

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

Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am June 17, 2014

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

Attendance: Keith Nygaard, D. Gary Reents, Randy Pederson, Tom Talle, Mike Billehus, Terrence Chastin-Davis, Lucas Johnson, Holly Kovarik, Kelly Erickson, Grant Bullemer, Nicole Zimmerman, Commissioner Paul Gerde, and Jeff Hellerman NRCS

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m. by President Keith Nygaard and the pledge of allegiance was recited.
2. The President asked for corrections or additions to the agenda. A few items were added by Kovarik.
3. Consent Agenda (approved by one motion)-President

a) **Resolutions-NONE**

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

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
FY2015	DNR Ground Water Level Monitoring Agreement
78201 WIA	Walk In Access Contract

c) **Appropriations/Payments-None**

	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description of Payment</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payment Code/Description</u>
	Becker SWCD	Terrain Analysis	\$1,300.00	CWF AIG Grant

d) **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>

Randy Pederson made a motion to approve the consent agenda items and Tom Talle seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

4. Commissioner Update-Paul Gerde

- Provided an update on the county equalization meeting.
- Shared that there was a landowner turned down for an irrigation permit that was close to a sensitive feature.
- County Engineer position has been posted and they have three final candidates.
- They are currently discussing County Benefits and Insurance and potential adjustments.
- He attended the Bonanza Valley Groundwater meeting in Belgrade.

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- They will need to put together a County AIS task force to receive funding and a resolution will be needed by the County to accept the funds.
- The City finally approved the public health building parking lot project and this will now move forward.
- The township annual meeting will be held this week.

5. Old Business

Terrance Chastin-Davis was introduced to the board as the Conservation Corps Intern working in the SWCD office this summer.

a) **Mike Hoverud Resolution**- Kovarik

The request was discussed with the board and an update on a meeting with BWSR staff was provided to the board on the next steps in the process.

*Resolution 04-14 was provided to the board and read. **Mike Billehus made a motion to approve the resolution 04-14 Conservation Easement Alteration Request by Mike Hoverud as prepared and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.***

b) **PERA Increases**- Kovarik

Kovarik shared with the board that in 2015 there will be an increase coming in the District's contribution on behalf of employees. This will need to be included in future budgets.

c) **Glacial Lakes Environmental Trust Fund Meeting Update**- Kovarik

Kovarik shared an update on a meeting of the Glacial Lakes Environmental Trust fund and a couple of the requests that were brought forth for funding. The group provided \$10,000 toward a Glenwood and Beyond project for another node/raingarden.

d) **State Cost Share Program Updates/Payment Approvals**- Kovarik

a) *Rick Davidson Project-will come to the next meeting for approval.*

b) *D. Gary Reents Project*

c) *Kevin Lundebrek Project*

d) *Juanita Then Project*

Tom Talle made a motion to approve payments (Reents, Lundebrek, and Then) and paperwork as reviewed by the president once the projects are completed and to have staff complete this to meet the June 30, 2014 deadline. Mike Billehus seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

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

To approve projects/contracts and encumber funding for implementation.

To approve staff to purchase goods for the sites.

a. *Richard and Rita Benson-Lake Minnewaska (South Lakeshore Drive)*

b. *Jim and Beth Wilson-Lake Scandinavian*

c. *Merlyn and Jackie Ast-Lake Scandinavian*

D. Gary Reents made a motion to approve the payments for Benson,

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Wilson, and Ast project for supplies and materials and to finalize the project expenditures to meet the grant deadline of June 15th, 2014. Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

6. New Business

a) **Earl Hauge Site Delineation Report**-Erickson

Erickson provided a review of the delineation report and proposed project for Earl Hauge and a florist shop which will widen a driveway and place fill in a type 2 wetland. This is allowed based on he is filling less than 2,000 square feet of area. Tom Talle made a motion to approve the WCA application as reviewed by staff for Earl Hauge and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

b) **Pope County Fair**-Kovarik

Kovarik discussed the fair booth with the board this year there will be two spaces. Kovarik shared with the board details about the waterfest. They discussed bringing back the t-shirts and to allocate \$700 from our portion of the waterplan funds to the waterfest. D. Gary Reents made a motion to approve contribution \$700 to the waterfest out of the water plan funds. Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

c) **Farmbill Funding Update**-Kovarik

Kovarik provided an update on the new legislation for funding for the farmbill position and shared the 2015 contract with the board.

d) **MASWCD Leadership Academy**- Kovarik

Mike Billehus made a motion to approve the expenditure to send Kelly Erickson to the MASWCD leadership program and to apply for the MACDE scholarship to offset the cost. Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

e) **WRP Easement Program**- Kovarik

There will be 4 sites at \$500 per site that staff will be completing reviews. Kovarik shared that we will need to have an additional staff person able to write conservation plans in order to be reimbursed and conduct the CRP status reviews. Grant cannot conduct these reviews because of restrictions in the funding for this project with the state and his funding.

7. Reports

- a) May 2014 Board Meeting Minutes-D. Gary Reents made a motion to approve the minutes and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- b) **Treasurer Report**-Tom Talle made a motion to approve the treasurer report

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as completed subject to audit. D. Gary Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

- i. Monthly Checking Account Report #11247 as of May 31, 2014
- ii. Monthly Savings Account Report #870903 as of May 31, 2014
- iii. Treasurer Report (2014, 2013, 2012)

c) Holly Kovarik, Manager

- 1. She will be attending the Minnewaska Lake Assn Banquet.
- 2. She will be attending the Amelia Villard Leven Lake Assn. Annual Meeting.
- 3. An update on the Area II meeting was provided to the board.
- 4. Ag BMP Loan Program is available to interested landowners through the County.
- 5. Office Signage was discussed with the board and Kovarik has started this process and is working with the landlord to put in a sign.
- 6. BWSR Grant Reconciliation meeting will be held and Kovarik was invited to participate on behalf of the SWCD.
- 7. Kovarik provided an updated on the Accelerated Implementation Grant to the board. She received to estimates for doing continued work around Lake Minnewaska including Trappers Run and the South Shore of Lake Minnewaska. The first was from RESPEC Engineering and the second was from Houston Engineering. Kovarik recommended the proposal from Houston with a budget not to exceed \$20,000 that would come from the BWSR AIG grant. **Mike Billehus made a motion to approve the recommendation to work with Houston Engineering on the project not to exceed \$20,000. D. Gary Reents seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.** Kovarik will arrange for Houston Engineering to give a presentation at the next board meeting.

d) Grant Bullemer, Technician

- 1. He discussed progress on the Conservation Reserve Program Sign up.

e) Kelly Erickson, Technician

The tracker has been installed on the irrigation system at Rosholt. We have several irrigation scheduling contracts we are setting up with producers.

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- f) Nicole Zimmerman, Cooperative Weed Management Intern provided an update to the board on her monthly activities.
- g) Luke Johnson, Rosholt Research Project Intern provided an update to the board on her monthly activities.
- h) Grant Herfindahl, FSA-no report
- i) Jeff Hellerman, NRCS

CSP has 8 applications, 3 proceeded to the questionnaire and only 1 was pre-approved.

EQIP has been busy and there have been 29 applications not all are going through but some has designs ready and others will be deferred to 2015.

WASCOB scoring was lower in the funding priorities so far.

8. Board Member Meeting Reports

9. Items for the Next Agenda

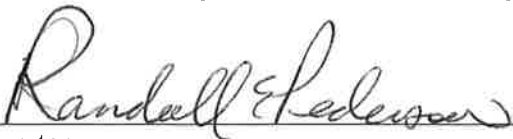
10. Upcoming Meetings:

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>
7-15-14	Pope SWCD Regular Board Meeting	Pope County USDA Service Center	7:00 a.m.

11. Adjourn –Tom Talle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 a.m. and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

FYI-We are scheduled at 9:30 to have a ceremony in memory of Pete Gilbertson and dedicate the tree at the office. Pete's family will be in attendance.

PLEASE come ready to take a picture. We will plan to take pictures of the staff and board. I will bring a camera so we can update our website, Area II directory, and etc.



Secretary

7-15-14
Date



President

7-15-14
Date

