



MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 15, 2017 BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly board meeting of the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, March 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 7:31a.m.

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

County Commissioner: Duane Huebsch
District Conservationist: Alan Lepp
District Manager: Darren Newville
Asst Manager: Anne Oldakowski
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas

Agenda

Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to adopt the Agenda with the following additions. Add MAWQCP* – Jim, Cost Share – Buffer, Breakfast on the Farm, and outdoor lighting. Opposed: None, motion carried.

Approve Board meeting Minutes: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve the previous month Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Opposed: None, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, subject to audit. Opposed: none, motion carried. Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to allow the CD's that have matured to roll over for the same length they are currently at. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Bills Paid & Bills Payable: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented.



Cost Share

STATE COST SHARE

4-SCS-2017; William & Elizabeth Storm, Corliss Township, Section 30, is requesting cost share assistance for a Native Buffer Installation. The Cost estimate is \$ 2,613.46 with the encumbered cost share amount of \$ 1,960.10, or 75% whichever is less. Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Marion Gill to approve. Opposed: none, motion carried.

See #16. Bruce @ Switch Genie arrived to present switching the building lights over to LED

Agenda continued . . .

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

District Conservationist's Report:

- ◆ EQIP*— close on pre-approvals. 18 so far. A lot of cover crops, water & sediment control basins, energy audits, etc.
- ◆ RCPP* – 21 applications
- ◆ CSP* – 27 applications. These are intense and time consuming. Previous was around 6 hours to complete. Now with a new assessment tool it is around 11 hours to complete.
- ◆ CRP* – Re-enrollments are coming in.
- ◆ NRCS* is currently under a hiring freeze.

8:50 a.m. Wes Drake, P.E. entered the meeting

County Commissioner Report:

- ◆ Ash – Ash is valuable. It can be collected from burners and the elements can be separated to sell the components.
- ◆ Ag Bag Recycling: Example: silage bags, farmers can get a dumpster on their farm for Ag Bag recycling and have that dumpster picked up for free.
- ◆ General Mills is using an eco-friendly grain called Kernza to make cereal.
- ◆ Doug is happy about our energy changes in the building (switching out the current bulbs to LED). He said we should let farmers know about LED's for their buildings.

Old Business

Department of Ag Update: Nothing to report at this time.



TSA Update: Mahnomen is the last hold out on changes to the by-laws.

Retreat Follow-Up: In our Sow, Grow, Harvest, and Plow chart we came up with a lot of ideas. Over the course of the next few weeks we will be bringing portions of this information to the table for discussion.

New Business

Meetings and Trainings: Nothing new to approve at this time.

Letter of Support: for Federal S.364 and H.R. 1163: The Improving access to Conservation Act. Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to sign and send the composed letter. Opposed: none, motion carried.

9:15 a.m. Wes Drake, P.E. left the meeting

DNR Agreement: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Steve Inwards to approve the agreement. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Office Lighting Proposal: Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve this proposal. Opposed: none, motion carried.

EOT Breakfast on the Farm: Sponsorship forms will be sent out for this event. Motion made by Steve Inwards, seconded by Marion Gill to sponsor \$500.00 for this event. Opposed: none, motion carried.

9:26 a.m. Doug Huebsch left the meeting

9:26 a.m. Jim Lahn entered the meeting

MAWQCP*: Pasture Operation – A producer already certified with MAWQCP* submitted an application for RCPP*. Does this producer qualify for RCPP*? This may not improve his score. It would enhance his grazing operation but is RCPP* really where the funds should come from? This management change would not change his score. This is eligible in general EQIP*.

Public Comments: None

Adjourn: 9:53 a.m.

* Acronyms

- ◆ MAWQCP – Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program
- ◆ EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- ◆ CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program
- ◆ CRP – Conservation Reserve Program
- ◆ RCPP – Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- ◆ NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service



East Otter Tail

Soil & Water Conservation District

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

Terry Greenwaldt
EOT Supervisor: Secretary

District Managers Report
March, 2017
Submitted by Darren Newville

1. **District Retreats** – Thank you to everyone who could participate. It was a great opportunity for the board members and staff to get to know each other better. While there wasn't adequate time for me to prepare anything for this month's meetings, I will be bringing information from the retreats to future monthly meetings for discussion. We gathered some good information at the retreats that will be a great foundation for future discussions.
2. **Tree Program** – We are continuing to promote our Conservation Tree program. Tree orders continue to come in daily. As of the time I wrote this report we had over 38,000 trees sold. Mitch has 9 sites lined up for custom planting. We recently set the tree pickup days for April 21st and 22nd.
3. **Forest Stewardship** – Anne completed 4 plans and has done inventoried one more property. She will be conducting one more inventory soon. She has 7 more landowners interested in plans. With potential funding coming from various programs it looks like Anne could be busy writing plans.

Anne also recently attended a Forest Pest Detector Training and participated in the Cooperative Forest Management meeting.

4. **Buffer Program** – Wade and Tyler sent out the first batch of letters in Wadena County. In all 41 letters were sent to landowners that were potentially out of compliance. Wade and Tyler indicated that they have talked with about half of those who received letters, a lot who are likely in compliance. They are tracking each contact.

In Otter Tail County, Liz and Mitch are continuing to hear from landowners, although it has slowed a little. They have 11 site visits lined up for when weather conditions allow. Liz indicated that they have heard back from 59 of the 87 landowners included in the most recent mailing for those needing buffers on protected waters. Liz and I met with a reporter from the Perham Focus last week. She will be writing an article on buffers soon.

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.

5. **Irrigation Scheduler Program** – Brittney and Wade are working with producers to get them signed up for the program for the 2017 growing season. They recently sent out the reenrollment letter.

- 6. County Ag Inspector** – Aimee has scheduled a local weed inspector meeting for March 23rd. This event will start at 1:00 and will be held at the New York Mills City Hall. It will feature Tony Cortilet, MDA, who will be presenting on Palmer Amaranth.

Tyler continues to proctor pesticide exams when scheduled and is currently in the process of planning for the Wadena County local weed inspector meetings. They will likely be held in mid to late April.

Brittney, Liz and Wade attended the new CAI training session in St. Cloud. This will allow them to assist Aimee and Tyler with the CAI duties.

- 7. MAWQCP** – Jim has been busy promoting the MAWQCP at the various producer meetings happening in the area. Jim and Brittney currently have 37 applications they are working on. They have 20 from the EOT SWCD, 3 from the Becker SWCD, 3 from the Clay SWCD, 3 from the Crow Wing SWCD, 1 from the Grant SWCD, 3 from the Wadena SWCD, and 4 from the WOT SWCD. The WOT SWCD also indicated that they are working on 11 additional applications.

Jim and I discussed host a meeting for all the SWCD managers and DCs in his area to discuss the funding available to each SWCD and talk about the promotional efforts in each SWCD.

Jim will be very busy working through the assessments for each of the applicants. Brittney will be helping as time allows. MDA is also working with the Conservation Corps to place an apprentice in the Perham office to assist with the MAWQCP workload.

- 8. Shoreland Program** – Aimee and Liz continue to work on plans and getting cost-share in place for this year's projects. It looks like they have 32 projects already lined up for installation in 2017. We are continuing to work with Jerry Horgen, OTC COLA, on plans for a spring lakeshore owner seminar/workshop on May 6th. 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. We are just starting to promote this seminar.

- 9. Water Planning** – We held Water Plan Advisory Committee meetings in both Counties. At these meetings, we focused on updating the committees on current activities related to the water plans.

Ben continues to participate in One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) efforts. He has been working on putting together the 1W1P RFP for the Red Eye Watershed. Ben has also been working with the WOT staff on discussions for an RFP in the Bois de Sioux Watershed.

We are waiting for the final draft of the phase one contract with MPCA to work on the WRAPS for the Otter Tail Watershed. I am expecting to get that back in the next few weeks.

10. Adaptive Ag – Nathan continues to promote the Adaptive Ag and NMI programs. We currently have 26 producers signed up for the Adaptive Ag Program and 16 producers for NMI plots in 2017. He has also helped to coordinate and attended small producer meetings in the Perham and Park Rapids area to discuss the NFMP and how it might affect them.

11. Educational Efforts – Liz is working on getting the Annual Conservation Days set up for Otter Tail County. They held a planning meeting yesterday. She is also working on setting up the Ag in the Classroom events in Perham and New York Mills.

Staff have also been participating in the planning for an East Otter Tail Breakfast on the Farm event planned for August 5th. August Ziegler has offered his farm to be used as the location of the event. There is a great planning committee that has been meeting with a lot of local interest in assisting with the event.

12. Financial – Chantal has been working hard to complete the Annual Financial Reports for both Districts. We also have a grant reconciliation with Jeannette Austin, BWSR, for our 2016 District Capacity grants. BWSR will be doing these with all grants over \$50,000.