

**POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**MEETING Minutes**  
 Supervisory Board Meeting 7:00 am August 18, 2015

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

**Attendance:** Keith Nygaard, Tom Talle, Mike Billehus, D. Gary Reents, Randy Pederson, Paul Gerde, Holly Kovarik, Jessica Oldakowski, Jeff Hellerman, Britta Haseman

**Time**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m. by President Talle and the pledge were recited.
2. Keith Nygaard made a motion to approve the agenda with additions as noted and Randy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

3. Consent Agenda (approved by one motion)-*President*

- a) *July 2015 Board Meeting Minutes*
- b) *Approve Dorrich Dairy as Outstanding Conservationists 2015 per staff recommendation*
- c) **Resolutions-NONE**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
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d) **Contract/Applications for Approval**

<u>Number/Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Application \$\$</u>
2016 & 2017 State of Minnesota	Conservation Delivery, Easement Delivery, and State Cost Share	\$47,206.00

e) **Appropriations/Payments-None**

	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description of Payment</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payment Code/Description</u>
1.	Chippewa River Watershed	Monitoring	\$6,917.84	CWP Minnewaska Phase I Investigation
2				

f) **Grant Payment/Project Approvals-**

<u>Contract Code</u>	<u>Grant Name</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>	<u>Project Location</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payment</u>
CWF05+14	Minnewaska Phase I	Lee Tangen	Wetland Creation	WBL 36	\$26,642.10	
CWF06+15	Minnewaska Phase II	Lee Tangen	Wetland Creation	WBL 36	\$14,555.40	
CWF07+15	Minnewaska Phase II	Joe Cihlar	WASCOB	Glenwood 35	\$1,599.75	

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Randy Pederson made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Keith Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**4. Commissioner Update-Paul Gerde**

- Budget process for 2016 has begun.
- Working on a hybrid health plan.
- County has a space issue.
- The parking lot is done at the health and human services building.
- Considering an AgBMP loan program.
- There have been some zoning issues.

**5. Old Business**

a) **Position/Staffing-Holly Kovarik, Pope SWCD**

*Discussed staffing with the board. Two new people have been hired. Jessica Oldakowski will be the new technician responsibilities include: buffer initiative, shoreline restoration program, cooperative weed management program, RIM, and irrigation management program. A job description is still in the works but getting staff on board was very important due to current work load. Jessica will finish out her internship as the CWMA intern and will also now be doing monitoring at Rosholt.*

*Nicole Zimmerman was hired as the new Farmbill Technician and will be starting in a couple of weeks. She is currently working in Douglas County as the Ultima staff for NRCS. Nicole will be responsible for CCRP/CRP, Walk in Access, Working Lands Initiative, and educational programming.*

*We currently have 80 reenrollments for CRP that are being worked on with a deadline in September and 100 RIM site checks also due at the end of September. Staff are working on accomplishing this workload for the deadlines.*

*It was discussed about the current staff spaces. We will be utilizing a space that is currently considered NRCS space. If NRCS needs this space in the future we may have to move out of the location. Kovarik will continue to work with NRCS on our space constraints. We are appreciative of the ability to use the space right now. The position will assist in the enrollment of buffers.*

b) **Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program**

*We are working on Dorrich Dairy as first farm in Pope County. We held an initial meeting with landowner.*

**6. New Business-none**

**7. Reports**

a) **Treasurer Report-Billehus made a motion to approve the treasurer report and Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**

- i. Monthly Checking Account Report #11247
- ii. Monthly Savings Account Report #870903
- iii. Treasurer Report (3 year comparison)
- iv. Profit and Loss

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c) Holly Kovarik, Manager

1. 1 watershed 1 plan meeting updates were provided. The group is working on the zonation process.
2. Fair Updates were given there were approximately 40 water samples run in the booth.
3. Glacial Lakes Environmental Trust Fund Application Submitted Tangen/Paulson projects \$21,872.00—Kovarik is waiting to meet with the Committee regarding the application. The project is ready to go for fall construction if the funding is lined up.
4. Bonanza Valley Groundwater Plan is open for public comment.
5. MDA Nitrate Targeted Township Contract revision-**Reents made a motion to approve the contract revision for the date extension and Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**
6. Project Approvals-no additional
7. Budget Committee Meeting set for September 1 at 10:00 a.m. Kovarik shared the budget allocation recommendation which is no change from 2015.
8. Grant Applications to be submitted were discussed with the board. There will be two applications submitted for projects predominantly water and sediment control basins. Kovarik will provide the final copy for the next board meeting.
9. Pope County Water Fest September 11 and staff is busy working on the schedule.
10. Audit scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> following the board meeting.

d) Kelly Erickson, Technician

1. Wetland Conservation Act
2. Arlen Stensby/Sheldon Johnson-Application to fill small areas of a cart way easement to facilitate passage. The TEP recommends approval. Resource concerns have been addressed, and the plan has been minimized. A specific plan is in place and the applicants have a purchase agreement for the planned impact. **Pederson made a motion to approve and Billehus seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. Bartlett Solar Project-Boundary & Type determination has been approved by the TEP. All wetlands have been identified on the property and planned project will avoid impacts to any of the identified wetlands. **Billehus made a motion to approve the determination and Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**
4. Audrey Buysse/Storage building-We have an application to mitigate a wetland area for the purpose of constructing a storage building. We have worked with Ms. Buysse to minimize the

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impact as the application shows. The TEP recommends approval of this application. **Reents made a motion to approve the application and Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**

5. Dennis Buysse-A request for a Boundary & Type determination. Darren Hungness completed a wetland delineation on this property. The TEP recommends approval of the delineation. **Pederson made a motion to approve the delineation and Nygaard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**

e) Britta Haseman, Farmbill Technician

1. Re-enrollments currently being worked on.
2. Last day will be Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of August.

f) Jessica Oldakowski, District Technician

1. CWMA program is wrapping up for the season.
2. Working at Rosholt doing sampling.
3. Assisting with RIM site inspections.
4. Learning Irrigation Management.

g) Grant Herfindahl, FSA-no report

h) Jeff Hellerman, NRCS

1. Field checks for CRP
2. CSP 6 spot checks
3. Working on CSP
4. EQIP several projects being worked on this summer.
5. Conducting field checks on pastures.
6. Working on 2016 applications for funding.
7. WRP working on mowing
8. Training for existing and new staff.
9. State director of FSA will be here this week.

**8. Board Member Meeting Reports**

- Randy Pederson will be attending the NFCRWD 1W1P meeting next month.
- There was no Glacial Ridge Trail meeting this past month.
- Kovarik will be attending the Pope County Corn and Soybean Growers meeting.
- Kovarik pointed out the completed desk top analysis completed on the current public waters map. This process identified areas where buffers may be needed.
- Kovarik attended a CRP event honoring Art Hulberg who is 100 years old and has a CRP contract.

**9. Upcoming Meetings:**

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Meeting Description</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>
9-15-15	Pope SWCD Regular Meeting	USDA Service Center	7 a.m.

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**10. FYI Items**

- Requested Holly Kovarik to present at Irrigators Association Meeting on August 21 and Corn Growers Meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- MCIT 2015 Dividend Payment is \$1,604.00.
- Thank you received from Britta Nelson Poster Contest Winner.
- Newsletter was distributed.

**11. Adjourn-Nygaard made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 a.m. and Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**

Sherry J. Schu 9-15-15 \_\_\_\_\_

Randy Pederson 9-15-15 \_\_\_\_\_

