

POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING Agenda-REVISED

Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am May 20, 2014

**Meeting site: USDA Service Center,
1680 N. Franklin Avenue
Glenwood, MN 56334**

Meeting Minutes:

Attendance: Keith Nygaard, Holly Kovarik, Tom Talle, D. Gary Reents, Randy Pederson, Mike Billehus, Kelly Erickson, Nicole Zimmerman, Luke Johnson, Jeff Hellerman, Paul Gerde

1. The meeting was called to order by President Nygaard at 7:05 a.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.
2. Introductions Staff/Board/Guests were made for the newly hired interns and guests.
3. There were a few additions and corrections to the agenda.
4. Tom Talle made a motion to approve the Consent agenda items as presented a through e with Holly Kovarik pulling e WS04_14 Dave Kalina Well Sealing project. He has not submitted paperwork to move forward with this well sealing. Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

a) April 2014 Meeting Minutes

b) **Resolutions-NONE**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
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c) **Contract/Applications for Approval-None**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
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d) **Appropriations/Payments-None**

	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description of Payment</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payment Code/Description</u>
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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>
WS01-14	Water Plan	Keith Naig	Well Sealing		\$350.00
WS02-14	Water Plan	Dave Schluter	Well Sealing	RF 30 Langhei 25	\$2,295
WS03-14	Water Plan	Deanna Emmert	Well Sealing		\$440
WS04_14	Water Plan	Dave Kalina	Well Sealing		

5. Commissioner Update-Paul Gerde

- He listened to a presentation by a grazing specialist on soil health recently.
- The transportation commission has not met in the last couple of years. Rainbow rider use has declined over the past few years.
- Chippewa River Watershed Project discussed the grant with Pope SWCD for monitoring

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assistance.

- The Chippewa River Watershed project submitted for the one watershed one plan proposal. There were 13 applications altogether.
- The County is working on the Public Health lot to redo the lot and had submitted a proposal to the city. It was turned down. The County will be reviewing the application and resubmitting the proposal at a later date.
- They did not renew the County Engineer Contract.

6. **Jeff Hellerman Update-** They are working on the EQIP applications and design. There have been some toolkit changes. They only have six 1026 forms in process currently. The CSP application deadline is the end of the month. He will be attending and presenting at an educational event at the high school later this week. He would like to do a soil health demonstration at a meeting in the future.

7. **Old Business**

a) **Water Plan Meeting Update-** Kovarik

Kovarik reported that a water plan meeting had been held. They are working on planning a summer workshop to be held annually in conjunction with the waterplan and the COLA group.

b) **Pope County COLA Meeting-** Kovarik

Kovarik attended the Pope County COLA meeting. She shared that a summer event is being planned to discuss the COLA monitoring and to partner with the waterplan education event.

c) **IRS Mileage Rate-** Kovarik

The IRS mileage rate has changed to .56 cents per mile.

d) **Dr. Bruce Brown Outstanding Conservationist Resolution-** Kovarik

Mike Billehus made a motion to approve a resolution which was prepared establishing a presentation during the Pope County Commissioner meeting to recognize the Outstanding Conservationists on an annual basis starting with Dr. Bruce and Dolly Brown.

e) **Well Sealing Program-** Kovarik

To approve the information packet, contract, and other details for the well sealing program and to authorize staff to create a page on our website with this information.

f) **Bonanza Valley GWMA-** Kovarik

Staff provided a brief update on the meeting. Press releases are being sent by the DNR following the meetings and staff is sharing this information with the board. These press releases describe the events of the meetings very well.

g) **1 Watershed 1 Plan Chippewa River Watershed Letter-** Kovarik

Tom Talle made a motion to approve the letter as submitted by Kovarik for the Chippewa River Watershed Project letter submitted for the one watershed one plan proposal. Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

h) **State Cost Share Program Updates-** Kovarik provided an update on the state cost share projects

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in progress. The staff is working diligently to complete these projects by the grant deadline next month.

- a) *Rick Davidson Project*
- b) *D. Gary Reents Project*
- c) *Kevin Lundebrek Project*
- d) *Juanita Then Project*

8. New Business

- a) **Poster Contest Awards-Kovarik**

The poster contest was reviewed at the end of the board meeting.

- b) **MASWCD Resolutions-Kovarik**

Kovarik talked with the board about any resolutions. There were none to be submitted by the SWCD at this time.

- c) **Farmbill Assistance Grant-Bullemer/Kovarik**

D. Gary Reents made a motion to approve the grant application as submitted. Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

- d) **US Navigable Waters Discussion- Kovarik**

The board discussed submitting a resolution in support with the County and other agencies regarding our concerns about proposed language changes to the Clean Water Act potentially giving the US Army Corps of Engineers more authority on projects. **Mike Billehus made a motion to send a letter to our congressman regarding the EPA rule and that we believe it is an expansion of their current authority. D. Gary Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.** Kovarik will work on a resolution to support the county and their submission of comments with other counties to the EPA. This is due sometime in July.

- e) **Biennial Budget Request Submission- Kovarik**

Kovarik shared with the board the biennial budget request submitted by the SWCD and County staff to meet the May 4th deadline.

- f) **Mike Hoverud Request- Erickson/Kovarik**

Kovarik shared with the board a request made by Mike Hoverud regarding his CREP easement. Mike Billehus made a motion to support Mike Hoverud's request to remove his CREP acres from the program as described in his letter and that the Pope SWCD will submit a letter as described in the Board of Water and Soil Resources Policy to support the landowner request to remove the acres and to discuss with the landowner the additional requirements that must be met to complete his request to the BWSR Board. D. Gary Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote: Aye: Keith Nygaard, Mike Billehus, D. Gary Reents Naye: Tom Talle and Randy Pederson

- g) **Approval Authority for Signatures on Financial Reporting Form- Kovarik**

*Kovarik discussed with the board the need to authorize her to sign Financial Reporting Forms to finalize grants expenditures in elink. **Tom Talle made a motion to approve Kovarik as being able***

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to sign the Financial Reporting Form for elink purposes to close out grants. Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

h) **2014 Elections-** Kovarik

Provided a reminder to the board members of the upcoming elections of 3 supervisors and the filing period beginning in May.

i) **MDA Rosholt Grant Project-** Kovarik

MDA grant submittal and 2014 season details were provided to the board.

j) **Shoreline Restoration(DNR Grant)-** Bullemer/Kovarik

*To approve projects/contracts and encumber funding for implementation. To approve staff to purchase goods for the sites. **Randy Pederson made a motion to approve Benson, Wilson, and Ast projects and staff to complete the projects including expenditures of grant funds necessary to finalize the projects. Each project site shall not exceed \$5,000 per the grant. Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.***

- a. *Richard and Rita Benson-Lake Minnewaska (South Lakeshore Drive)*
- b. *Jim and Beth Wilson-Lake Scandinavian*
- c. *Merlyn and Jackie Ast-Lake Scandinavian*

9. Reports

a) **Treasurer Report-** Tom Talle made a motion to approve the treasurer report as presented and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

- i. Monthly Checking Account Report #11247 as of April 30, 2014
- ii. Monthly Savings Account Report #870903 as of April 30, 2014
- iii. Treasurer Report (2014, 2013, 2012)

c) Holly Kovarik, Manager

1. Clean Water Partnership Update was provided. The citizen monitors are out and completing monitor. The workplan is waiting for MPCA staff review. Kovarik is working to finalize the workplan soon.
2. Intern updates were provided and the final intern will start the following Monday.
3. Pete Gilbertson memorial was discussed. A dedication will be held at the next board meeting with his family in attendance. Kovarik has been authorized to order a plaque for the memorial.

d) Grant Bullemer, Technician-Nothing else to report

e) Kelly Erickson, Technician

1. Sales Program Updates were provided about ½ done tree planting.
2. Gary Modlin vs Pope County SWCD an update was provided we are waiting for a final decision from the courts.
3. Equipment Sales were made including irrigation wheels and the old farmall tractor.

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4. He described that he has been using a GPS unit owned by Keith Nygaard and that we need to discuss if we are going to buy the unit or maybe contemplate purchasing our own.
- f) Nicole Zimmerman, Cooperative Weed Management Intern has started and provided an update of her current work to the board.
- g) Luke Johnson, Rosholt Research Project Intern has started employment and provided an update of his current work to the board.
- h) Grant Herfindahl, FSA-no report

10. Board Member Meeting Reports-none

11. Items for the Next Agenda-none

12. Upcoming Meetings:

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>
6-17-14	Pope SWCD Regular Board Meeting	Pope County USDA Service Center	7:00 a.m.

13. FYI Items-none

14. Kovarik and Pederson left the meeting to attend the County Commissioner meeting and make the presentation to Dr. Bruce Brown with the County Board.

15. The rest of the board reviewed the posters and selected the following winners by general consent:

1. MAHS -1st Amberely Bengtson, 2nd Macabe Thoen, 3rd Savannah Lorsung
2. BBE-1st Dacia Herickhoff, 2nd Jennifer Illies-Sabol, 3 Jozey Goodall
3. Glacial Hills-1st Kallie Larson, 2nd Abbie Barsness, 3rd Josiah Wright
4. Overall-1st Amberly Bengtson, 2nd Dacia Herickhoff, 3rd Macabe Thoen

16. Adjourn and attend the Pope County Commissioner Meeting at the County Courthouse

FYI-We are scheduled at 9:30 on the Pope County Commissioner Agenda to present the 2013 Outstanding Conservationist Award to Dr. Bruce and Dolly Brown. We should have at least one board representative with to present this award with the County Commissioners.

17. Tom Talle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. and Mike Billehus seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Keith Nygaard
7-15-14

