

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES**

Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am April 15, 2014
Meeting site: USDA Service Center,
1680 N. Franklin Avenue
Glenwood, MN 56334

Meeting Minutes:

Attendance: Keith Nygaard, Mike Billehus, Randy Pederson, Tom Talle, D. Gary Reents, Holly Kovarik, Kelly Erickson, Grant Bullmer, Jeff Hellerman, Charlene Brooks (CROW), Commissioner Paul Gerde

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m. by President Nygaard.
2. President Nygaard asked for additions to the agenda. A few items were added by Manager Kovarik.
3. Consent Agenda (approved by one motion)-*President*

a) March 2014 Meeting Minutes

b) **Resolutions-NONE**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>

c) **Contracts for Approval**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
29822	Joint Powers Agreement MDA & Pope SWCD (Rosholt)
	Land Stewardship Project 2014 Rental Agreement

d) **Appropriations/Payments-NONE**

	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description of Payment</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payment Code/Description</u>
1.	CROW	Rainbarrels	\$1,150.00	Cost of Goods
2.	Stevens SWCD	Weed Fabric	\$3,092.50	Cost of Goods
3.	University of Minnesota	Rosholt Research	\$24,254.00	MDA Grant

e) **Grant Payment/Project Approvals-NONE**

<u>Contract Code</u>	<u>Grant Name</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>	<u>Project Location</u>	<u>Amount</u>

Supervisor Billehus made a motion to approve the consent agenda items a, c, and d (1-3).
Supervisor Talle seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

4. **Commissioner Update-Paul Gerde**

Commissioner Gerde provided an update on the following:

- Public health will be a part of a 5 county area called Horizon Public Health.
- The Chippewa River Watershed project held their annual meeting and someone from Morris ARS spoke on soil health.
- The County will be discussing signing a letter of support for the CROW River Watershed organization to submit a proposal for the one watershed one plan proposal.
- There is a feasibility study being done by Pope Douglas Solid Waste.
- There are construction plans for the parking lot by the public health plan with some water quality features.
- He plans to attend a soil health meeting as well as a water plan meeting on the 25th of April.

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5. NRCS Update-Jeff Hellerman

Hellerman provided updates on the following:

- There are 24 EQIP applications for 2014 and they are working on the contract writing.
- CSP has 6 applications.
- He reviewed the civil rights information specifically title 6 handout. This included customer service EEOC, SWCD Board diversity, project outreach and news articles, and harassment.
- He has earth team volunteer training coming up.

6. Old Business

a) **Minnesota Land Trust**- Maggie Karschnia

*The board discussed the contract and program. **Supervisor Billehus made a motion to approve the contract and Supervisor Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.***

b) **Contractor Workshop Update**- Kovarik

Kovarik provided an update an excavator contractor workshop that was held where about 15 contractors attended the session. The meeting was well received and this will be held once every two years.

c) **Intern Recruiting Updates**- Kovarik

Nicole Zimmerman was hired for the Cooperative Weed Management Internship and Luke Johnson has been hired for the MDA Rosholt Research Internship. They will both begin duties sometime in May.

d) **Bonanza Valley GWMA**- Kovarik

An update was provided on the most recent meeting held in Paynesville on the project. There has been continued discussion on the boundary area selected but a lot of the information has been duplicative. The board is being sent the press releases as they are available which gives a recap of the entire meeting.

e) **Legislative Meeting Update**- Kovarik

Kovarik and Reents met with two legislators while at the Capitol. The meetings went well and the information presented about RIM/WRP and the Clean Water Fund projects were well received.

7. New Business

a) **CROW**

*The CROW River Organization is looking for a letter of support for the one water one plan proposals. This information was presented to the board. **Supervisor Talle made a motion to approve the letter of support as presented by Manager Kovarik and Supervisor Billehus seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.***

b) **MASWCD Resolutions**

It is time to submit resolutions to MASWCD.

8. Reports

a) **Treasurer Report**-*Supervisor Talle made a motion to approve items i-iii on the treasurer report as submitted subject to audit. Supervisor Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.*

- i. Monthly Checking Account Report #11247 as of March 31, 2014

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- ii. Monthly Savings Account Report #870903 as of March 31, 2014
- iii. Treasurer Report (2014, 2013, 2012)

c) Holly Kovarik, Manager

1. Water Plan Meeting has been scheduled for April 25th. An update will be provided after the meeting.
2. Pope County Fair Booth was discussed. **Supervisor Reents made a motion to approve the booth and expenses as well as the banner advertisement. Supervisor Talle seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. Long Lake Conservation Camp was discussed for the overall poster winner.
4. Clean Water Partnership Update was given and that Kovarik is working to set up the citizen monitors and to finalize the workplan.
5. Accelerated Implementation Grant Update was provided to the board and some of the maps were shared that were finished by Peter Meade. This information is being integrated with the GIS software to prioritize and target projects on the landscape where the most benefit will be received.
6. Clean Water Fund Grant Update was given on the status of work in the county. There are over 90 WASCObS that have been identified to be completed.
7. BWSR Grant Meeting will be held and they want a status update on the Clean Water Fund Grants that we currently are working with. This meeting will be after the board meeting.
8. Computer Purchase was made to replace Kelly's computer the current computer is slow and around 6 years old. The purchase amount did not exceed Manager Kovarik's approval limit of \$1,000.

d) Grant Bullemer, Technician-He is working on CRP mid contract management some will have burns, some will mow, and some would like to see haying as an option. He attended soils training has plans to attend a soil health presentation and native plant id training. He will be assisting with tree pickup.

e) Kelly Erickson, Technician

1. Sales Program Updates were provided to the board. He has about 10 pivots under the Irrigation scheduling program which is several more than last year. Tree sales are about the same as last year. Grass seed sales are down from this time last year.
2. Tree Pickup Day Scheduled for April 25th and 26th.

f) Grant Herfindahl, FSA-no report

9. Board Member Meeting Reports-no report

10. Items for the Next Agenda- There was discussion about a plaque for the tree to dedicate in memory of Pete Gilbertson which will take place at the June board meeting. A resolution should be prepared for the next board meeting for approval.

The board discussed the poster contest and by general consent decided that staff should narrow down the posters for the board to look at.

11. Upcoming Meetings:

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<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>
5-20-14	Pope SWCD Regular Board Meeting	Pope County USDA Service Center	7:00 a.m.

12. FYI Items

13. Adjourn-A motion was made by Supervisor Pederson to adjourn at 9:10 a.m. and Supervisor Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Secretary

Date

President

Date