

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 18, 2015 BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly board meeting of the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, March 18, 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 Vice Chairperson Steve Inwards 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:

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

Other Members Present:

District Conservationist: Bruce Becker
District Manager: Darren Newville
Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas

Members Absent:

Chairperson: Lyle Dittmann

Agenda

Additional Items to include in Agenda:

Parking
Clothing

Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Marion Gill to add the above items to the agenda and accept the Agenda as presented with amendments.

Opposed: None, motion carried.

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

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Reports for February were presented, as well as, Financial Statements, Budget Comparison, and 2013 Audit.

Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve the February Treasurer's Report.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the Financial Report and Budget Comparison.

Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the 2013 Audit.

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

Water Plan Cost Share

1-WPCS-2014, Virgil Bernu; Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Marion Gill, to approve payment for his abandoned well sealing in Newton Township, Section 22.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

3-WPCS-2014, Jeff and Sandra Frost; Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve the request for payment for abandoned well sealing in Homestead Township, Section 32.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

1-WPCS-2015, Rich Ehnert; Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the request for payment for abandoned well sealing in Newton Township, Section 15.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

General State Cost Share

7-CSW-2014, Duane Alstadt, Jr.; Motion made Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the request for cost share assistance on their Field Windbreak project in Perham Township, Section 27.

Opposed: None, Motion carried.

Agenda cont.

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

District Conservationist's Report:

We have gone thru last year's CRP contracts getting seed orders. This contributes to part of the 650 acres of seed on order as reported in the District Manager's report. Sign up for CSP ended March 15, 2015. 31 new contracts, with 13 renewals. There have been roughly 50-75 landowners stopping in and expressing interest in new CRP Contracts.

County Commissioner Report: Nothing to report. Not present.

Old Business

Department of Ag Update: MDA is sponsoring the MN Nutrient Management Initiative which offers ag producers \$1,000 to do on farm nutrient management field trials. The program also pays local crop advisors \$500 per field to assist with the trial. SWCD will be able to benefit from the results of this program. SWCD will be sending out fliers. The deadline for sign up is April 15, 2015.

TSA Update: Nothing to report.

EOT/Wadena SWCD Joint Meeting: An email was sent out to those involved, including those unable to attend, recapping the events of the two day workshop and the direction set at the meeting. Comments regarding this planning session have been that it was designed well and everyone was comfortable in speaking out. People seemed to be able to be open, honest, and candid in their views and opinions without the risk of ridicule. A subcommittee will be appointed to work out the details of the new contract. Both Boards will probably have to meet again to go over recommendations of the subcommittee.

Subcommittee is as follows: Dennis Reynolds (volunteered), Lyle Dittmann, Marion Gill (back up for Lyle)
Motions were made for all three, all unanimous, all carried.

New Business

COLA – COLA is asking for sponsorship for their program. Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt for \$1000 donation out of the Water Plan.

Opposed: None, motion carried.

MACD Dues Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to submit the dues of \$20/person for the year. Opposed none, motion carried.

Meeting Dates for Committees:

Equipment Committee Meeting	3/24/2015	7:30 a.m.
Building Committee Meeting	3/24/2015	7:30 a.m.

Conservation Academy Site Agreement Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the agreement for signature. Opposed none, motion carried.

Upcoming Training/Events

MACAI Registration: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Terry Greenwaldt to approve the registration fee of \$180 for this event. Opposed none, motion carried.

Quickbooks: Motion made by Terry Greenwaldt, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to allow the administrative secretary to attend a training session in May for the cost of \$500. Opposed none, motion carried.

Other Business

On board meeting days we ask that the board park either out front or on the street leaving room for UDSA Service Center staff parking.

SWCD has a clothing allowance of \$100/year/employee. This allows staff to represent us and events, meetings, etc. Board may order items, however, they must purchase themselves.

Meeting adjourned: 9:20 a.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS

Training/Meetings	Location	Date	Attending
Ag in the Classroom	New York Mills	3/18/2015	
Local Township Weed Inspector Meeting	Cities	3/23-25, 2015	Aimee Zimmermann
Area I Meeting	Crookston	March 31	Aaron, Chantal & Supervisors
DNR Native Plant Community Field Guide Training	Fergus Falls	March 31	Gabe & Aimee
Ag in the Classroom	Perham	4/2/2015	
Water Plan Committee Meeting	Fergus Falls	April 9	Darren & Katelyn
Leadership Training	Lansboro	6/24-25, 2015	Aaron Salo
Leadership Training	Grand Rapids	8/12-13, 2015	Aaron Salo