

Carlton County Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday May 12, 2008

Location: SWCD office at 115 5th St. South, Carlton

Chair Dahl called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Roll Call:

Members

Staff

Present:

Absent:

Present:

Absent:

Mark Thell

Barb Dahl

Carol Hauck

Merrill Loy

Larry Sampson

Brad Matlack

Kelly Smith

Kirstin Swenson

Danny Weber

The pledge of allegiance was said.

M/S Loy/Thell to approve agenda with these additions; under Cost Share Contracts add Josie Shank revision, under New Business add new building project, and 2008 Supervisor Elections

Motion carried

M/S Hauck/Thell to approve April 14, 2008 minutes

Motion carried

M/S Thell/Sampson to receive Treasurer's report for April 2008.

Motion carried

Guest & Visitors:

Newly hired Water Resources Coordinator Kirstin Swenson was introduced.

NRCS Report

Dan Weber gave a report on programs and projects he is working on.

Cost Share Contracts:

Cooperators Agreements:

Correspondence:

Old Business:

Manager gave a tree sales update

New Business:

Manager reviewed input sheet for Carlton County Water Management Plan update

Board reviewed Resolutions for Area III MASWCD meeting.

State Cost Share Program Expansion to Include Soil Quality Improvement, Irrigation Water Management, and Livestock Watering Practices

WHEREAS, protecting soil quality is as vital for the soil resource as prevention of soil erosion; and

WHEREAS, improving soil quality can: increase the capture of excess nutrients in the soil profile, alleviate soil compaction, reduce agricultural demands on water resources by increasing efficiency of natural precipitation and Irrigation water use; and

WHEREAS, efficient irrigation water management can reduce demand on water resources, reduce leaching of nutrients and pesticides from the soil to groundwater, and reduce soil erosion and sedimentation; and

WHEREAS, the State of MN has deemed ensuring adequate livestock watering a priority via the drought disaster assistance emergency program; and

WHEREAS, a regular livestock watering cost share assistance program would allow the time needed to get the most efficient and effective practice in place before drought periods occur and protect water quality by reducing the need for livestock access to surface water; and

WHEREAS, expansion of the State Cost share program could allow SWCDs to make better choices in allocating funds to local high priority projects.

THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED that the MASWCD will work with the BWSR Grant Committee to expand the State Cost Share Program to add soil quality improvement, irrigation water management, and livestock watering as approved conservation practices utilizing applicable existing practice standards in the USDA Field Office Technical Guide.

M/S Hauck/Loy to approve this resolution and submit to Jason Wienerman at the BWSR for internal BWSR cost share committee review

Motion carried.

Annual Financial Reporting Requirements for SWCDs

WHEREAS, the State of MN requires SWCD to complete annual financial reports in addition to regular independent audits; and

WHEREAS, completing these annual financial reports creates a significant workload for SWCDs with high administrative turnover or SWCDs without adequate administrative support; and

WHEREAS, most SWCDs use accounting software that could be utilized to create the needed financial information for submission as is to the State Auditors office without the need for transferring data to forms that meet the State Auditors requirements.

THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED that the MASWCD work with the BWSR financial oversight staff and the State Auditors staff to develop reports within existing accounting programs to reduce SWCD staff time required to meet the states reporting requirements.

M/S Thell/Loy to approve this resolution.

Motion carried.

Board discussed attendance at the Area III Resolutions meeting June 6. Manager will register participants.

Hauck discussed Carlton County building project plans.

Manager reviewed 2008 Election filing requirements.

Outside Organization Issues:

Other Business:

Having no further business, M/S TheLLoy to adjourn.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm

Next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 9, 2008** to be held at the SWCD office at 115 5th St. South, Carlton. Brad Matlack will bring coffee snacks and invite a speaker.

Submitted by Brad Matlack

Date Approved
June 9, 2008

Chair: Barbara Dahl

Secretary: Larry Sampson