

**MINUTES OF THE WADENA SWCD
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
March 21, 2011**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Marvin Runyan at 1:05 p.m.

Supervisors present: Marvin Runyan, Chairman
 Tom Schulz, Vice Chairman
 Ken Berg, Secretary
 Nancy Benson, Treasurer

Supervisors absent: Melvin Kinnunen

Staff present: Malinda Dexter, District Manager
Others present: Steve Lutes, NRCS District Conservationist
 Coleen Oestreich, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist
 Ralph Miller, County Commissioner

Motion by Nancy Benson to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2011 board meeting. Motion seconded by Tom Schulz, motion passed.

Nancy Benson read the February Treasurer's Report and made a motion to approve as read, subject to audit. The balance on hand as of February 28, 2011 was \$ 22,565.61. The accounts receivable balance as of February 28, 2011 was \$3,933.29. Motion seconded by Tom Schulz. Motion passed. Malinda reported that the 1st half of our county allocation has been received in the amount of \$30,755.50 and a check from MDA has been received for \$34,000, that amount however has to be paid out to the U of M for the Central Sands project.

Tom Schulz reported on the Forestry Meeting held in Brainerd Feb. 24th. Private forest management staff is being cut 15 full time equivalents (FTE). Carlson, Itasca and Wadena SWCD's and BWSR talked to the DNR. Private forest management will be gone. Jeff Hrubes will help the forestry districts apply for Clean Water funds. The DNR said they trust the District staff to write plans because they will see the conservation needs.

Tom Schulz and Melvin Kinnunen reported on the Legislative Days at the Capital Feb. 28 & March 1. Met with Representative Torkelson he made recommendations on the Clean Water Funds and took all dollars out of his bill. They saw Representative Mark Murdock and talked to the house majority leader, but did meet Senator Hoffman.

Malinda Dexter explained that the RC&D councils are facing funding cuts across the nation.

Ken Berg reported on the NC Area 8 meeting held March 11 in Bemidji. A discussion panel was held with Districts that have been rolled into the counties or taken over by the counties. Crow Wing, Cass, Beltrami and Lake of the Woods staff & supervisors were on the panel. LeAnn Buck MASWCD discussed cooperative agreements between SWCD's and Watershed Districts. A plan will need to be developed for watershed boundaries between East Ottertail and Cass. Some districts were concerned about boundary changes.

Nancy Benson reported on the Trees for Wadena meeting held March 14th in the office. The group requested a grant for \$30,000 from the Bremer Foundation for staff, office space, gravel bed for trees and

rental costs for a refrigerated truck. There will be 18 team leaders for the 150 to 180 Boy Scouts and other volunteers. Mayor Wayne Wolden will give a welcome to the Scouts the morning of April 30th to get the planting started. \$54,000 has been raised for the trees. Molly has applied to stores for food, gloves, shovels etc.

Tom Schulz reported on the March 17th Forestry meeting held in McGregor. The Governor selected a lady from the NE for the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. There is an EQIP strategy to increase forestry that is not being done, this year landowners are able to roll into the WHIP program. The owner of a pallet manufacturing plant came and talked to the group, his company has diversified and grown from 10 to 80 employees in 30 years.

Marvin Runyan reported on the Feedlot Producers meeting held March 17 at the VFW Club in Wadena. He stated that Molly did a good of organizing the meeting and had good presenters from NRCS on tillage and crop production. Other presenters discussed grazing cover crops, extending the grazing season to 180 days and working with other landowners in ND. Other crops discussed were, radish turnips and winter wheat.

Malinda Dexter presented a grant application for signature from MPCA for the Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) for \$22,258. Tom Schulz made a motion to sign the grant application with MPCA. Motion seconded by Nancy Benson, motion passed.

Coleen Oestreich, from NRCS, discussed waiting for the Congressional proposal for funding; they are working on a continuing resolution through April 8th. She learned from Don Baloun, NRCS State Conservationist, that the worse case scenario is the budget will be set back to 2008. The demand for Conservation is here. The NRCS audit went from 5 material weaknesses to 7, corrections need to be made in the state office. Don Baloun volunteered MN as a guinea pig for the audit. Personnel management plan, reviewing all positions in the state, there may be a change from seven areas to six within NRCS, staff would be moved around the state.

Steve Lutes, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that we had 42 applications for CSP with 34 accepted now. 2/3rds ranked and scored well, contracts look good, in the range of \$400,000 in requests for CSP. EQIP rankings request \$800,000, should reach \$1 million. 2 WHIP contracts approved, have advertise on the radio, at producers meeting, seed corn meetings, CMIC and CLC meetings. Forestry has been very good. No TSP funds for engineering.

New Business:

Cost Share to be Encumbered:

10-394	Chris Neal, Bullard Twp, Sec 32, Shelterbelt Renovation	\$ 167.00
10-395	Dan Lemkuhl, Leaf River Twp, Sec 6, Field Windbreak	693.75
10-396	Duane Johnson, Aldrich Twp, Sec 19, Shelterbelt Renovation	<u>300.00</u>
	Total encumbered	\$1,160.75

Ken Berg made a motion to encumber the above listed contracts. Nancy Benson 2nd, motion passed.

Balance of cost share funds remaining to encumber: \$ 1,295.81.

Cost Share to be Returned:

08-349 Chris Neal, Bullard Twp, Sec 1, Field Windbreak to be removed \$ 246.75

Windbreak had an 20% survival, needs to be cleaned out, not to be replanted

Tom Schulz made a motion to return the remaining funds from contract #08-349. Ken Berg 2nd, motion passed.

CWMA to be Paid:

10-64 Gary Fischer, Leaf River Twp, Sec 19, Buckthorn Control	919.39
10-38 Jerry Fischer, Rockwood Twp, Sec 29 & 30, Buckthorn Control	72.97
10-61 Bev Kaun, Leaf River Twp, Sec, Sec 21, Buckthorn Control	178.65
10-45 Peter Masley, Rockwood Twp, Sec 15, Buckthorn Control	168.39
10-58 Greg Bernstetter, North Germany Twp, Sec 31 Buckthorn C	<u>320.00</u>
Total CWMA \$ 1,659.40	

Tom Schulz made a motion to pay the above listed contracts. Nancy Benson 2nd, motion passed. Balance of CWMA grant funds remaining \$ 5,875.34.

Malinda Dexter read an email letter from Ed Blazek to Anne Oldakowski, District Forestry Technician, regarding the Cooperative Weed Management Area grant project. He received payment for the chemical he purchased to control Buckthorn in the amount of \$149.00, but was expecting to be paid 50% of his time also, which amounted to 159 hours @ \$15.00/hour = \$2,385.00 x 50% = \$ 1,192.50.

The board advised Malinda to send Mr. Blazek a copy of the newsletter or brochure that explained the program. If the District does not pay all of the landowners for their time we cannot pay one.

Malinda Dexter presented a Conservation Core of MN contract for an Academy Student for the summer. We have been approved for a student from May 23 to August 19th. The student will receive a stipend for \$1,400 per month, for food and lodging and will receive a scholarship at the end of the term. Nancy Benson made a motion to sign the contract with CCM, Ken Berg 2nd, motion passed.

Malinda Dexter received good news from Medica, the staff health insurance provider, that our premium has dropped \$175 per month or \$2,105 per year.

Malinda Dexter distributed four scholarship applications, with names blacked out, for review by the board. The board ranked each application and Ms Louise Nolte was chosen for a \$250 scholarship.

Malinda Dexter distributed the new state noxious weed list as approved by Dave Frederickson, the Commissioner of Agriculture. New weeds listed, Yellow Starthistle, Grecian Foxglove, Oriental Bittersweet, Spotted Knapweed, Common Tansy and Wild Parsnip, the weeds removed from the state list, Field Bindweed, Hemp, Perennial Sowthistle and Bull Thistle. The board reviewed the Wadena County weed list and recommended removing Hemp and Giant Foxtail and leaving Field Bindweed, Perennial Sowthistle, Bull Thistle, Hoary Alyssum and Wormwood. New brochures will be printed with the new state and county lists.

Meetings or Training Sessions:

March 23 Soil & Water Conservation Society Conf, on Precision Ag, in St. Cloud – Kari cost is \$25.

Tom Schulz made a motion to approve Kari's attendance at the meeting listed. Ken Berg 2nd, motion passed.

Ralph Miller reported that he will be attending the AMC Conference and meeting at the Capitol next week. Discussed the number of committees that each county commissioner is required to attend. Discussed the Community Action Council and the way they handle the fuel assistance funds. If the applicant does not use all of the funds for their fuel purchases, the vendor gives the funds back to the landowner in cash.

Nancy Benson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ken Berg 2nd, motion passed.

Marvin Runyan adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes by Secretary
Ken Berg