

MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 15, 2015 BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly board meeting of the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center Conference Room at 801 Jenny Ave S.W., Perham, MN.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lyle Dittmann at 7:30 a.m.

Introductions were made by all attending as well as introducing the newest member of our team here at East Otter Tail SWCD: Mitch Ness, Farmbill Assistant Tech.

Members Present:

Chairperson: Lyle Dittmann
Secretary: Dennis Reynolds
Treasurer: Marion Gill

Others Present:

County Commissioner: Doug Huebsch
District Conservationist: Bruce Becker
Soil Conservationist: Ryan Antholz
District Manager: Darren Newville
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas

Members Absent:

Vice Chairperson: Steve Inwards
Public Relations: Terry Greenwaldt

Agenda

Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to accept the Agenda as presented with.
Opposed: None, motion carried.

Approve Board meeting Minutes: Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the previous month Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

7:47 a.m. County Commissioner Doug Huebsch entered the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the last month Treasurer's Report.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Bills Paid and Bills Payable: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Cost Share

Water Plan Cost Share

2-WPCS-2015, Diann or Glenn Herdman; Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve cost share assistance for a Well Sealing in Henning. Elmo Township 132, Section 19, Range 37. The cost estimate is \$565.00 with cost share not to exceed \$300.00 or 75% whichever is less.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

6-WPCS-2013, Wade or Kimberly Williams; Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the request for payment for abandoned well sealing in Parkers Prairie Township 131, Section 15. Total cost of \$395.00 with Cost Share in the amount of \$296.25.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

General Fund Cost Share

8-CSW-2014, Corwin Jones.; Motion made Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the request for cost share assistance for a Shoreland Buffer project in Hobart Township 137, Section 19. Cost estimate of \$5,285.00, cost share request for \$3,963.75 or 75%, whichever is less.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

Agenda cont.

District Manager's Report: See attached report as written by Darren Newville.

District Conservationist's Report:

CRP is wrapping up. 20 contracts were completed in the last few weeks. There are roughly 30 – 40 new land owners that would like to have the evaluation done.

EQIP – First 7 approved. There are 2,101 request based on a funds spreadsheet statewide.

CSP – CSP has 27 new applicants. The process for this is to wrap up mid-May. New applicants will qualify.

A discussion of the recent wind erosion was held with a slide show of pictures.

This was Bruce Becker's last board meeting. He will be retiring May 1, 2015. There will be an open house on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. John Frie will be the temporary District Conservationist.

County Commissioner Report: There is a continued concern for the water quality of the lakes in Otter Tail County. There was an update on the outlet proposal for the area lakes with ongoing high water issues. There was also a discussion about the hearing for Ditch 41 neat New York Mills. We are thankful that the County Board is continued to be very conservation minded.

Old Business

Department of Ag Update: Meeting with Luke today regarding Joint Powers.

TSA Update: Nothing to report.

EOT/Wadena SWCD Joint Meeting: The sub-committee members Lyle Dittmann and Dennis Reynolds met last Friday with the sub-committee members of the Wadena SWCD Ken Berg and Nancy Benson. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 27, 2015 in Perham at 8:30 a.m. We have invited County Commissioner Doug Huebsch to attend this meeting. Discussion for the meeting will center around defining the reason(s) for moving forward and any concerns each committee might have.

New Business

Upcoming Training/Events

2015 Administrative Session, Two Harbors, June 17-18, 2015 for a cost of \$165.00: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the fees associated of \$165 for this event. Opposed none, motion carried.

Irrigation Training, June 8-11, 2015, Nebraska: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to allow 3 staff members to attend with some travel expenses. Opposed none, motion carried.

Committee Reports

We will wait until next month's meeting to report on the Equipment & Building Committee Reports.

Buffer Initiative

Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve to hire a full-time temporary person to help with the Buffer Initiative. Opposed none, motion carried.

Maintenance Renewal – Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approved the renewal of the maintenance plan for the building by Esser Plumbing and Heating for \$666.00. Opposed none, motion carried.

MASWCD Resolutions – Districts issues with USDA leasing is one concern. We will look at this next month.

NACDE Membership Dues – Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the NACDE Membership Dues of \$80. Opposed none, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned: 9:26 a.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS

Training/Meetings	Location	Date	Attending
Conservation Days	Walker Lake	April 30, May 1, 4-5, 2015	Arnie & Katelyn
Envirothon	Fergus Falls	May 6, 2015	Chantal & Katelyn
Quickbooks Training	Fargo, ND	May 11-12, 2015	Chantal Tougas
Sales Tax Training	Detroit Lakes, MN	May 13-2015	Chantal Tougas
Irrigation Training	Nebraska	June 8-11, 2015	To be determined
Administrative Session	Two Harbors, MN	June 17-18, 2015	Chantal Tougas
Leadership Training	Lansboro	June 24-25, 2015	Aaron Salo
Leadership Training	Grand Rapids	Aug 12-13, 2015	Aaron Salo

Chantal Tougas
Administrative Secretary

Dennis Reynolds
Secretary

District Managers Report
May 20th, 2015
Submitted by Darren Newville

1. **Trees** – Tree distribution went very well. We sold over 30,000 trees this year. We custom planted trees on 7 sites this spring. Tree planting is completed. Mitch, Aaron and Gabe all helped with the tree plantings. There are still three sites that will need to have weed control matting installed. That is planned to be completed by the end of next week weather permitting.
2. **Adaptive Ag Program** – We are continuing to take signup for the 2015 growing season for the guided corn stalk nitrate testing program. Aaron will be promoting this more as the tree program is winding down.
3. **Township Private Well Nitrate Sampling** – Letters and sampling kits have been going out since the last week in April. Katelyn and Aimee have been taking most of the calls at the office and answering questions about the program. Most of the calls are people calling to make sure they are getting sampling kits. We have had a few that are asking more detailed questions about why we are doing the sampling.
4. **Shoreland Program** – Gabe and Aimee have really ramped up on doing site visits as the weather has been nicer and more lakeshore owners have come back for the summer. Several projects have already been installed and the Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) Crew will be coming for two days next week and for a week in June to help install another 18 shoreland buffer projects. Most of these projects are funded through the community partner's grants of the DNR shoreland habitat grant.

Gabe and Aimee will be attending the COLA Lake Seminar in Otter Tail this Saturday. We will have a table display set up and Gabe will be part of their panel discussion. They are also getting requests for and starting to schedule presentations for the various Lake Associations Annual Meetings.
5. **Irrigation Scheduler** – Arnie and Aaron have started putting our rain gauges this week. It currently looks like they will have nearly 90 fields again this year.

- 6. District/ Farm Bill Technician Position** – While Mitch has been busy with the tree program and seeding he has managed to assist with enrolling about 250 acres into CCRP. This will be his primary focus once spring field work is completed.
- 7. Equipment Rental/ Custom Seeding** – The drill has been very busy and we have it booked out until about the end of June. Mitch with some assistance from Aaron have completed just over 170 acres of custom seeding and have another 440 acres scheduled. After this season we will need to evaluate the drills for maintenance and look at future needs.
- 8. County Buffer Initiative** – Brad Mergens, WOT SWCD, and I will be meeting with key staff later today to discuss progress on this project.
- 9. County Feedlot Program** – At the last EOT/Wadena Sub-Committee meeting it was brought up that Otter Tail County would possibly be interested in taking on the Feedlot Program Delegation from the State and work with the SWCD's to implement the program. Brad Mergens and I will be meeting with the Clay SWCD staff later today to discuss the process that they used when they took on the program a few years back. We will also be meeting with the County Board to discuss this in the near future.
- 10. Educational Events** – Katelyn assisted with the planning of the Conservation Days that we held April 30th, May 4th and 5th at the Walker Lake Hatchery again this year. Katelyn and Chantal also assisted with the Envirothon which was held at the Prairie Learning Center in Fergus Falls on May 6th.
- 11. Legislative Update** – See attached legislative update report.