



East Otter Tail

Soil & Water Conservation District

MINUTES FROM THE MAY 18, 2016 BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly board meeting of the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 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 7:29 a.m.

Members Present:

Chairperson: Lyle Dittmann
Treasurer: Dennis Reynolds
Public Relations: Marion Gill

Members Absent:

Vice Chairperson: Steve Inwards
Secretary: Terry Greenwaldt

Others Present:

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

Agenda

Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to accept the Agenda as presented. Opposed: None, motion carried. *Note: August Ziegler may stop in during the meeting to discuss educational training for the public.*

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 Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Opposed: none, motion carried. Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to accept the Audit Bid from Peterson Companies. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Bills Paid & Bills Payable: Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the Bills Paid and Bills Payable as presented. Opposed: None, motion carried.



Cost Share

Rose Lake; Spanky's Restaurant has submitted an application for a CPG in the amount of \$11,000. Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to accept the application and to authorize Darren to sign. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Agenda continued . . .

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

District Conservationist's Report:

- ◆ CSP – 30 total applications, 13 of which are renewals. The deadline is Friday.
- ◆ EQIP – 31 contracts are done. We are the top 5 in the state for EQIP contracts.
- ◆ CRP – Nationwide we are about 20%, there is not much funding for this.
- ◆ Conservation Days – Everything went well and the weather was nice.
- ◆ Staffing – Ryan is still the Acting District Conservationist in Wadena.
- ◆ Native Flowers – Are now expensive. Pollinators have the highest demand in a long time.
- ◆ Local Work Group Committee – A meeting is being scheduled for approximately June 22, 2016 to get input on County Projects. Check the local paper or the EOT SWCD Facebook page for more details.

County Commissioner Report:

- ◆ A Ditch 48 meeting was held last night. There were high water culverts put in that shouldn't be there that resulted in flooding.
- ◆ Casino plans continue to move forward. OTC does not have much say in what is going on, however, they do plan to follow the Shoreline Ordinance. A couple of things the Casino will bring to the area are stable power and high speed cable.
- ◆ Lake McDonald – working on easements.
- ◆ OTP is currently using some dams to generate power. Discussion in the works to take out dozens of dams on the river. This could potentially become a great white water rafting area.

8:32 a.m. Doug has left the meeting

Old Business

Department of Ag Update:

- ◆ Assistance with the Central Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan (NFMP) Implementation and Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Outreach – Darren & Luke are working on a Joint Powers



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agreement. Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to authorize Darren to sign the agreement. Opposed: none, motion carried.

- ◆ AWQCP – The current contract ends June 30, 2016. An amendment will be made to extend this contract if the funds are available. Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to authorize Darren to sign this contract when it comes in. Opposed: none, motion carried.

TSA Update: The TSA is in the process of buying ARC GIS Licenses for Staff not on the Federal Server.

New Business

Meetings and Trainings:

- ◆ Motion made by Marion Gill, seconded by Dennis Reynolds to approve the hotel room expenses to send Chantal to the Administrative Session in June. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- ◆ Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the registration fee and hotel room expenses to send Aimee to the MACAI Short Course in July. Opposed: none, motion carried.
- ◆ Motion made by Lyle Dittmann, seconded by Marion Gill to approve the registration fee to send Aimee to the Fundamentals of Stream Restorations training in July. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Farm Bill Tech RFP: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to sign the proposal for continued funding with a 10% district match. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Walk In Access Agreement: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Lyle Dittmann to authorize Darren Neville to sign the Walk in Access Agreement. The district receives a \$250 signing bonus for each contract. Opposed: none, motion carried.

Otter Tail River Watershed Assessment: Work was scheduled to start in 2016, just a note that stream monitoring is currently going on.

Computer Server & Backup for SWCD staff not on USDA Network: NRCS charges \$4500 per license to be on the USDA Network. We currently have 4 employees on that network. The remaining employees are stand-alone systems. Unless these stand-alone systems are backed up on a regular basis there is the potential to lose vital district information. We currently have one quote for a Server and necessary software for the remaining employees that would back up on a Cloud System. The cost is approximately \$20,000 or \$660/month on a 36 month lease. The topic has been tabled until next month in order to obtain more information and possibly other quotes for comparison.

Staffing: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Marion Gill to accept a letter of resignation from Cassandra Waltz. Opposed: none, motion carried.

August Ziegler: Partnering on Public Education Efforts – August wants to inform the public on Agriculture using his own funding. He wants to give back to the public. We would like to help him develop this.

Call for Resolutions: These need to be brought to the next Area meeting.



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Public Comments: None

Adjourn: Motion made by Dennis Reynolds, seconded by Lyle Dittmann to adjourn the meeting. Opposed none: motion carried. Meeting adjourned by Lyle Dittmann at 9:30 a.m.

Meetings and Training			
DNR Plant Community	Bemidji	April 12, 2016	Aimee, Tyler
Wadena SWCD Board Mtg	Wadena	April 18 th	
EOT SWCD Board Mtg	Perham	April 20 th	
Wadena WCA TEP	Wadena	April 21 st	Tyler
AIS Training	Detroit Lakes	April 26 th	Tyler
Legislative Water Commission	St. Paul	April 26 th	Darren, Steve Inwards
EOT WCA TEP	Perham	April 27 th	Darren, Tyler
OTC Conservation Days	Walker Lake	May 3 rd -6 th	
Wadena SWCD Board Mtg	Wadena	May 16 th	
SWCD Filing Dates	Co. Auditor	May 17 th -31 st	
EOT Board Meeting	Perham	May 18 th	
Civic Engagement Cohort		June 1 st – 2 nd	Darren, Ben
Area 8 Meeting	Bemidji	June 3 rd	
Area I Meeting	Detroit Lakes	June 21 st	

Chantal Tougas
Administrative Secretary

Terry Greenwaldt
Secretary