

MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 23rd, 2011 MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly board meeting of the Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Friday, December 23rd, 2011 at the Wadena Service Center FSA Meeting Room, at 4 Alfred Street, N.E., Wadena, MN.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Marvin Runyan at 8:37 a.m.

Members Present:

Chairperson – Marvin Runyan
Vice Chairperson – Tom Schulz
Secretary – Ken Berg
Treasurer – Nancy Benson
Public Relations – Melvin Kinnunen

Other Members Present:

County Commissioner – Ralph Miller
Soil Conservation Technician – Ivan Rienke
District Manager – Darren Newville
Office Manager – Deb Werner

Adopt Agenda: Motion made by Kinnunen, seconded by Schulz to approve the agenda with the addition to review the SWCD Amended Budget.

Affirmative: Runyan, Schulz, Berg, Benson and Kinnunen.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

County Commissioner, Ralph Miller entered meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Approve the November Board Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Berg, seconded by Kinnunen to approve the November Board Meeting Minutes with the addition of the word to in the statement: The Committee will be asked to send someone to attend representing the Trees for Wadena with District paying for their meal at the awards luncheon.

Affirmative: Runyan, Schulz, Berg, Benson and Kinnunen.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Kinnunen, seconded by Berg to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit.

Affirmative: Runyan, Schulz, Berg, Benson and Kinnunen.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

2012 Amended Budget: Motion made by Schulz, seconded by Berg to approve the 2012 Amended Budget as presented.

Affirmative: Runyan, Schulz, Berg, Benson and Kinnunen.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Bills Paid and Payable: Motion made by Kinnunen, seconded by Benson to approve the bills paid and payable.

Affirmative: Runyan, Schulz, Berg, Benson and Kinnunen.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Cost Share:

District Manager's Report: As attached.

District Conservationist's Report: Steve Lutes is on vacation this week. The report was given by Ivan Rienke. Both EQIP Ag Waste systems have now been installed and completed.

There is one CSP spot check left to do and it will be completed by next week. The CSP signup closes on January 13th, 2012. EQIP signup ends on January 27th, 2012 with some applications coming in.

Bob Honeman, Area Resource Conservationist, from the Area Office has retired. Colleen Oestreich, Area Conservationist has taken a position in the State NRCS Office effective January 30th, 2012.

A new phone system has been installed with several features including voice mail. A new color copier and scanner have also been installed.

County Commissioner's Report: Miller stated that the State budget is looking at a surplus instead of the predicted State deficit.

The county will be finalizing the County tax levi next week. Agricultural land and Commercial land will be taking the biggest hit.

There are approximately 13,400 people in Wadena County.

There was discussion on wind energy production, wind turbines and green energy production.

Old Business: WesMin RC & D: There are 28 members on the WesMin board and there were 13 present at the last meeting. Attendances at the meetings are decreasing. Currently Wadena owes WesMin \$2,500 for grant writing services performed. They have dedicated dollars that need to be paid out and \$2,600 left to spend.

Forestry Update: The Committee is looking at the next meeting to be a planning meeting to move forward.

JPB Update: No report. They have had difficulties hiring an engineer for the Joint Powers Board.

New Business: Meetings and Trainings for approval: Motion made by Benson, seconded by Berg to approve Molly Costin to attend the Ag Inspectors Meeting to be held in St. Cloud on February 7th & 8th, 2012.

Affirmative: Runyan, Schulz, Berg, Benson and Kinnunen.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

There was discussion on Legislative Day at the Capitol to be held on February 15th & 16th, 2012 in St. Paul.

State Convention Update: It was the consensus of the board the importance of networking at meetings, trainings and conventions. The session at the MASWCD State Convention on Legal Issues was one of the better sessions at the convention. They touched on SWCD's sending out 1099's to landowners receiving over \$600.00 per year. Currently the SWCD's are not required to send them out.

2012 Nursery Stock Dealer Certificate Renewal: Motion made by Schulz, seconded by Benson to approve renewal of the 2012 Nursery Stock Dealer Certificate with the cost of \$300.00.

Affirmative: Runyan, Schulz, Berg, Benson and Kinnunen.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Clean Water Fund Update: Darren Newville discussed the Grant Applications that were submitted and approved by BWSR. Two of the three that were submitted were approved. See attached document. Starting in 2014 BWSR is going to require bi-annual budget requests.

District Planning Meeting: A Wadena District planning meeting is tentatively set for February 10th, 2012 at an undetermined location at this time.

Personnel: There was discussion on the evaluation process and the personnel evaluations. **Motion made by Kinnunen, seconded by Schulz to give both employees' a \$.25 per hour pay increase effective January 1st, 2012.**

Affirmative: Runyan, Schulz, Berg, Benson and Kinnunen.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

A list of Acronyms was presented to each Supervisor and County Commissioner.

Deb Werner expressed the thoughtfulness of District Staff, Supervisors and NRCS during the loss of her Mother.

Meeting Date Change: Motion made by Berg, seconded by Benson to change the January Board Meeting from January 16th to January 17th, at 1:00 p.m. due to the Martin Luther King Holiday.

Affirmative: Runyan, Schulz, Berg, Benson & Kinnunen.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Benson, seconded by Berg to adjourn Board Meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Affirmative: Runyan, Schulz, Berg, Benson & Kinnunen.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

MEETINGS AND TRAININGS ATTENDED:

DELTA Feedlot Meeting, Alexandria – November 30th, 2011 (Molly Costin attended)

MASWCD State Convention, Bloomington – December 4th, 5th & 6th, 2011 (Tom Schulz, Marvin Runyan, Ken Berg, Nancy Benson & Darren Newville attended)

Ag BMP Loan Training, Detroit Lakes – December 9th, 2011 (Molly Costin attended)

Civic Engagement Workshop, MPCA Brainerd – December 13th, 2011 (Anny Oldakowski attended)

Crow Wing Watershed Meeting, Staples – December 14th, 2011 (Anne Oldakowski attended)

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS:

Area 8 Planning Meeting, Bemidji – January 4th, 2012 (Darren Newville attending)

Legislative Meeting, St. Paul – January 10th, 2012 (Darren Newville attending)

County Agricultural Inspectors Meeting, St. Cloud – February 7th & 8th, 2012 (Molly Costin attached)

BWSR/NRCS/SWCD 2012 Reinvest in Minnesota/Wetland Reserve Program Teleconference – January 17th, 2012

Legislative Day at the Capitol, St. Paul – February 15th & 16th, 2012

