



## MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 15, 2017 BOARD MEETING

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The regular monthly board meeting of the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 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 7:32a.m.*

**Members Present:**

Chairperson: Lyle Dittmann  
Vice Chairperson: Steve Inwards  
Treasurer: Dennis Reynolds  
Secretary: Terry Greenwaldt  
Public Relations: Marion Gill

**Others Present:**

District Manager: Darren Newville  
Asst Manager: Anne Oldakowski  
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas

### Agenda

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Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to adopt the Agenda with the following addition. Add Fitness Incentive: Budget. Opposed: None, motion carried.

**Approve Board meeting Minutes:** Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the previous month Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Opposed: None, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, subject to audit. Opposed: none, motion carried. Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve the 2015 Final Audit as completed by Peterson Company. Opposed: none, motion carried.

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



## Cost Share

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### STATE COST SHARE

**1-SCS-2017;** Nicole & Adam Spelhaug, Dead Lake Township, Section 8, is requesting cost share assistance for a Native Buffer Installation. The Cost estimate is \$ 2,666.76 with the encumbered cost share amount of \$ 2,007.07, or 75% whichever is less. Funds will be coming from 2016 and 2017 State Cost Share. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Marion Gill to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

**2-SCS-2017;** Caleb Olson, Woodside, Section 31, is requesting cost share assistance for a Field Windbreak. Cost estimate is \$ 7,831.70 with the encumbered cost share amount of \$ 5,873.77 from 2017 State Cost Share funds, or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

**3-SCS-2017;** John & Joan Mracek, Girard, Section 24, is requesting cost share assistance for a Native Shoreline Buffer. Cost estimate is \$ 1,523.95 with the encumbered cost share amount of \$ 1,142.96 from 2017 State Cost Share funds, or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Marion Gill to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

### Agenda continued . . .

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

**District Conservationist's Report:** Not present

**County Commissioner Report:** Not present

## Old Business

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**Department of Ag Update:** We have had a JP agreement with Dept. of Ag for 6 years now. There is a chance in the next contract that funding will have to shift. NFMP may be the next focus for training for producers.

**TSA Update:** Darren has been attending work group sessions in St. Paul and they are looking into how TSA's are structured or will be funded in the future. The district shouldn't rely on the TSA for everything. We should have our own staff for some of those needs (Ex: Engineering).



## New Business

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### **Meetings and Trainings:**

- ◆ SWCD Day at the Capital on March 20-21, 2017. Lyle, Steve, Darren, and Nathan to attend this year.
- ◆ Retreat/Planning Session is next week on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 a.m. so please do your homework. Be ready to 1. Learn about staff and, 2. Staff to learn about you. Also to learn more about programs.

**IWIP Resolution:** The board supports watershed scale planning efforts. They also support an application going forward to support a process. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Reynolds. Opposed: none, motion carried.

**County Buffer Letter:** A bill was submitted to repeal the Buffer Law. A letter was drafted to support the Buffer Law addressed to the Governor. We feel it would be beneficial for our board to send it to the governor as well, along with representatives and senators. Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to approve support of this letter from our board. Opposed: none, motion carried.

**Otter Tail River Watershed MPCA Contract:** Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Marion Gill to approve this contract. Opposed: none, motion carried.

**Chairs & Table:** We are looking in to purchasing a table and chairs for Mary's old office and turning it into a small meeting room. Table for future meeting until more research can be done.

**EOT Breakfast on the Farm Fiscal Agent:** August Ziegler would like to host a Breakfast on the Farm to educate the public about farming. Questions as to who is going to be the fiscal agent/taking in donations is on the table. We should know more information after the 10 a.m. meeting today.

**Shoreland Seminar Sponsorship:** We have sponsored this event in the past. Either Water Plan or District Capacity Funds would be used to sponsor this event. Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve up \$ 1,000.00 for expenses involved such as beverages, snacks, and speakers. Opposed: none, motion carried.

**Name Tags:** Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt for magnetic name tags with the exception of one staff member. Opposed: none, motion carried.

**Fitness Incentive:** Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to set a budget of \$750.00. Opposed: none, motion carried.

**Public Comments:** None

**Adjourn:** 9:13 a.m.



# East Otter Tail

Soil & Water Conservation District

Meetings and Training			
<b>EOT SWCD Board Meeting</b>	Perham	February 15	
<b>EOT Breakfast on the Farm Planning Meeting</b>	Perham	February 15	
<b>IAM Annual Meeting</b>		February 16	
<b>Presidents Day Holiday</b>		February 20th	
<b>Area I Meeting</b>	Detroit Lakes	February 21	
<b>Wadena SWCD Board Meeting</b>	Wadena	February 21	
<b>Otter Tail County Board Luncheon</b>	Fergus Falls	February 21	
<b>Wadena Board and Staff Retreat</b>	TBD	February 22	
<b>EOT Board and Staff Retreat</b>	TBD	February 23	
<b>MARL DC Trip</b>		February 26 - March 3	Darren
<b>Admin Year-End Session</b>	Brainerd	Feb 28 – March 1	
<b>Area VIII Technician Workshop</b>		March 1	
<b>Forest Pest First Detector</b>	Cloquet	March 2	
<b>Otter Tail County Water Plan Committee Meeting</b>	Fergus Falls	March 6th	
<b>Cooperative Forest Mgmt Meeting</b>	Cloquet	March 8	
<b>Shoreland Seminar Planning</b>	Perham	March 8	
<b>Wadena County Water Plan Committee Meeting</b>	Wadena	March 9th	
<b>Area VIII Meeting</b>	Bemidji	March 10	
<b>EOT SWCD Board Meeting</b>	Perham	March 15	
<b>SWCD Forestry Meeting</b>	McGregor	March 16	Tom
<b>MNSTAC Meeting</b>	St. Paul	March 16	Anne
<b>EOT Horticulture Days</b>	Perham	March 18, 2017	
<b>Wadena SWCD Board Meeting</b>	Wadena	March 20	
<b>Legislative Days</b>	St. Paul	March 20-22	Anne, Tyler
<b>MARL</b>	Crookston	March 22-24	Darren

Terry Greenwaldt  
EOT Supervisor: Secretary

**District Managers Report**  
**February, 2017**  
**Submitted by Darren Newville**

1. **Tree Program** – We are continuing to promote our Conservation Tree program. Tree orders continue to come in on a daily basis. As of the time I wrote this report we had over 28,000 trees sold. Mitch already has 9 sites lined up for custom planting.
2. **Forest Stewardship** – Anne completed one plan and has done inventories on two more properties. She will be conducting one more inventory in the near future. She has 8 more landowners interested in plans.

**Buffer Program** – In EOT, Liz and Mitch sent out the second letter to those (87 landowners) we have not documented as being in compliance. Letters contained a postage paid postcard that has some options as to what the landowner is thinking about the buffers. We have currently received 42 postcards back. Most indicating that they have a buffer in place or will be installing one. Several have asked for site visits, which will be conducted as soon as conditions allow.

In Wadena County, we are working on the draft letter (should be done soon) to send out to the landowners (approximately 30) who were identified by Wade and Tyler as possibly being out of compliance. The Wadena County Board also passed a motion to take the responsibility for enforcing the buffer law on a local level. Deana Malone, Planning and Zoning, working on changes to the local ordinance.

There is still a lot of activity on the legislative level on the buffer program. They have had several hearings, so I am sure that there will be some changes made. Hopefully that will include funding for the enforcement portion and some funding for getting buffers installed.

3. **Irrigation Scheduler Program** – Staff attended the CMIC meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>. We held our Annual Irrigation clinic on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Thumper Pond in Ottertail. We had a great turnout with 81 people in attendance (62 ag producers). At the meeting 5 people signed up for the MAWQCP, 4 people signed up 7 fields for the ISP, and 5 signed up for pivot uniformity tests. We also tested several water samples for Nitrates. We had a lot of positive feedback from the producers who were there. We are also planning on having a presence at the IAM annual meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>.
4. **County Ag Inspector** – Brittney, Liz and Wade attended the new CAI training in St Cloud on February 7 & 8. This will give them a better understanding of the Weed Inspector duties so that they can assist with the program and investigate complaints. Aimee and Tyler will be hosting the annual Township Weed Inspector meetings in the near future.

5. **MAWQCP** – Jim has been busy meeting with SWCD staff and promoting the MAQWCP at the various producer meetings happening in the area. He and Brittney currently have 22 applications and WOT has 9 more. Jim has also been out to several farms to do the inventory for the Certification Program.
6. **Shoreland Program** – Aimee and Liz continue to work on plans for next year's projects. We are continuing to work with Jerry Horgen, OTC COLA, on plans for a spring lakeshore owner seminar/workshop on May 6<sup>th</sup>. We have Steve Woods, Executive Director for the Freshwater Society, and Babe Winkelmann lined up as our speakers. We are also working on a landowner panel discussion. These would be landowners who have done projects in the past several years.
7. **Water Planning** – Staff continue to work on locating wells for the Otter Tail County Geological Atlas.

Ben continues to participate in One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) efforts. We met with the other LGU's in the Red Eye watershed to discuss a future application for doing a plan for the Red Eye Watershed on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will need resolutions from each of the LGU's involved. Wadena County and Otter Tail County have already passed the resolutions supporting it.

Ben and I met with staff from the MPCA last week to talk about the work plan for us to develop a contract to do work on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies work for the Otter Tail River Watershed. We will be discussing the phase one contract at the EOT SWCD meeting.

We will also have Water Plan Committee meetings in both counties scheduled in the next month. The Otter Tail County meeting will be on March 6<sup>th</sup> and the Wadena County meeting will be on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

8. **Adaptive Ag** – Nathan continues to promote the NMI program. We currently have 16 producers in the 5 county area tentatively signed up for plots in 2017. He has also been working on small producer meetings in the Perham and Park Rapids area to discuss the NFMP and how it might affect them.
9. **Clean Water Fund Grants** – All of the workplans are complete and grant agreements are signed and submitted. Once BWSR has executed the grant agreements we will be able to begin work on them.
10. **Reporting** – eLINK reporting was complete on time for both Districts'. A big thanks goes out to all of the staff that help out to get it accomplished.

**11. Staff Development Day** – We held a staff development day for all the SWCD/NRCS/FSA staff on February 14<sup>th</sup> at the Lakes Café in Perham. We worked with Denise Stromme, U of M Extension, to walk through an exercise to learn about each of our individual strengths and how that affects how we work together.

**12. Supervisor/Staff Retreat and Planning Session** – Just a reminder to put these dates on your calendar. The Wadena session will be on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and the EOT session will be on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**13. MARL Update** – In January our session was a 4-day session in St. Paul. A large portion of the session revolved around getting to know about how our state government works. We toured the capitol building and met with 3 Representatives on the House Chamber floor. We also all met with our individual Senators and Representatives. I met with Senator Ingebrigtsen and Representative Nornes. We also toured several ag related businesses in the metro area including Baileys Nursery, CHS, the U of M Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, along with several other sessions on innovations in agriculture.

On February 26<sup>th</sup> we will be flying out to Washington D.C. Along with meeting with our Federal Legislators, I have set up a meeting to meet with the leadership of NACD. I am looking forward to that session.