days.
8. Motion by Pederson, second by Talle to close the meeting at 9:35 a.m.
9. Motion by Talle, second by Pederson to open the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and recognize Gary Reents' 25 years of service as a Pope SWCD Supervisor. Carried.
10. Motion by Pederson, second by Billehus to adjourn at 10:35 a.m. Carried

