

# MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 18, 2015 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 18, 2015 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 7:31 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  
Public Relations: Terry Greenwaldt

**Other Members Present:**

Assistant State Conservationist: Mark Kulig  
District Conservationist: Bruce Becker  
District Manager: Darren Newville  
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas

**Members Absent:**

Vice Chairperson: Steve Inwards

## Agenda

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**Adopt Agenda:** Accepted Agenda as presented. Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to adopt the agenda.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

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

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Reports for January were presented.

Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve the January Treasurer's Report.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**Bills Paid and Bills Payable:** Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

## Cost Share

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### *Water Plan Lakescaping*

**8-WPLS-2013, Duane Mann;** Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the request for cost share assistance on his abandoned well sealing.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

**13-WPLS-2013, Rick Ehnert;** Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the request for cost share assistance on his abandoned well sealing.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

### *General State Cost Share*

**4-CSW-2013, Farm Boys, Inc.;** Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the request for cost share payment on their windbreak project.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

**CSW-2013, Michael Weinhandl;** Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve the request for cost share assistance on a native buffer project.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

**6-CSW-2013, Dean Schultz;** Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the request for cost share payment on their windbreak project.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

## Agenda cont.

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

***District Conservationist's Report:*** Shifting gears from CSP to EQIP. We recently attended EQIP training in St. Cloud. We have EQIP narrowed down to 10 applicants; some of the applicants were converted to CRP. Those who have projects designed, stamped, and ready to sign with receive priority. We should know by next month what will be funded for EQIP.

An informal meeting regarding till/no-till was held. About a half a dozen producers were in attendance and the meeting went well. A tour of farms was suggested. If these meeting continue they need to remain producer driven. Cover crops are a topic of interest out there.

### ***Assistant State Conservationist:***

District Conservationist to retire. Acting DC until someone is hired is yet to be determined. We have outsourced the hiring process and hope to fill the position in 80 days after their retirement. Job will be posted on the National USA Jobs website.

Budget: The budget has been postponed three times, there are struggles at all levels. Hopefully we will have some answers in a week or two.

EQIP: There have been 150 applications in 13 County areas for EQIP. It takes an enormous amount of time to process all of these.

Ag certainty would impact most counties. Farmers following best conservation practices will receive confirmation/documentation of doing so.

**County Commissioner's Report:** Not present – nothing to report.

## Old Business

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**Department of Ag Update:** Two projects in the works. Private well monitoring Nitrate and Ag Weather Network site (not Ag related).

**TSA Update:** Nothing to report

**Water Plan Update:** Funding split. Bill's office – septic abatement program money pulled from Bill's budget. The money will be reallocated. Program will no longer be offered.

**PRAP Grant Extension Request:** Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve and extension for this grant.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

## New Business

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**Technology/Equipment Request** – Demonstration was given by Aaron Salo regarding new software and its capabilities, they are as follows:

- 11 Weather Stations
- Mobile friendly
- Every hour data logs
- Ability to track daily crop water usage
- Growing degree day making it more individualized
- Automatic email or text updates

Other software in discussion was for Shoreland Projects, Realtime Landscaping Architect 2014. Which would allow the technicians to shows customers what their yard might look like and allow them to print out a materials list as well as cost estimates.

Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to approve a technical package as presented up to \$5,000 Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned: 10:05 a.m.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS:

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Leadership Training, St. Paul – March 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (Aaron Salo attending)

Leadership Training, Lanesboro – June 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (Aaron Salo attending)

Leadership Training, Grand Rapids – August 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (Aaron Salo attending)